

Expect Everything (to go badly with alcohol abuse)

Jesus has blessed me to serve him as an educator in multiple roles and settings. Currently, teaching at the college level has allowed me to focus on the young adults in our great nation. And I've observed a very disturbing trend of them using alcohol excessively and binge drinking. This not only harms the health and academic performance of young adults, but it also harms their souls.

Many times, young adults think that they are just engaging in "harmless fun" and that their behavior is not only acceptable in college but also expected. But in the technological age we live in this can be disastrous. For example, the web-site YouTube is loaded with young people acting inappropriately while abusing alcohol. In addition, YouTube has a plethora of pictures showing college-aged students abusing alcohol and behaving in an anti-Christian manner while on Spring Break all over the country. (And once it's on the internet, it is there for the world to see.)

Our young people are also having to fight off the bombardment from current popular culture which glorifies alcohol abuse. The "E News" (basically the CNN of entertainment), consistently shows people like Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, and other celebrities getting into alcohol induced fights, car wrecks, etc., without ever condemning their behavior. Similarly, rap superstar (and former drug dealer) Jay-Z, has been paid a handsome salary to be the spokesman for Budweiser (with his catchy tag-line "expect everything").

But here are some statistics that "E News" and Budweiser won't discuss: according to collegedrinkingprevention.org

- 1,700 college students aged 18-24 die each year from unintentional alcohol related injuries
- 97,000 college students aged 18-24 have been victims of alcohol related sexual assaults or date rape
- 100,000 college students aged 18-24 have been too intoxicated to know whether they consented to sex

We must do everything in our power to speak to our children and young adults and warn them about the dangers of alcohol. We must actively seek to elect officials who are going to fight to regulate when and where "sin industries" can market their products. Finally, we must continue to work with our churches to let our children know that alcohol abuse is harmful to their mind, body, and soul.

Finally, my message to Budweiser, people like Jay-Z, and to those in Hollywood is the following: Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned." Let that be a message to those who market alcohol as being cool to our young people, that when you stand before God you should "expect everything." God Bless America,
John Giotis