



Straddling the Fence
The Danger of Compromise



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With love to my nieces—

*Emily
Megan
and
Elana*







Contents

Thanks	7
Introduction	9
1. Let's Party!.....	13
<i>Compromising Our Influence</i>	
2. Everyone Else Is Doing It	27
<i>Compromising Our Morality</i>	
3. Abortion: Pro-Life Woman—Pro-Choice Woman?	41
<i>Compromising Our Integrity</i>	
4. Bad Hair Days: Liking the Way We Look	55
<i>Compromising Our Individuality</i>	
5. I Never Meant to Hurt Anyone!	67
<i>Compromising Our Character</i>	
6. Homosexuality: Anything But Gay	79
<i>Compromising Our Tolerance for Sin</i>	
7. Marriage: I Do!	95
<i>Compromising Our Standards</i>	
8. We're Getting a Divorce	109
<i>Compromising Our Commitment</i>	
9. Mother—To Be or Not To Be?	123
<i>Compromising Motherhood</i>	



10. You Go, Girl!	137
<i>Compromising Our Talents</i>	
11. Feminist Woman Versus Christian Woman	151
<i>Compromising Our Feminine Roles</i>	
12. This Is My Life!	165
<i>Compromising Our Stewardship</i>	
13. Been There, Done That: Lessons Learned	177
<i>Compromising Our Christianity</i>	
Bibliography	193





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Introduction

Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25).

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

Who Owns the Fence?

A story is told of a large field with a fence running down the middle of it. On one side of the fence stood Jesus, and on the other side stood Satan. Standing between them, near the fence, was a large group of people.

Both Jesus and Satan began calling to the people in the group, and one by one, each having made up his or her mind, went to either Jesus or Satan. This continued for some time, with Jesus and Satan pleading with members from the group to join them. Soon, Jesus had gathered around Him a group of people from the large crowd, as had Satan.

But one young lady joined neither group. Instead, she climbed upon the fence and just sat there, straddling the fence.

Eventually, Jesus and His followers left and disappeared. Satan began to gather his people to leave also. The young woman straddling the fence watched as Satan began to walk along the fence, looking for something he appeared to have lost.

She asked, "Have you lost something?"

Satan looked straight at her and replied, "No, there you are. Come with me."



“But,” said the woman, “I chose neither you nor Him. I’m straddling the fence.”

“That’s okay,” said Satan. “I own the fence.”

Why Me?

Are you a fence straddler? I’ll admit I have been—even as an adult, but it wasn’t always that way. As a teenager, I was known for my unwavering stance on biblical principles.

Growing up in the late ’60s and early ’70s in a medium-size Southern city, I attended church services faithfully, and there was no question as to where my family and I would be on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. I was taught the basics of Christianity and morality at an early age by some of the best teachers. I knew my Bible. Yet, somewhere along the way, I lost my direction and traveled way off course for several years.

I blame compromise for those lost years and for my fence straddling. This seemingly harmless trait is often thought of as a virtue, enabling us to settle or avoid arguments by not hurting anyone’s feelings. While there is a time and place for mutual consensus on matters of opinion, there is also a time when a Christian must take a stand for what is right.

As with any Christian—given enough time, compromise damaged my Christianity. It weakened my faith, attacking the principles I believed in to the point I could no longer stand up and face times of trouble. Compromise was subtle, clever, and dangerous; it left me with a faith as weak as water, while I settled for a life of complacency and mediocrity.

Why This Book?

The idea for writing this book evolved from my intense desire to “say something” after observing both the younger and older Christian women whose lives crossed my path. Many of the young women were energetic, ambitious, and intelligent; the older Christian women were godly, genuinely concerned for others, and stalwarts in the church. I saw so many good characteristics in all of them, but I was troubled, because I also saw fence straddling, compromise on controversial issues, and uncertainty on basic biblical principles.



