

Alcohol

We as believers are called to be in the world, but not of it. We are called by God to lay down our life and live for Christ and this makes our life look different from the rest of the world. For me, Christ was a huge part of my life, but not the main part and certainly did not have an impact on how I lived. I thought He was cool and loved His love, but did not understand or love Him enough to live a life different from the world. Since I was not putting my satisfaction in Christ, I was searching for material things to fulfill me, this led to me drinking alcohol underage and doing it excessively. The main reasons I drank alcohol were either to be more confident, to get attention, to fit in, to feel cool, or just to have fun and forget about other things or all of these. None of these are a good enough excuse. All of these reasons are basically me saying that Christ is not enough. My actions and my life were saying that His love for me, that led the Father to send His son to earth to die for us, defeat death and RISE from the grave, was not enough for me. Praise the Lord that He showed me that only He will satisfy and that only He gives me my identity and that He is enough. During that time of not listening to the Lord and living in sin, I was still going to church and praying to God, but I wasn't allowing the Father to change my life and have full control. When the Lord has full control of your life, it is not your own, so you will have to give up things that feel good to the flesh and step out of your comfort zone. Christ is worth it. No amount of alcohol or all the things that surround it, opposite sex attention, fake confidence, and social ease will ever be worth giving up Christ. Christ always wins. He shows us our sin in the most kind and necessary way, but He does not leave us there. He takes what HE shows us and gives us strength to fight that sin, we just have to rely on Him for it. We can't do it on our own. Every time we try to have our "last" it's never going to work because on our own we are not strong enough, and will fail. Underage and excessive drinking is from a much deeper sin and, like I said earlier, mine was not trusting that Christ is enough. Through laying that sin at the Father's feet and fighting the temptation of drinking through His Spirit, the Lord did not call me to shame, but freedom. Freedom that He bought with the blood of His son. How sweet knowing that the Lord still wants us no matter what we have done. You are never too far. Christ is always chasing after you. God took the ugliness of what I went through and made it beautiful. He made it glorify Himself by giving me the freedom and confidence to share what He has done in my life and by letting me, a broken vessel, be used for others to see Him. Know you can find a community that is fun, genuine, and living for a God that is bigger than this world. Letting alcohol have control over your life or ruin your witness or pull you farther from Christ is not worth it. But Christ is worth everything.

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