

So What do You Really Think?

Series: Servanthood and social issues

5/6/12

The Big Idea of this series:

We are servants and live focused on the welfare of others even in socially tough settings

In socially tough settings how can we know what to do? (beyond prayer and council)

1. the Bible

2. **Three Priorities** (regarding social issues not commanded or forbidden in the Bible) (These priorities are found 1 Corinthians 8-10 regarding social issues)

How does it enhance or hurt our **love for God** (and our relationship with God)?

How does it enhance or hurt our **love for one another** (the edification of others)?

How does it enhance or hurt our **mission?** (the salvation of people without Jesus)?

For example let's look at alcohol.

First, what did God say and how was it applied by Jesus and the apostles?

On the one hand...

Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Proverbs 23:29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

³⁰ Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.

³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly;

³² At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.

³³ Your eyes will see strange things, And your mind will utter perverse things.

³⁴ And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.

³⁵ "They struck me, *but* I did not become ill; They beat me, *but* I did not know *it*. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Proverbs 31:3 Do not give your strength to women, Or your ways to that which destroys kings.

⁴ It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink,

⁵ Lest they drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

⁶ Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter.

⁷ Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his trouble no more.

On the other hand...

Genesis 14:17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Psalms 104:14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth,

¹⁵ And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make *his* face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart.

Ecclesiastes 9:7 Go *then*, eat your bread in happiness, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your works.

⁸ Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head.

⁹ Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.

Deuteronomy 14:22 "You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year.

²³ "And you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

²⁴ "And if the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring *the tithe*, since the place where the LORD your God chooses to set His name is too far away from you when the LORD your God blesses you,

²⁵ then you shall exchange *it* for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.

²⁶ "And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.

²⁷ "Also you shall not neglect the Levite who is in your town, for he has no portion or inheritance among you.

John 2:1 And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there;

² and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding.

³ And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

...¹¹ This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Luke 7:33 "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon!'

³⁴ "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!'

³⁵ "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

1 Timothy 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

³ not addicted to wine...

1 Timothy 3:8 Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine...

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

Titus 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine,

Second, how do our three priorities guide us?

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

²⁴ Let no one seek his own *good*, but that of his neighbor.

²⁵ Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience ' sake;

²⁶ for the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains.

²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience ' sake.

²⁸ But if anyone should say to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat *it*, for the sake of the one who informed *you*, and for conscience ' sake;

²⁹ I mean not your own conscience, but the other *man's*; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

³² Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

³³ just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of the many, that they may be saved.

11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Series passage

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

¹² Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.