I wondered if the older Christian women had taught the younger ones all that they needed to know (Titus 2:3-5). Did any of us understand the consequences of not standing firm for our beliefs? Had the older women merely assumed the younger women knew what they should from the Bible about how to fight sin today? Maybe we only hoped they did. Perhaps the younger women just pretended to know these things; maybe they really didn't.

As an author, I have no real credentials; neither am I a wife, mother, or counselor. To some people, I am just an ordinary person—a quiet career woman, a sister, daughter, and friend; to others, I'm an outgoing and fun-loving extrovert. At times, I wondered if I fit society's image of a Christian woman.

I don't bake pies, I can't sew, I'm not much of a public speaker, and I'm not that good with babies, although I do love them. I play golf, ride motorcycles, and fish; I live on a mini-farm, and I work hard physically. I'm not known for my patience, I'm not the best cook in the world; I'd rather wear tennis shoes than heels, and mow the grass than change a diaper. Perhaps, I'm still a bit rough around the edges. But all those things aside, one fact remained—I am indeed a Christian, and I did have something to say! Thus, this book was begun.

Why These Topics?

The topics presented in this book are certainly not new; neither are the Bible solutions. I don't hear them discussed with the young women in church today, though—issues such as premartial sex, abortion, homosexuality, career problems, greed, materialism, feminism, divorce, remarriage, and others.

I must admit that I, like many of my generation, have been close to some of the issues presented in this book, either by participation or active support. I don't say that with any pride, but to emphasize the reality of Satan living in our world. He is alive and well today, attracting young Christian women just as surely as he attracts the rest of the world.

While my own life has been diverse and sprinkled with many fond memories and experiences, it has lacked fulfillment because I compromised my Christian beliefs: I straddled the fence. Hopefully, a young lady can benefit from studying these issues by looking at some of the unfortunate choices others have made and by examining what the Bible teaches.

***The Authority of God***

Volumes have been written about every subject presented in this book, so naturally I won't be breaking any new ground. My purpose in addressing them at all is to show the relevancy of the Bible in dealing with today's problems facing young women, and to initiate thought and further study by concerned women. If our young women sit on the seat of compromise, what happens to the next generation? Who will fulfill the mission of the church?

The foundation of this book is the Word of God, and I make no apology for quoting it often. Neither your opinion nor mine really counts for much when you get right down to it. This is the truth that finally brought me back to Christ and His church. I think it's the lesson we all have to learn in understanding anything about this life or the one to come.

Even though problems are indeed plentiful today, it's still a wonderful time to be a young woman. Opportunities abound, potential is unlimited, and success is imminent for those young women willing to "go for it." I hope in some way these lessons and examples are useful to young Christian women who are searching for answers. It is with love and deep humility that I share these thoughts with you.

Anita Whitaker



CHAPTER ONE

Let's Party!

Compromising Our Influence

Fence-Straddling Position: "I can do as the world does—just as long as I don't get caught. It's okay to drink and party a little. I'm not such a bad person. Besides, I can handle it!"

Bible Position: "Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts" (Romans 13:13–14).

Scripture Search

Proverbs 20:1	1 Corinthians 6:9–11
Proverbs 23:29–35	Galatians 5:19–21
Proverbs 31:4–7	Ephesians 5:18
Romans 13:13–14	1 Peter 2:11
1 Peter 4:3–5	



Say What?

Influence—The power of producing an effect. The way we affect others; sway.

Abstinence—Habitually refraining from drinking alcoholic beverages or taking drugs.

Addiction—Devoted to or surrounding oneself to something habit-forming and physically and/or psychologically destructive.

A “*Drink*”—Twelve ounces of beer or wine cooler; four ounces of wine; or 1.25 ounces of liquor or whiskey.

Binge Drinking—Consuming five or more drinks in an hour. Drinking to get drunk.

Blood-Alcohol Content (BAC)—A measure of intoxication; varies according to the amount of alcohol consumed as well as weight, sex, and other physical factors.

Sober—Not drunk. Self-controlled and serious-minded.

