

Is Alcoholism a Disease?

Alcohol is a habit forming drug. Unfortunately for all, it is a drug that our society says is socially acceptable. People desire it we suppose for various reasons. It is the advertised drink of the "social upper class". It is the advertised drink for those that want to have a "gusto of fun". It is advertised as the drink of "festivity". Many seem to think it is a good way to release tensions and calm one's self. This may be the one reason it has hurt so many. Alcohol does serve as a depressant and decreases inhibitions; therefore, one loses more control of himself. He is willing to engage in behavior that he normally would not be involved in.

Medically, sources have shown that even in small amounts it damages brain cells permanently. It also does other physical abuse to the body (too numerous to mention here) and causes birth defects, including "fetal alcohol syndrome" (i.e. babies addicted before birth). It costs society millions and is one of the major causes in traffic fatalities.

Is alcohol abuse a disease? If it is, it is the only disease that the Bible labels a sin. If it is, then God calls man a sinner for something he cannot help. If it is, then God will send people to Hell for the disease as well as for sin (1 Cor. 6:10). This contradicts all the Bible teaches about God.

God has never required us to avoid something that we cannot.. Disease can be the consequence of sin, but it is the sin that condemns us (the violation of God's law 1 Jn 3:4). People who choose to drink will be judged for that choice. It is sin, a violation of God's law (cf. . Rm 13:13; Ga 5:19,21; I Cor 5:9-13; I Th 5:7,22; Eph 5:18).