



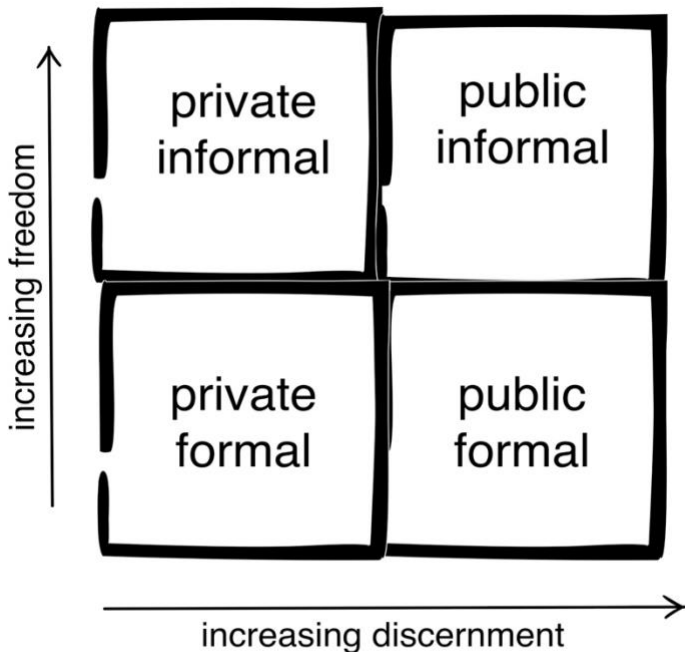
Position Paper on the Consumption of Alcohol

At Christ Community Church we desire that all we do bring Glory to God and result in the good of His people. Therefore, this position paper on the consumption of alcohol, is written with these mutually interwoven principles in mind. As elders we recognize that there are many variables in play with regard to this issue; genuine Christian freedom to enjoy a variety of activities or hold varying views (Rom 14:1-6; 1 Cor 10:31; Col 2:16; 1 Tim 4:4), the wisdom to avoid any form of evil or unnecessary temptation (Pro 4:14-15, 26-27; Eph 5:16, 18; 1Tim 6:11) the charity to withhold judgement from those who differ from us (John 7:24; Rom 14:4,13; James 5:9a) and the restraint to abstain from our freedoms for the sake of those around us (Rom 14:3;1 Cor 8:13; Phil 2:3-4). Furthermore we also acknowledge that Christians are allowed to enjoy alcohol but not to be drunk (1 Tim 5:23; Eph 5:18). Passages like John 2 in which Jesus supplies the wedding party's wine *may* be seen as symbolizing God's gracious provision, especially against the OT background that viewed wine (but never drunkenness) as a sign of joy and God's blessing (Pro. 104:15; Pro 3:10)! Other passages such as Matthew 11:19 and Mark 14:25 suggest that Jesus drank fermented wine. In fact, Mark 14:25 hints that wine will be drunk in heaven! Thus, neither Christ's teaching nor his example can be adduced in favor of advocating total abstinence from alcohol. And yet, we do live in a particular culture and moment in history that either over indulges or abstains from alcohol, often creating extreme viewpoints on either side. We reject either extreme viewpoint and argue for a mediating position. That is, alcohol is to be enjoyed as a gift from God to be used in its proper context.

The practical implications of this view are as follows:



- 1). Christians may enjoy alcohol, individually or corporately
- 2). Christians must understand that not all Christians can enjoy alcohol and thus must ensure that the exercise of their freedoms in Christ do not stumble others around them. This is simply an act of love and courtesy (Rom 14:20-22).
- 3). Those Christians who do not enjoy alcohol (for whatever reason) must not use their conscience to subject others into bondage (Rom 14:10-14a).
- 4). At informal Christ Community Church events off campus the enjoyment of alcohol should abide by the practical implications 1-3
- 5). At all formal Christ Community Church events (off or on campus) no alcohol is permitted due to the vast amount of individuals who would be in attendance (thus there



would be no way to apply implication #2 and a greater chance to stumble others unnecessarily).

Finally we recognize that not every possible scenario has been discussed in this brief position paper but we feel this is enough to capture the balance of our understanding of Scripture in its application within the dynamic life of the church.