Gateway Drug—A drug whose use increases the likelihood that a person will go on to try harder drugs.

Club Drugs and Date-Rape Drugs—Illegal drugs that increase sexual desire or are given to another to lower sexual inhibitions.

Revelry—Excessive and boisterous merrymaking, noisy festivity and dancing.

Tolerance—The ability to resist the effects of alcohol and drugs.

Debauchery—Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures.



Beth breathed a sigh of relief as she closed her locker and walked away for the summer. Her senior year loomed ahead. How exciting! It was good to be alive, young, and free as a bird.

“Beth! Wait up—I want to ask you something.”

It was Katie, her best friend. “Spend the night at my house



Friday. I've got something special planned and want you to go along with me."

"Yes?" Beth responded with cautious optimism.

"Oh Beth, Matt invited me and anyone else I know to the rave Friday night over off Highway 71."

"A rave?" Beth asked naively.

"Silly girl!" Katie laughed. "It's just a big all-night party, lots of dancing, the best music ever, great DJs, good looking guys—"

"You will have to count me out," Beth said flatly, considering her Christian reputation. "You know I don't—"

"Oh, this is really just a big end-of-school get-together—you'll meet lots of new people. You don't have to drink if you don't want to. It's no biggie—you'll love it!"

"How are you going to stay out all night without your parents knowing?" Beth was bending a little.

"I've taken care of everything. My parents think I'll be at your house and your parents think you'll be at my house." Katie pushed: "Matt said he would pick us up around ten o'clock at Tom's Quick Mart."

Katie's offer set off a big fight in Beth's brain. I should not do this . . . Maybe I need some new excitement . . . What if Mother finds out? . . . Oh, well, these are my friends . . . Nothing bad is going to happen . . . But it is wrong, isn't it? . . . Aren't you tired of being a Goody-Two-Shoes, Beth?

"Sounds like fun," Beth relented. "I'll go."

"Wonderful, Beth! You won't be sorry!"

The rave was in full swing when they arrived. Beth had never felt so much energy in one place. The techno music was beating a loud and steady pulsating beat, and the place was literally packed. As the midnight hour approached, Beth was totally energized by the music and dancing.

"Hey Beth!" Matt screamed at her above the noise. "I've got something for you. Just try it. Talk about dancing—this pill will kick you really good!"

Beth eyed the pill momentarily. "Sorry, Matt, you know I'm not into drugs."

"Oh, this isn't really a drug—just an Ecstasy tablet. Basically harmless. Makes you want to dance and dance and dance! It's great! I do it all the time. Katie's already taken one tonight."

Beth extended her hand for the pill.



Well, okay, what's the harm, really? *she thought*. Katie looks well enough.

No sooner had she taken the drug than she heard a noise and saw a commotion. "Okay, everyone, the party's over!" the police officer shouted gruffly. "Line up, give me your names and addresses and we're going to the station. We've been watching this place for weeks—illegal drugs everywhere."

Wait! *thought Beth*. I'm not like these other people! I haven't done anything wrong. What's my mother going to say? Why did I do this?

The officer stared demandingly into her face: "Your name, address, and phone number!"

Out the window Beth saw another officer putting Matt and Katie into the police car. Then an officer grabbed her arm and jerked her toward the door. Her mind raced. This can't be happening to me. This can't be happening to me. This can't be—

But it was!



From Ecstasy to pot to pills, illegal drugs are as popular today as during the drug-infested culture of the '60s. Although club drugs, such as MDMA—better known as Ecstasy—are fairly new on the party scene, their popularity has become epidemic among today's youth.

Ecstasy is a popular, illegal stimulant used primarily by young people for energy while partying and dancing. The drug takes effect within 20 to 40 minutes and its effects last from three to six hours, depending on the dosage. Ecstasy is also called the "hug drug," since it produces a feeling of well-being and an increased desire for sex.

