

# On Alcohol

The Evangelical Assembly of Presbyterian Churches does not advocate the prohibition of alcohol, a policy which would appear to attribute the entire problem to alcohol itself. Responsible and non-problematic uses of alcohol have been part of human experience and the Judeo-Christian heritage since the beginning of recorded history. The considerable risks and immense suffering that follow from excessive and unwise uses of alcohol do, however, impose upon all Christians individually and corporately the responsibility to make and encourage judicious and well-informed choices regarding personal and social uses of alcohol.

To that end, the EAPC encourages and supports personal decision to abstain from alcohol. For those who choose to drink and can do so without becoming dependent, the EAPC urges a pattern of moderate and responsible drinking behavior. Finally, the EAPC recommends and supports a comprehensive public policy approach to regulate the availability and use of alcohol in a manner consistent with its special character and the potential risk to persons and society inherent in its use; and it continues to recommend and support appropriate treatment for all who are affected by alcohol-related problems.

The following general principles should guide . . . personal and corporate choices about the use of alcohol:

1. Abstention in all situations should be supported and encouraged.
2. Moderate drinking in low-risk situations should not be opposed.
3. Heavy drinking in any situation should be vigorously discouraged.
4. Any drinking in high-risk situations (e.g., during pregnancy or before driving an automobile) should be vigorously discouraged, as should all illegal drinking."

*Position paper taken from the Presbyterian Church (USA) with added revising to fit the EAPC standard. The EAPC strongly agrees with the position listed above.*