



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 14  
October 25, 2015

Pastor Phelps  
Proverbs 20:11

## COMMITTED TO ABSTINENCE FROM ALCOHOL

The Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church says, “We also engage . . . to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment . . . to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage and the non-medical use of drugs and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.”

Evangelical Christians in America have become increasingly open to the use of alcohol as a beverage. In 2013, Moody Bible Institute lifted its alcohol and tobacco ban following recent similar moves by Wheaton College, Huntington University, and Asbury Seminary. In 2007, a Lifeway Research poll discovered that \_\_\_\_\_% of America's Protestant pastors and \_\_\_\_\_% of America's Protestant parishioners do not believe drinking to be “a sin” and that \_\_\_\_\_% of the pastors and \_\_\_\_\_% of the laity drink.

## THE BIBLE HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT ALCOHOL

The King James Version of the Bible refers to wine, drink, and drinking \_\_\_\_\_ times. Most assume that all references to “wine” have something to do with alcohol. There is, however, a broad range of beverages referred to as “wine” in the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_ different Hebrew and Greek words are translated “wine” in our English versions. “Wine” can refer to anything from grape juice to concentrated grape syrup to alcohol (Gen. 40:9-11; Prov. 3:10; I Sam. 25:18; Prov. 31:4-5; Lk. 10:34).

## THE WINE OF THE BIBLE WAS NOT LIKE WINE SOLD TODAY.

The wine of the Bible was \_\_\_\_\_ fermented. Under normal circumstances, naturally fermented wine contains 2% to \_\_\_\_\_% alcohol. Modern table wines contain \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol and “fortified wines” like port and sherry have alcohol contents approaching \_\_\_\_\_%. Modern hard liquors have alcohol contents of as much as \_\_\_\_\_%. Distillation was discovered in \_\_\_\_\_ AD.

## THE WINE OF THE BIBLE WAS DILUTED.

Even though the wines used in Bible times were far less potent than modern wines, ancient people avoided drinking undiluted wine. People in Bible times would dilute their wine with at least \_\_\_\_\_ parts water and sometimes as much as \_\_\_\_\_ parts water. This would reduce the alcohol content to \_\_\_\_\_%. It would require nearly a gallon of this mixture to intoxicate the average person. Ancient people sought to reduce the alcohol content of wine. People today try to increase the alcohol content of their drinks. This is exactly what the scriptures forbid (Prov. 23:31).

## TEN REASONS TO SAY NO TO ALCOHOL

For those who would “Connect to the Covenant” of Colonial Hills Baptist Church, the following reasons for abstaining from the use of alcohol as a beverage are offered:

1. Alcohol is very \_\_\_\_\_. Studies consistently indicate that for every \_\_\_\_\_ people who drink, one will become addicted. I Corinthians 6:12, warns the believer to avoid anything that can cause addiction.
2. Alcohol may harm the \_\_\_\_\_, which, for the believer, is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20). The results of an on-going indulgence are pernicious and preventable!
3. The Bible specifically forbids the use of “strong drink” (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-31). All modern alcoholic drinks fall under this prohibition! In Bible times, taking a “strong drink” (unmixed, highly alcohol-laden intoxicant) was reserved for those who were “ready to perish” (Prov. 31:6) as a deathbed pain reliever or sedative.
4. When living in a corrupt \_\_\_\_\_, believers should choose abstinence as a testimony of their dedication to God (Dan. 1:8; I Thes. 5:1-8).
5. Believers are to guard their actions so that they do not cause others to \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 14:21).
6. New Testament believers are “kings and priests” (I Pet. 2:9). Proverbs 31:4-5 and Leviticus 10:9 instruct both kings and priests not to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Bible consistently paints a very unflattering picture of the effects of drinking alcohol. Noah, Lot, the drunkards of Ephraim, and the inebriated earthlings who are unprepared for the Lord's coming are all examples to those who would consider the taking of a drink (Eph. 5:18).
8. Alcohol is a \_\_\_\_\_ that dulls the mind (Is. 28:7). As our Lord's appearing draws near we are commanded to be especially attentive (Luke 21:34).
9. Ancient wines cannot be compared to modern \_\_\_\_\_. Drunkenness in ancient time required determined drinking (Acts 2:15).
10. Drunkenness is a \_\_\_\_\_ sin (I Cor. 6:9-10).



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