IS IT A SIN FOR A CHRISTIAN TO DRINK A BEER AT HOME?

Garland M. Robinson

The fact that one is a Christian does not alter the answer at all. It is sin whether one is a Christian or not! Why in the world would a Christian want to? It works only evil. Nothing good can be said about it. It violates many passages and principles of Scripture.

It is sin because it is a bad example and influence. Christians are the "light of the world," "the salt of the earth" (Matt. :13-16). We not only speak the words of truth and soberness but live them as well (Acts 26:25). We are to be a proper example (1Tim. 4:12). The fact that it is done in the privacy of one's home does not do away with it being a bad example. You had to either buy it or have it given to you - either way, it's not private, others are involved. It's a bad example any way you look at it, even if it only involves one person. Can you imagine Jesus and his apostles doing it? Would vou recommend it to your children and family? I think not!

It is sin because it's a stumbling block. Drinking in your home cannot be hidden from the family. Jesus said it would be better for a millstone to be hanged around one's neck and be drowned in the sea than to be a stumbling block (Matt. 18:6). Romans 14:13 says that no man should "put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall *in his brother's way.*" So many mothers, fathers and children have been led in the wrong direction by a drinking family member.

People of the world know that Christians cannot drink the "devil's brew" and meet with righteous approval.

It is sin even to take the first drink. The Greek word "drunk" in Ephesians 5:18 "signifies to make drunk, or to grow drunk" (Vine's, p.341). It involves the process of becoming drunk. Therefore, when one takes that first drink he is one drink drunk and each successive drink makes him even more drunk. Being drunk comes long before one can't walk straight.

Strict warning is given in God's word regarding those who imbibe alcohol. "... The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? ... fornicators, adulterers, DRUNKARDS" (1 Cor. 6:9-10). "... Murders, DRUNKEN-NESS... they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also..." (Habakkuk 2:15).

The Lord will never say, "well done thou good and faithful servant" to those who drink. You will never see a dedicated child of God drink.