

Changed Actions (Part 2)

The “Umbrella” principles:

- **Our actions please God rather than grieve Him** (*Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 4:30*)
- **Our actions regard our bodies as temples of the Holy Ghost** (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*)
- **Our actions are above accusation** (*1 Peter 2:11-12*)
- **Our actions impact others** (*Romans 14:12-13, 1 Corinthians 8:9*)
- **Our actions don't give place to the devil** (*Ephesians 4:25-27, 1 Peter 5:8-9*)
- **Our actions don't give place to sinful humanity** (*1 John 2:16*)

Christianity changes our concept and use of money

For Christians, money isn't a method of “keeping score” rather it's just a tool for doing business and living life. (*1 Timothy 6:6-10*)

Christians are philanthropists. (*Proverbs 11:24-25, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*)

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Christians give the Lord their first fruits or the tithe of their increase. (*2 Chronicles 31:2-6, Malachi 3:8-12*)

Honoring God with our finances reflects our willingness to promote the Kingdom of God. It reflects our value of the eternal above the temporal, heavenly above earthly. It shows our willingness to participate financially in the church that blesses us spiritually. It reflects our godly contentment.

Christians are sober

Concerning the use of non-prescription drugs (alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, heroin, etc.), improperly used prescription drugs, and otherwise harming our bodies via chemicals.

- **“Umbrella” principles apply**

Regarding sobriety: *1 Thessalonians 5:5-8* You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.

Regarding alcohol: (*Proverbs 20:1, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*)

Proverbs 31:4-7 *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *It is* not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; ⁵ Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

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⁶ Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart. ⁷ Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

“What if I drink and don’t get drunk?”

To be drunk/high/stoned to any extent is to make ourselves vulnerable to the devil and to sinful humanity. Further, it relinquishes self-control to the substance taken.

“But the Bible just mentions alcohol. It doesn’t say anything about nicotine or marijuana.”

True. However, the principles regarding alcohol clearly apply to mind-altering and damaging drugs just the same.

“What about Solomon recommending alcohol as a medicine?” (*1 Timothy 5:23*)

He certainly doesn’t suggest using alcohol recreationally, or socially. As for illness, we now have many other cures that don’t involve making ourselves vulnerable to the negative effects of alcohol.

“But what about prescribed drugs that affect our sobriety?”

Medication under a doctor’s care to bring healing isn’t a pursuit of drunkenness. However, we should still be very cautious.

“What about performance enhancing drugs (PED’s)?” (*Genesis 1:27, 31*)

It would seem that if we take PED’s, then we are implying that God’s creation wasn’t as good as He thought. PED’s suggest that man can improve on God’s creation.

Christians control their appetite

- “Umbrella” principles apply

Proverbs 23:20-21 Do not mix with winebibbers, *or* with gluttonous eaters of meat; ²¹ For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

Improper appetites noted in the N.T. (*Titus 1:12, Philippians 3:18-19, Romans 16:17-18*)

Some outside Christianity see us champion self-control in other areas of our lives and wonder why some Christians overlook this area. They see the inconsistency. If we truly believe the Bible teaches self-control, then we should work to practice it consistently.

Empowered for success (*Galatians 5:22-25, Philippians 4:13*)