**Ephesians 5:18 – And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess...**

1. Drunk: intoxicated, the opposite of sobriety

Excess: riot, debauchery, reckless living

1. What does the verse mean?

Willful intoxication (by any means) is sinful and condemned by God. It is destructive of human flourishing.

Is this the consistent testimony of Scripture? Yes.

Deut. 21:20, Prov. 20:1, Prov. 23:20, Rom. 13:13 , I Cor. 5:11, I Cor. 6:10 , Gal. 5:21

1. What does the verse NOT say or imply?

That all consumption of intoxicants is sinful.

Is this the consistent testimony of Scripture? Yes.

Deut. 14:26, Ps. 104:15, Prov. 31:6, I Tim. 5:23

1. Erroneous inferences from passages on this subject:

* Total abstinence from all intoxicants is a mark of spiritual maturity
* Because of the potential for abuse, biblical wisdom would have us refrain entirely
* Consuming intoxicants is a sign of spiritual maturity (It proves you’re not a legalist or fundamentalist)
* Real friendships and real manhood are enhanced by the consumption of intoxicants

1. Is there an obvious relationship between being filled with wine and being filled with the Spirit?

Individuals pursue a filling with wine with the expectation that it will vanquish fear, anxiety, anger, weakness, discontentment, hopelessness, meaninglessness, etc.

Individuals who are filled with the Spirit will increasingly vanquish fear, anxiety, anger, weakness, discontentment, hopelessness, meaninglessness, etc.