

Small Group/Sermon Notes for High Ways Part 6: Drunkenness

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- Key Scripture **Isaiah 55:6-9**
 - God's ways are higher than our ways x2:
 - First, God's ways can be hard to understand sometimes.
 - Second, God's ways are much much better than our ways.
- **This week: To drink or not to drink, that is the question.**
- We are going to try to go from servant to friend regarding **Ephesians 5:15-20. (focus v18)**
 - This should be fun! Some people you can't please. **Matthew 11:18-19.**
 - I think that spirit is strong today. Big problem: snap judgements.
 - Worse: getting upset in reaction to someone else's snap judgment!
 - Don't get upset, let's just work through this.
- Debauchery. **Ephesians 5:18.**
 - The word translated "debauchery" means basically "not safe." (riot)
 - Alcohol/chemical abuse is related to many things that are not safe.
 - Impaired driving, overdose, fights/abuse (prohibition), health problems, mental health problems (why they act that way), etc.
 - How much of that ishy stuff should we promote?
 - Clearly we don't want to promote that. (other end of the stick)
 - But Jesus clearly drank. So.....?????
 - Note: zero indication that Jesus ever got drunk.
- The million dollar question: where is the line?
 - Answer for disputable matters: The line is in different places for different people and it moves.
 - As an Assemblies of God Minister, I was required to take a vow of abstinence from alcohol.
 - I am very happy with that because I don't want to be a stumbling block for anyone.
Romans 14:19-21. Said even stronger: **1 Corinthians 8:13.**
 - If becoming a vegetarian helped others, would you do it?
 - What benefit is my drinking going to have on others? Youth group?
 - For me, drinking is not safe for others. I'm cool with that.
 - So, to start to catch this, think "how does this affect them" rather than "how does this affect me."
 - But, what if I'm a stumbling block to the drinkers?
 - Alcohol is weird in that not drinking can sometimes offend drinkers!
 - It isn't that way with orange juice or coffee.
 - If alcohol (drugs) is part of your identity then you have an issue. **1 Peter 4:3-5.**
- Instead.
 - But man, sometimes you just need a bump to get you through the day, right???
 - There is a different kind of bump! You DO get a coping mechanism!!
 - Read **Ephesians 5:18-20** with that in mind.
 - Be filled with the Spirit, sing, give thanks. There's your bump!
 - Check out **Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thess 1:6, and 1 Peter 5:7.**
 - You have access to a mood altering relationship with God!
 - Spend time in worship, in prayer, in the Spirit and you will be able to cope better!
 - And besides, if you can't cope without alcohol/drugs, you can't cope with it either.
 - Drink deep of the Spirit of God. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
 - What sort of bump do you need? Let's as to be filled with the Spirit and to receive.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!