Although Ecstasy is touted as a safe and fun party drug, evidence is mounting against it. Recent studies show it is not harmless; it can have a long-lasting negative effect on the brain, altering memory function and motor skills.

Taking Ecstasy causes some users to permanently damage their teeth because they grind them so severely. Some suck on pacifiers or lollipops to keep from gritting their teeth. Other side effects of Ecstasy include increased blood pressure, heart rate,



and body temperature, hallucinations, chills, sweating, vomiting, restlessness, depression, hemorrhaging, brain damage, and death. Deaths are usually the result of heatstroke from dancing for long periods of time in hot nightclubs without replenishing lost body fluids.

Date-Rape Drugs

Date-rape drugs, such as Roofies, Special K, and GHB cause muscle relaxation and amnesia. Men sometimes mix a date-rape drug in a soda or an alcoholic drink, and give it to their dates to incapacitate and prevent them from resisting sexual assault.

Rohypnol (Roofies) is a strong sedative similar to Valium but ten times more potent. Roofies are produced and sold legally by prescription in Europe and Latin America; however, the drug is neither manufactured nor approved for medical use in the United States. Roofies cause decreased blood pressure, memory impairment, and muscle relaxation. They slow motor skills and cause deep sleep and amnesia. The drug has no taste or odor, so the victims don't realize what is happening to them until it is too late.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) states that two common misperceptions about Rohypnol may explain its popularity among young people. First, many wrongly believe that the tablet is "unadulterated" (safe), because it comes in pre-sealed bubble packs. Second, many mistakenly think its use cannot be detected by urinalysis.

Ketamine (Special K) is a powerful hallucinogen and a legal, prescription drug used by veterinarians as an animal tranquilizer; however, its use by humans is illegal and possession can result in long prison terms. In powder form, Special K is usually snorted but is sometimes sprinkled on tobacco or marijuana and smoked. In liquid form, Special K is mixed with a drink. Either form of Special K causes profound hallucinations, visual distortions, temporary memory loss, nausea, loss of motor control, and potentially fatal respiratory problems.

GHB (Liquid X) is prescribed for narcolepsy and alcoholism. It is also used by some body builders who wrongly believe that it helps them to lose weight. An odorless liquid and slightly salty to the taste, GHB is sold in small bottles. To disguise its taste, it is often slipped into drinks.



The effects of GHB can be felt within 5 to 20 minutes after ingestion and the high can last up to four hours. GHB causes slowed heart rate, respiratory failure, violence or aggression, seizure-like activity, and sometimes coma. A capful of GHB can have the same effect on some people as five beers. Reaction varies with the individual. While one capful might not affect one person, it might kill another. Some former GHB addicts say withdrawal from this drug is so painful they want to kill themselves; the drug has caused many suicides.

Young women, be especially aware of the dangers of club drugs and date-rape drugs. Use your common sense when in a crowd or on a date. Never leave a drink unattended; and never, never accept a drink from a stranger.

Other Drugs

In addition to club drugs and date-rape drugs, many so-called recreational drugs—marijuana, cocaine, PCP, LSD, and heroin—are also readily available today.

Marijuana is most often the drug choice of young women when they begin experimenting with drugs. There is a false notion that pot is not so bad, and that it's only a soft drug used for relaxing and coping with the daily pressures of life. How wrong is that idea!

Marijuana is a harmful drug, especially since its potency has increased more than 275 percent over the last decade. In addition to the physical damage pot inflicts on the lungs and body, the most dangerous element of marijuana is that it takes away a person's motivation, especially harmful in the formative teenage and young adult years.

The Bible does not specifically say, "Do not use drugs," but it does list *witchcraft* as a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20) and tells us that "they who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Witchcraft! you may say. *We're talking about drugs, not witchcraft.*

Yes, *witchcraft*, as it originally appeared in Galatians 5:20, is spelled p-h-a-r-m-a-k-e-i-a. Do you see *pharmacy* there? The first definition of *pharmakeia* is "the use or the administering of drugs."



