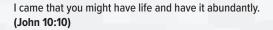
FAITH & FACTS

ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. (**Genesis 1:27**)





Do not be among winebibbers or among gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags ... Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger late over wine, those who keep trying mixed wines. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. (Proverbs 23:20-21; 29-32)

What does the United Methodist Church say?

Regarding the consumption of alcohol, we acknowledge the historic United Methodist stance on abstinence as a safeguard against mental, physical, and spiritual harms caused by excessive drinking. Consequently, we urge those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer, to do so wisely and in moderation. Another important consideration is the impact of such actions on those struggling to recover from alcohol use and abuse. (Social Principles 162.A)



The alcohol and other drug crisis has reached global proportions. More alcohol and other drugs are produced and consumed than ever before. In consuming countries, with their attendant problems of poverty, racism, domestic violence, hopelessness, and material despair, alcohol and other drug abuse is a part of a continuing cycle of economic and spiritual turmoil. (Book of Resolutions #3200 Alcohol and Other Drugs)

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FAITH & FACTS

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What do the facts say?

- Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease; it is the leading risk factor in the Western Pacific and the Americas and the second largest in Europe.¹
- An estimated 95,000 people die from alcohol-related deaths annually, making alcohol the third-leading preventable cause of death in the United States.²
- In 2019, 25.8 percent of people ages 18 and older reported that they
 engaged in binge drinking in the course of one month.³
- Prescription drugs are the drugs most commonly abused by teenagers. 70
 percent of teens who use prescription drugs non-medically get pills from
 their family or friends.

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- Remind your member of Congress and state legislators that
 alcohol is a leading cause of addiction. Encourage your state to
 invest in strongly enforcing your state's criminal laws regarding alcohol
 and to update regulations for alcohol advertising directed at youths to best
 practices standards (see the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at the
 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). Actively discourage
 members of Congress from taking contributions from the alcohol industry
 and raise awareness of the prevalence and dangers of drug abuse,
 including prescription drugs.
- Learn more about alcohol and other drugs by visiting the following web sites: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.samhsa.gov), the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.org), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (www.drugabuse.gov), and the World Health Organization (www.who.int).
- Make a commitment to value health for others and for yourself equally.

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For more information contact:

advocacy@umcjustice.org
www.umcjustice.org

General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002
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The United Methodist Church

¹ World Health Organization, ^{2,3,4} National Institutes of Health