

The Dangers of Alcohol

by Phillip W. Weiss

Alcohol is a poison that can kill. Alcohol is a depressant. It directly affects the brain thus altering perceptions and distorting thinking. Alcohol affects the entire body. It is corrosive. It shares the same chemical formula as gasoline, which is a fuel that is used to ignite engines, and which produces awful waste products that pollute the air.

The chemical combination of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen is lethal to humans. It contains the three basic elements responsible for combustion, a chemical reaction known as oxidation that releases heat. Heat is needed to power machines and to produce warmth, but when internalized will burn living tissue. People consume massive quantities of alcohol. It is part of civilization itself.

That is the case because alcohol is addictive. It induces changes in mood and perceptions known as a high. People like feeling high and alcohol NEVER fails to produce that high. Alcohol is used as a social lubricant, something to enable people to loosen up. Men act silly and women relax. People use alcohol as an excuse to act out, to make noise, to become sexually loose.

These alterations of behavior are caused by the affect alcohol is having on the chemistry of the body which is saturated with a chemical solution that is literally destroying cells in every organ of the body. The alcohol destroys cells in the brain, liver, stomach, and intestines. But that does not stop people from

consuming alcohol. The pain is masked by the high that produces a euphoria that is intoxicating. But the euphoria is temporary. It is followed by a crash as the body tries to repair the damage caused by the alcohol which has been excreted, if the kidneys are still functioning properly.

Now one can argue that anything ingested can harm the body, and that is true, but like all rationalizations is just a half-truth. Humans ingest all kinds of garbage foods, full of fats and chemicals and filler. But no substance acts more quickly and powerfully than alcohol. The effect of alcohol on the body is immediate. Intoxication results within seconds. Alcohol never fails to deliver on its promise to alter perceptions and make someone feel loose and drop their inhibitions and behave recklessly. Thus, the consumption of alcohol poses a threat to public safety.

Yet, alcohol was consumed at the Last Supper. Alcohol is symbolically associated with deity. It is considered an elixir of life. Such is the place of honor afforded to alcohol. Thus, efforts to prohibit alcohol are bound to fail. People like to consume alcohol. They WANT their alcohol. So be it.