Just the Facts, Please

In spite of the stir and stigma of illegal drug use, the truth is that the legal drug, alcohol, remains the number one drug problem among young people. Statistics show that first use of alcohol usually begins around age 13, and in 1998, there were over 10 million drinkers in the United States under the age of 21. Although the legal age to buy alcohol is 21, nearly 75 percent of those polled in one survey said they buy their own fairly easily, regardless of their age. Another recent survey also showed that up to 87 percent of high school seniors have used alcohol.

Junior and senior high school students drink 35 percent of all wine coolers sold in the United States. They also consume 1.1 billion cans of beer annually, and college students drink over 4 billion. The Bureau for At-Risk Youth organization reports that more than 60 percent of all homicides, 50 percent of all traffic fatalities, 65 percent of drowning deaths, 80 percent of deaths by fire, 60 percent of child abuse, and 55 percent of arrests are related to alcohol use.

Alcohol kills 6.5 times more youth than all other drugs combined. The three leading causes of death for 15- to 24-year-olds are automobile crashes, homicides, and suicides, of which alcohol is a leading factor in all.

In 1998, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) reported that nearly 16,000 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, an average of about one every 33 minutes. Over one million were injured that same year in alcohol-related wrecks. In the United States, 2,750 youths under the age of 21 lose their lives each year in alcohol-related crashes, and 93,000 youths are arrested each year for driving under the influence (DUI).

DUI is a serious offense. A blood-alcohol content (BAC) level of .08 is legal intoxication in most states today, and it doesn't take much alcohol, especially for a small woman, to reach that level. A first-time DUI conviction can result in a suspended driver's license, large fines, increased insurance rates, and even jail time.

From 1982 to 1999, nearly 350,000 persons lost their lives in alcohol-related traffic crashes. More Americans have died in alcohol-related traffic crashes than in all the wars the United States has been involved in since our country was founded! The statistics go on and on.



Why Drink Anyway?

With all this negativity and gloom portrayed, why would anyone start drinking anyway? Why would a person continue to drink? Let's look at six commonly cited reasons below:

1. *"Everyone Else Drinks!"* Young people have always been tempted to drink alcoholic beverages, and today's society is no different. Many young women do not even enjoy the taste of alcohol, but drink it anyway just to be accepted by their friends. A recent MADD study among college students showed some young people are re-thinking that position. Nearly one-third of them said they wished alcohol were not available for campus activities, and nearly 90 percent wished drugs would disappear altogether from their campuses. It's okay not to drink and party!
2. *"You Only Live Once!"* While growing up, some young people experiment with alcohol and other drugs to see what it's all about. Some are neither attracted to it nor tempted by it again. However, others find the attraction strong, and a pattern is established that carries over into adulthood.

Alcohol is the leading gateway drug. Sixty percent of all drug abusers report that alcohol was the first drug they used. Also, those who use alcohol are six times more likely to use other drugs than those who don't. Experimenting with alcohol and other drugs can eventually lead to addiction, though in the beginning it is difficult to believe this could happen.

3. *"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!"* Many young women believe that alcohol gives them an edge in talking to others and makes them a bit more sophisticated. While some feel this is true of drinking one drink, it usually never stops there. If a little is good, then a little more will probably make things even better—or so goes the thinking many times. But as drinking increases, so does risky behavior, including sexual activity, in which most people would never get involved if they were sober.
4. *"It Simply Makes Me Feel Good!"* Although a drink might make a person feel "up" initially, this feeling quickly turns downward, since alcohol is actually a poisonous depressant that affects our decision-making, coordination, and ability to drive. Low levels of alcohol in the bloodstream increase the electri-



cal activity in the brain and produce pleasure and euphoria. This is the “buzz” so many people seek, but it is temporary.

Any pleasant effects of alcohol are short-lived, and after drinking more than a couple of drinks, alcohol interferes with the chemical messages in the brain. The after-effects are unpleasant: clumsiness, poor coordination, slurring of speech, staggering, and intoxication.

