

## What is the answer to celebrating the holidays? Integrity

**Slide 3.** October 29 is International Internet Day. National Cat Day. National Hermit Day. National Oatmeal Day. [2Co 6:2 KJV] 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.)

**Slide 4.** [Rom 14:19-23 KJV] 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. 20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed [are] pure; but [it is] evil for that man who eateth with offence. **21 [It is] good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor [any thing] whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. 22 Hast thou faith? have [it] to thyself before God. Happy [is] he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. 23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because [he eateth] not of faith: for whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin.**

[Rom 14:19-23 NLT] 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. 20 Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. **21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. 22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God.** Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

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. Any study of the use of alcoholic drinks in the Bible must recognize that there is little direct correspondence with today's alcoholic beverages. There are several major © General Council of the Assemblies of God Abstinence from Alcohol 2 differences: (1) wine of the biblical era generally had lower alcohol content, (2) ancient wine was commonly diluted before consumption, (3) grapes were a staple of ancient agrarian life and commerce requiring preservation of the juice, and (4) the distillation process for liquors had not yet been fully developed. Wines in biblical times variously are estimated to have been from 7–10 percent alcohol.<sup>1</sup> By contrast, modern breweries and distilleries produce table wines, fortified wines, and hard liquors that often have 14 percent, 18–24 percent, and 40–50 percent respectively. Distillation, that now produces alcoholic beverages with an alcohol content of 40 percent or more, was not invented until the Middle Ages. Thus, hard liquor as it is known and consumed today was unknown in biblical times. Both ancient Greeks and Jews wrote of diluting wine to avoid intoxication. Drinking “unmixed” wine was considered barbaric in Greek culture. Ratios of 20:1 in Homer's *Odyssey* and 8:1 in Pliny's *Natural History* were probably not the norm but a mixture of 2:1 or 3:1 was common.<sup>2</sup> The Mishnah component of the Talmud gives the ratio of dilution as 3:1.<sup>3</sup> Several of the Early Church fathers and the Bible itself allude to the practice of diluting wine.<sup>4</sup> With a typical dilution ratio of 3:1, wine in biblical times would have ranged between 2–2.75 percent alcohol. By today's legal standards, a drink has to be 3.2 percent alcohol before it is classified as an alcoholic beverage. Clearly, the wine consumed in Bible times lacked the potency of modern alcoholic beverages. Neither biblical nor historical references to mixed or diluted wine prove that everyone always diluted their wine, but the references do show it was a common practice. Medical science was in its infancy and wine with its mild alcoholic content had numerous medicinal applications. For example, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the wounded traveler was treated by “pouring on oil

and wine” (Luke 10:34).<sup>5</sup> The healing and antiseptic properties of wine are probably reflected in Paul’s admonitions to Timothy to “Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine [oinos] because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses” (1 Timothy 5:23). Grapes and the wine they yielded were basic staples of ancient agrarian life providing food, safer and more palatable beverages, and an important source of income. They were virtually a necessity of ancient life. By comparison, alcoholic beverages today are an optional recreational beverage, by no means a necessity, and, unfortunately, are far more potent and addictive. It is historically and hermeneutically misleading to suggest that the wine usage of Bible times justifies today’s consumption of far more powerful intoxicants.

In the Old Testament, eleven different Hebrew words are translated “wine.” Seven of them are used only once, and two are used about five times each. The two most common Hebrew words are yayin (141 times) and tirosh (38 times). The Hebrew © General Council of the Assemblies of God Abstinence from Alcohol 4 lexicons<sup>6</sup> describe yayin as a common drink for refreshment. It usually denotes fermented wine and is often associated with intoxication. Yayin was forbidden for Nazirites (Numbers 6:2–4) and for priests while serving in the tabernacle (Leviticus 10:9). While yayin was at times used in celebrations, the Bible also warns of its consequences. Tirosh is defined as “fresh or new wine, must,<sup>7</sup> grape juice” and most modern translations usually render it as “new wine” (NIV, NASB, NET, as well as KJV). Of the thirty-eight times the word is used, twenty are used in connection with grain and oil, indicating fruitfulness, productivity, and blessing (Proverbs 3:10; Isaiah 65:8; Joel 2:24). Though tirosh in a few cases may indicate the fermented wine that eventuates from fresh grape juice, the word is not associated with drunkenness (with the possible exception in Hosea 4:11 where yayin is paired with tirosh). For both yayin and tirosh, context determines whether the drink is fermented or not.

