

University of Notre Dame
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Let's Be Specific

Query: "In your Bulletin on "Drinking," I notice you were careful to avoid the moral implications. But just when is drunkenness a sin ?"

Reply: This one is easy. Drunkenness is always a sin. Sometimes it is a more serious sin than at others -- but even venial sins of drunkenness are to be avoided. By drunkenness is meant a state produced by the excessive use of alcoholic drink. It is a mortal sin when the person suffers complete loss of reason -- when he cannot distinguish between good and bad -- when he loses the proper use of his senses -- when he has no control over his actions -- or when he cannot remember what he did or said while in that state.

The amount of drink or the quality of the drink which will induce the state of drunkenness varies with the individual. Therefore, every one is bound in conscience to discipline himself in the measure of alcohol which he knows is within reasonable control. We must always regard alcoholic drinks as dangerous. The person who cannot take a drink without getting drunk is obliged to abstain from alcohol entirely. The person who can take a drink is obliged to restrict himself to the amount that he knows is safe for him.

With regard to adolescents, the specific injunctions laid down by parents are not to be overlooked when treating the moral implications of drinking. In this respect even a moderate drinker could be guilty of disobedience.

Good Manners Are Better

With all the fanfare attendant on the great Monaco wedding of last week, bringing to life all sorts of titled nobility, genuine and otherwise, we are reminded of the truth which Tennyson hit upon long ago when he asserted: "Kind hearts are more than coronets." *

We have all known men, poor in this world's good, humble and obscure, perhaps unable to read or write -- men who would start with surprise if they heard themselves spoken of as "gentlemen." Yet they are richly indowed with the true politeness and good manners which come from a good, tender and kind heart. Remember that nothing tends so much to brighten and sweeten social relationships, and make life generally agreeable as the little attentions, courtesies and civilities which we call good manners. Good manners are the outgrowth -- the natural outgrowth -- of character, kindness, consideration for the feelings of others; and they come from the heart fundamentally. A strain of blueblood is not required for admission to this select company -- just Christian refinement, a commodity within the reach of all.

A Little Work Saves A Lot Of Worry

"Anxiety never baked a cake, built a bridge, won a battle, or solved a problem. Important as we are, we really render ourselves less useful -- and less important -- if we let worry stall our action. The best thing we can do is pray, and work with all our strength on the opportunities God gives us -- and leave the rest to Him."

If you read this daily, you'll find the coming exams not half so formidable.

Where Does It Go ?

Our last three pints of blood went to the wife of a graduate student. Now we must replenish our reserve. See the Prefect of Religion tonight in 117 Dillon. He'll give you the particulars, and make the appointment for you at the Blood Bank.