

Is It Ok to Have a Beer as a Christian?

by Bob Jennings

As Christians, we must balance being separate from the world with relating to people, and always represent Christ in every situation.

Duration: 4:45

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 9:22, Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 3:15

Topics: "Christian Living", "Evangelism"

Description

This sermon discusses the balance between being 'all things to all men' and maintaining biblical principles, particularly in the context of engaging in activities like pub theology or going to bars for Bible studies. It explores the tension between reaching out to others in unconventional ways while also upholding personal convictions and not compromising one's faith. The story shared highlights the importance of being a representative of Christ in every situation, showing kindness and love while not conforming to sinful behaviors.

Transcript

To be all things to all men, and I guess in light of some stuff that he happens to be a person that pushes some extremes, it seems that something that's becoming big now is the whole pub theology, going to bars and having Bible studies. And my personal stance, based on the scriptures, is in opposition to stuff like that. And because I have a buddy that I work with, and he's the only other Christian in my workplace, in a largely unbelieving workplace, and he is constantly pushing, promoting that kind of lifestyle things to reach people, and then I'm the overly dogmatic person because I don't understand it.

Why you would go into the bars to actually drink with everybody and have Bible study doing it to reach people. So I understand the all things to all men. And I guess wisdom, insight, do I need to, am I pushing on the lines of legalism, or is that stuff like that too far? Going into bars, having Bible study there to try and reach people, the being all things where people are going to use that.

Here's an illustration that I saw in my own life that I never forgot. Between my junior and senior year in college, I had a summer intern job in Fort Dodge, Iowa. And there was three or four others with me, and we all lived in this apartment house.

And there was another fellow living there. He was a policeman about 10 years older than me. So we would go downtown about every evening.

And then the next year, I was converted. And this company that I was working for had a regional meeting back up in Fort Dodge. And so I thought to myself, well, I'm going to go look up Herb and tell him that I've become a Christian.

So I didn't find him at the house, and I thought, well, maybe he's downtown at the old cave-in. And so, sure enough, there was Herb sitting at the bar. And he was quite surprised to see me.

And he says, Bob, have a chair and have a drink with me. And I said, no thanks, Herb, I've become a Christian. What? And so we talked a while, and he urged me again, have a beer with me.

And I said, no. And he went on, you know what, you're telling me you can't just sit here and have a beer with me? Who do you think you are? And he put the pressure on, and after about four or five times, I said, OK. And I had that glass of beer, and just as I got it to my lips, he said, look at that.

I knew it wasn't real. And it was just like a knife. And so I think one big thing is are we going to where they're at with the atmosphere and with the attitude of bringing them out or identifying with them and confirming them in their sin, in whatever circumstance it is? And just adding to that, in every situation, we're representatives of Christ, and we need to portray Him.

And when I talked about just breaking the taboos, you think about how Jesus related with people versus the religious leaders. I mean, think about the things He did. He touched lepers.

You didn't even get downwind from a leper. You didn't walk around them. He would stop and speak with a woman at a well.

He would speak with a Syrophenician woman. He did things, but it was always to show kindness. It was always, as Bob said, to bring them out.

And I personally, I like the guy that does the unusual thing. I like that. I like when people are testing the boundaries, but behind it, you see that they're testing it because they really do have a burden for souls.

And they really have a desire for purity. They're not trying to be as much like the world as they possibly can. They have a burden for souls, and they're willing to think outside the box.

I love people like that.

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