## **Slide 5. The Lord Appointed Holidays**

The Lord instituted three feasts/festivals we would call holidays Israel was to celebrate by coming together at the appointed place. These were reminders. Passover, Shavuot or Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) and Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles). They were to have a holy gathering during these feasts. He appointed other feasts too.

[Lev 23:4-22 KJV] tells of these three feasts.

## **Slide 6. Spring**

**Passover** and Unleavened Bread: is meant to celebrate the deliverance from Egypt but it pointed to the deliverance Jesus would give and he died on the Passover date.

## **Slide 6. Summer**

**Pentecost:** it is celebrated after seven weeks since Passover. On Shavuot, God gave Moses and the people of Israel His law. Millenia later, on this day God poured out His Spirit on the people celebrating Shavuot in Jerusalem.

## **Slide 6. Fall**

**Sukkot: Feast of Tabernacles.** It is both commemorative and prophetic in its meaning. it points to the commandment of God to stay in temporary dwellings for a week. It is to remember the Hebrews’ journey through the desert. Moreover, it reminds us that our life on earth is also a temporary dwelling.

**Feast of Trumpets** begins the High Holidays, also called the Days of Awe, that lead up to the Day of Atonement.

**Day of Atonement:** Yom Kippur Many spend the day on intensive prayer, asking God for forgiveness. It is a day of fasting and in Israel everything comes to a full stop, including airports and traffic. This day reminds us what a gift we have in Jesus, who became the ultimate atonement for our sins.

## **Slide 6. Winter**

**Two winter feasts Chanukah (Festival of light) and Purim** celebrate God saving his people from the hands of the enemies.

**Chanukah** Commemorates victory of the Jewish people over their Greek oppressor and a sanctification of the Temple. Also referred to as Hanukkah.

**Purim** celebrates victory over their enemies told in the book of Esther.

## **Slide 7. How Do you Celebrate Holidays?**

My answer **Celebrate with the Right Spirit. Honor God through Integrity**

## **Halloween History**

**Slide 8.** The Halloween holiday has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "SAH-win"), a pagan religious celebration to welcome the harvest at the end of summer, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. The festival of Samhain marked the transition to the new year at the end of the harvest and beginning of the winter. Celtic people believed that during the festival, spirits walked the Earth.

**Slide 9.** "Halloween" (by that name) started out as a holy Christian celebration?

Hallow, in Old English, means "holy" or "sacred." Therefore, "Hallows' Eve," or "Halloween," simply means "the evening of holy persons" and refers to the evening before All Saints Day, which is November 1, on both Anglican and Catholic calendars. Halloween is a mixture of Celtic religious ideas and Christian martyrology.

**Slide 10.** November 1<sup>st</sup>, We remember the saints and allow the memory of their faith to spur us on to deeper worship and greater service to the Lord. All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, or Hallowmas, is a Christian celebration in honor of all the saints from Christian history.

**Slide 11.** Later on, Christian missionaries introduced All Souls' Day on November 2, which perpetuated the idea of the living coming into contact with the dead around the same time of year.

**Slide 12.** Now that you heard more about holidays than you may ever want to hear,

In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season and festive costumes.

### **Slide 13.**

[Pro 11:3 KJV] 3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

**Slide 14.** [Rom 14:6-7 KJV] 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth [it] unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard [it]. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

[Rom 14:6-7 NLT] 6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. 7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves.

**Slide 15.** [Rom 14:8-9 KJV] 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

[Rom 14:8-9 NLT] 8 If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and rose again for this very purpose--to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

**We are in the best Kingdom of the Universe. Let's show others.**

**Slide 16.** [Heb 12:28-29 KJV] 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God [is] a consuming fire.

Unshakeable Kingdom but those within the kingdom still on the earth can be shaken.

We serve God Thankfully through grace

People of the World is out to please themselves. We are not out to please ourselves. We need to focus on pleasing God by Worshipping Him with holy fear and awe.

Today is a time where evil is made light of everywhere. Scary is fun entertainment.