



**Question:** When someone tells me “that is what I believe” then my response is a gentle “But that isn’t Biblical.” I’m sure there is a much better response — what would that be?

“For the Bible Tells Me So” isn’t going to work for most skeptics. So instead, let’s lean into the narrative, the example and teachings of Jesus, the principles in Scripture, instead of just one liner rules or answers. Blind obedience vs. informed and rational reasoning leading to choice.

**Question:** *Where does the Bible stand on Abortion, homosexuality, aliens (legal and illegal)? These are hot points in our faith that have become politicized.*

Traditional Christian faith holds that life begins at conception. So the taking of a human life, even an unborn child, is considered murder which violates God’s specific command “Do not murder.” Additionally, the Bible always recognizes the prenatal phase of life as that of a child and not a mere appendage to the mother’s body to be aborted at will. See Luke 1:31; Luke 1:36. In the prenatal phase both Jesus and John the Baptist were recognized as individual human beings well before the time of delivery.

The Bible recognizes that God is active in the creative process of forming new life. See Isaiah 44:2; Psalm 139:13-16.

The Bible recognizes that God has plans for the unborn child. Only He knows the potential of this new life. See Jeremiah 1:5.

The Bible recognizes that God is sovereign in all things, including the quality of life of the unborn child. When people set themselves up as God to determine if a life is worth living they are usurping the sovereignty of the Creator.

God inspired Moses to include in the Scriptures a law that brings the sanctity of the lives of unborn children into focus. Exodus 21:22-23.

**Homosexuality:** already covered in previous messages.

**Aliens (legal and illegal):** While the Bible doesn’t speak directly to immigration, it does talk about how God’s people are to treat foreigners and strangers who lived among them. Israel, God’s chosen nation, always had foreigners among them. See Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Leviticus 19:33-34.

In the New Testament, the challenge placed before the Jewish Christians (disciples, etc.) was to promote equality and community for all races. See Galatians 3:26-28.

While we are citizens of this great nation (USA) we have a higher citizenship in heaven that calls us to show love and share Christ.

**Question:** *I see more and more Christians drinking and posting on FB. Some only have a glass of wine and some drink a lot more. These are people who grew up in the church so I don't understand it.*

See Romans 12:2. Just culturally speaking, what does consuming alcoholic beverages communicate? In other words, for those of you who drink alcoholic beverages, what is your motivation? What message are you knowingly, or unknowingly, communicating? How is your consumption viewed by those who are watching (family, children, Christian friends, non-Christian friends)?

Under the banner of freedom in Christ, shouldn't drinking alcoholic beverages be an expression of that freedom? Doesn't Paul address that? See 1 Corinthians 10:23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33. The question we should ask ourselves is not "Can a Christian drink?" but "Should a Christian drink?" Is it a sin? vs. Is it wise?

Since appeals to approve moderate drinking are often based on wine use in the Bible, it is critically important to understand the differences between the production and use of wine in biblical times, and the more deceptive and dangerous use of alcoholic beverages today.

The Bible is very clear, however, on drunkenness. It is never painted in positive light. See Ephesians 5:18; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3-4; Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:20-21; Proverbs 23:31-35.

There are specific dangers inherent in alcohol, against which the Bible gives clear warning. Alcohol tends to alter one's judgment (Proverbs 31:4-5), frequently brings woe, sorrow, and strife (Proverbs 23:29), and can cause physical harm (Proverbs 23:29,35). It can lower one's inhibitions, leading to shameful behavior, loose speech, promiscuity, and violence (Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 5:11; Romans 13:13). Alcohol is a mocker, a deceiver that leads people astray. So deceptive is it that one tends at first not to realize the harm it is doing (Proverbs 23:35).