

Issue Night: Drugs and Alcohol

VIDEO LINK

<https://youtu.be/Yxd9RpvDETg>

GOAL SUMMARY

The goal of this session is for young people to come to a better understanding of the Catholic view of drinking alcohol, taking into consideration the laws in place as well as the virtue of temperance.

VIDEO SUMMARY

In this video, Chris explains that following Jesus' example, the Catholic Church is not "anti-alcohol." The Church does permit drinking provided that it is done in accordance with local just laws and that it is done temperately, in proper moderation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your reaction to learning that Catholic monks and predominantly Catholic countries produce some of the world's best beer? Why?
2. What can we learn about alcohol based on the fact that Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana?
3. Before watching this video, what was your understanding of the Church's teaching on drinking alcohol?
4. What are some of the blessings of moderate alcohol consumption? Some of the problems with abusing alcohol?
5. Chris emphasized that as Catholics, we are obliged to obey just laws; what are some negative consequences you can think of for people who have disobeyed those laws (particularly when considering underage drinking)?

SEND

The purpose of this session is to inform you of the Church's stance on alcohol. This includes looking at Scripture and understanding the virtue of temperance. Drinking to excess is always wrong. When done with temperance and in accordance with the law of this country (21 years of age for legal drinking), Catholics are permitted to drink alcohol.

Pray together the Prayer for Temperance (from Catholic.org):

Jesus, You practiced temperance; You were the Model of self-restraint, never over-indulging in the temporal. My body being the Temple of the Lord, I must treat it with ongoing respect. Self-abuse destroys the body, be it alcohol, drugs, or excess food. Lord Jesus, bestow fortitude upon me for my soul to control my body, to practice the virtue of temperance. Jesus, You are the source of my vigor. Through You, all is possible! Amen.