



iQuestions Faculty, Dr. David Eckman

Question:

Can a Christian be an alcoholic?

Answer:

A Christian certainly can be an alcoholic. What I mean by that is, a Christian can be struggling with alcoholism. This is obvious, for example, when you look at the biblical text, where in Galatians chapter 5, for instance, Christians are told to “put to death the works of the flesh,” the habits of the flesh, such as banqueting, such as drunkenness, such as carousing. All of those things are works of the flesh. All of those things would qualify as “drunkenness.”

Those things need to be addressed by an aggressive and healthy spiritual life. One of the things that we need to file away is that the Christian and the non-Christian experience the common struggles of life. The Christian, though, has the beauty of having the resources of God the Father, the resources of the Spirit of God on his or her side.

Those struggles are common to humanity—and as we use the resources that the Bible provides, we can effectively deal with the works of the flesh, the habits of the flesh, one of which is alcoholism.