

Confronting Christianity

Week #9

Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Ice breaker: **What was your exposure to alcohol growing up? How was its consumption viewed or practiced in your family?**

Discuss:

1. Ephesians 5:15-20

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

- ❖ **Read verses 15-17 again, what is the emphasis of Paul's words?**
- ❖ **Based upon the command of verse 18, how could our view of the consumption of alcohol hinder our being filled with the Holy Spirit? How much of your perspective is influenced by Scripture, personal experience, and/or culture?**
- ❖ **Look at Ephesians 5:18, what does it say *is* a sin?**
- ❖ **What are some of the things that drunkenness can lead to? How can these things occur with subtleness that can lead someone to be deceived or hinder their pursuit of wisdom?**

On the other end of the spectrum, we learn there are benefits to abstaining to alcohol, but sometimes our perspective of others that consume alcohol can lead to an unhealthy understanding of the freedom we have in Christ.

- ❖ **Take a minute to look at Colossians 2:21-23, 2:18, Matthew 15:9. For those that abstain from alcohol, how can judgment towards those that have freedom regarding the consumption of alcohol lead to sin?**
- ❖ **If both drunkenness and legalism are wrong, then what is Paul's encouragement here?**
- ❖ **Look at verse 19 – What are some indications that we are filled with the Spirit?**

2. Read Romans 14:1-9 and 15:5-7

- ❖ **What is the difference in the essential and non-essential beliefs? What can be the implication of confusing the two? What can be**

the damage of criticizing others that share our faith in Christ but have different opinions?

- ❖ (Have someone read Romans 14:10-15) What stands out to you from Paul's words in verses 10-15 related to unity? How should this change the way that we interact with others inside the church?**
- ❖ How might drinking adversely affect others in church? How might drinking in the view of unbelievers cause confusion for them?**
- ❖ What are examples of stumbling blocks we may unintentionally place in front of other believers that hinders their growth? How can stumbling blocks hinder our spiritual growth as a group?**

Application:

- ❖ Worship (vv. 19–20): Make a list of every blessing you've received in the past week—everything you feel thankful for. Express thanks to God for each item on that list, praising him as your provider and sustainer.**
- ❖ Close: How can we be praying for one another? How can we encourage one another this week?**