

# ALCOHOL

## What Do You Say? #4

Since drinking without getting drunk is not necessarily forbidden in scripture, we must change our question from, “Can a Christian drink?” to “Should a Christian drink?”

### How do I (Allan) decide?

**\*\*\*I try to follow this same process to determine anything that is unclear, not just alcohol.**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Question: Will this please God?

##### Eph. 5:8-11

*“for you were formerly darkness, but **now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light** <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup> **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.** <sup>11</sup> Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;”*

- If I want to please God, which question should I ask myself:
  - Does God say I can't do this?
  - Will this please God?

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Question: Could my example help others to please God?

##### Heb. 13:7

*“Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and **considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.**”*

- People learn from watching others.
  - My faith is teaching others.
    - **James 2:18** *“show me your faith without the works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**”*

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Question: Could My Example Cause Others To Stumble?

##### Matt 18:6-7

*“but **whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.** <sup>7</sup> **“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!”**”*

- Jesus is very serious about me not causing others to sin.
  - If someone watches me drink, is it possible they may stumble?
- **Rom 14:13** *“Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — **not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.**”*
  - God wants me to be more focused on how my actions affect others, than whether or not I have freedom in Christ to do them.
  - **Phil. 2:3-4** *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves;** <sup>4</sup> do not merely **look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**”*
- **Rom 14:20-21** *“Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. <sup>21</sup> **It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.**”*
  - I do not have the right to do anything without considering how it will affect others.

## BUT WHAT IF I THINK MY BROTHER IS WRONG?

### Rom 14:4

*“Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and **he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**”*

**Q: Do you believe the Lord can lead someone who doesn't agree with or listen to you?**

- If we focus on agreeing with Jesus, we will have unity... even without uniformity!

## Questions and Answers Time