



Alcohol Abuse & the Trends of the Sinful Nature, Prov 21:1; Rom 13:13-14; George Strait's *If the Whole World Was a Honky-Tonk* & Brad Paisley's *Alcohol*

3. Drunkenness, bacchanalias, and binges. These problems are signs of the reversionistic lifestyle.

Circumstances in life cause a person to react and enter into self-centeredness which can be expressed by a number of lust patterns. These efforts are expected to restore the happiness that the circumstances destroyed.

This includes activities that indicate the frustration one's failure to recover lost happiness causes. In this frantic search one enters into a sequence of stages that increases the frustration since it never produces the sought for happiness.

As the soul devolves into this self-destructive cycle attempts to acquire happiness take on ever-increasing levels of degeneracy which include those typical of an unrestrained sinful nature.

Primary among these quite often are sexual sins. Romans 1:18-32 documents the wheel-tracks deviants follow in their moral decline.

Alcoholic drink has a tendency to lower one's inhibitions. This likelihood is often utilized by boys and men to entice girls and women into sexual situations they would normally recognize and reject.

However, there is nothing that forbids the use of alcoholic beverages. However, the Bible is clear that drunkenness is sinful and a therefore is to be avoided especially by the believer. There are numerous references:

Proverbs 21:1 - Wine [יַיִן *yayin*] is a mocker [לִיּוֹס *lius*: boisterous] and strong drink [שֵׁכָר *shechar*: beer] is a brawler [הַמָּהָה *hamah*: to get loud & aggressive]; whoever goes astray [שָׁגָה *shagah*: to stray or wander due to intoxication—literally & figuratively] by them is not wise. [also see Proverbs 23:29-35]

Romans 13:13 - Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing [κῶμος, *kōmos*: feasts accompanied by drunkenness and orgies in honor of Bacchus, the god of wine: bacchanalia (see 1 Peter 4:3)] and drunkenness [μέθη, *methē*: a synonym of οἰνοφλυγία, *oinophlugia* in 1 Peter 4:3], not in sexual promiscuity [κοίτη, *koitē*: literally “bed” but used euphemistically for sexual intercourse] and sensuality [ἀσέλγεια, *aselgeia*: varied perversions associated with sexual sins: “debauchery” in 1 Peter 4:3], not in strife and jealousy.

v. 14 - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no [μή ποιέω, *mē poieō* plus the negative particle: do not make, bring about, or cause] provision [πρόνοια, *pronoia*: foresight: what you can foresee] for the flesh [σάρξ, *sarx*: the sinful nature] because of its lusts [plural of ἐπιθυμία, *epithumia*: lust patterns].



Verse 14 is a problem-solving device with reference to verse 13 which emphasizes the sins of drunkenness, sexual promiscuity, and sexual perversion whose combination usually leads to strife and jealousy.

To “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” is idiomatic for spiritual growth which dresses our souls with the thinking of Christ which is acquired by learning the Word of God.

In order for this process to be effective the believer must refrain from these sins as well as others. However, sins are preceded by thought which is facilitated by repeated submission to the sinful nature’s lust patterns.

The power of the Word of God under the filling of the Holy Spirit is the only means by which the believer can stifle the desires of his lust patterns. However, the sinful nature is encoded into the DNA of every cell of the human body and each person’s soul is inseparably united with such a body until death or the resurrection. Because of this we are all incapable of withstanding the constant assaults from these *agents provocateur* of the sinful nature.

However, what each of us can do is not plan ahead. Each of us has an area of particular weakness among our lust patterns that is extremely difficult to control. Yet we plot and scheme so as to arrange circumstances so that we can assuage its desires.

A person who is not prone to over-imbibe can enter into a bar and remain on the wagon, however, those who are prone to chemical lust should avoid honky-tonks. A thief should avoid banks but at the same time be a teetotaler while the teetotaler could be involved in robbing banks.

Whatever your weakness you are tempted to assuage it. If you have chemical lust for alcohol you know how to make preparations to fulfill it. If criminal lust in the area of theft you know the techniques of how to rob banks and make the plans to pull it off. If sexual lust you know how to make plans to gratify your marital impulses.

A believer whose weakness is approbation lust might be able to walk through a bar, a bank, or a brothel and remain in fellowship but would have an insatiable desire to be noticed in all three places.

Illustrations of the problems of alcohol abuse from country and western music. First of all, George Strait’s “dream world” illustration from his current album:

Simpson, Bryan, Ashley Gorley, & Wade Kirby. “If the Whole World Was a Honky-Tonk.” On CD *Somewhere down in Texas*. George Strait. (Nashville: MCA Nashville, B0004446-02, 2005), 1:

If the whole world was a honky-tonk
And it revolved around an old jukebox



We'd tell our troubles to the bar
Over cryin' steel guitars
And soon they'd all be gone
If you asked me what I thought
I'd say we'd be better off
If the whole world was a honky-tonk.

You could smoke that cigarette
Be politically incorrect
Show off that red around your neck
Not hear a single soul object.

Wouldn't need no lawyers to decide
Who is wrong and who is right
No need for big expensive trials
Brother, we'd just step outside.

Wouldn't have to pay no tax
Just set a tip jar in the back
If we ran low we'd pass the hat
I bet we'd all be in the black.
If the whole world was a honky-tonk.

If the whole world was a honky-tonk
And it revolved around an old jukebox
We'd tell our troubles to the bar
Over cryin' steel guitars
And soon they'd all be gone
If you asked me what I thought
I'd say we'd be better off
If the whole world was a honky-tonk.

Life would be a three-cord song
And the king would be George Jones
If the whole world was a honky-tonk.

Next we turn to Brad Paisley for reality in the life of those who abuse alcohol:

Paisley, Brad. "Alcohol." On CD *Time Well Wasted*. (Nashville: Arista, B000A2APUS, 2005), 2:

I can make anybody pretty
I can make you believe any lie
I can make you pick a fight
With somebody twice your size.

Well I've been known to cause a few breakups
And I've been known to cause a few births
I can make you new friends
Or get you fired from work.

And since the day I left Milwaukee
Lynchburg, Bordeaux, France
Been makin' the bars
With lots of big money
And helpin' white people dance.



I got you in trouble in high school
And college now that was a ball
You had some of the best times
You'll never remember with me
Alcohol.

I got blamed at your wedding reception
For your best man's embarrassing speech
And also for those naked pictures of you at the beach
I've influenced kings and world leaders
I helped Hemingway write like he did
And I'll bet you a drink or two that I can make you
Put that lampshade on your head.

And since the day I left Milwaukee
Lynchburg Bordeaux, France
Been makin' a fool
Out of folks just like you
And helpin' white people dance.

I am medicine and I am poison
I can help you up or make you fall
You had some of the best times
You'll never remember with me
Alcohol.