5. *“It’s the Weekend!”* Sometimes, any reason is good enough to celebrate—there’s a party, a ballgame, a wedding, or maybe it’s just the weekend. “Just because” drinking can lead to the deadly practice of binge drinking, which has become epidemic in high schools and on college campuses. Binge drinkers have only one objective in mind—to get drunk!

Years ago, binge drinking was associated mainly with college fraternities and considered to be a “guy thing,” but today statistics show that the number of heavy-drinking young women is significant. Binge drinking can easily kill a person. Since alcohol is a poison, once it enters into a drinker’s system and reaches a certain level, the body can no longer withstand what is being put into it. Binge drinkers drink past the point of intoxication, and continue to drink until passing out. While sleeping it off, they often throw up and sometimes die by choking on their vomit.

6. *“I Need to Drink!”* No one plans on becoming an alcoholic. Once addicted to alcohol, the old saying “I can take it or leave it” suddenly becomes a lie, because an alcoholic cannot just take it or leave it anymore. The alcoholic’s body craves alcohol and will not be satisfied until getting another drink.

A person can be an alcoholic at any age. One sign of problem drinking or alcoholism is a high tolerance for alcohol, with the drinker being able to drink more and more and handle it without showing signs of drunkenness. This tolerance causes an alcoholic to crave more alcohol just to reach the same level of intoxication reached previously, when drinking only a small amount.

What Does the Bible Say?

Numerous passages in the Bible deal with drunkenness and revelry. Although there’s not a verse that specifically says, “Thou



shall not drink a beer,” plenty of scriptures warn of the devastating effects of excess drinking and drunkenness. The inspired writers of the Bible didn’t straddle any fences when dealing with the subject of drunkenness. Proverbs 23:29–32 is an excellent passage that paints a vivid picture of a drinker and presents some wise counsel for abstaining from drinking. Solomon said,

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly. At the last, it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.

In Romans 13:13–14, Paul encouraged the Christians to live as people belonging to the day and to avoid having wild parties or getting drunk. Galatians 5:19–21 lists drunkenness as a work of the flesh, with those guilty of such not inheriting the kingdom of God. In 1 Peter 4:3, Peter explained how some people had lived before becoming Christians. He said,

For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

First Corinthians 6:9–10 also includes drunkenness as one of the sins that can keep a person from entering the kingdom of God, listed alongside adultery, fornication, and murder. It’s obvious from these scriptures alone that God does not take drunkenness lightly.

Five Good Reasons Young Christian Women Should Not Drink

Is God trying to limit our freedom and our fun by condemning the use of alcohol? No, He has at least five reasons for commanding us to abstain.

1. *Drinking Destroys Our Christian Influence.* In the *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus told His disciples they were to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13–16). How can Christians be salt and light if we are just like the world? We are to be peculiar people as Christians—not weird peculiar, but definitely different, since we are God’s purchased possession. We are told in Romans 14:21 not to do anything that would cause someone to stumble. Since partying and drinking



are usually of a public nature, our influence as Christian women is greatly diminished if we participate in those activities.

Amy found out firsthand how damaging it was to her Christian reputation to attend parties and participate in questionable activities. A high school friend she hadn't seen in many years approached her one night at one such party. She was shocked to see Amy, beer in hand, since she knew Amy claimed to be a Christian.

"What in the world are you doing here?"—she just blurted it out.

Amy was stunned; she made no response.

Her friend began to reminisce: "Do you remember when we used to play softball together?"

Still silent, Amy nodded knowingly.

Her friend slowly turned and walked away uttering these stinging words: "I thought the world of you back then—you used to be my hero."

Although Amy haughtily dismissed her that night as a drunk, those words still ring in her ears even today. Any influence she had on her friend was totally lost in that one instance by her unwillingness to get off the fence and take a stand. Amy had to admit she was no different from the world, and Christian young women are supposed to be different! We are God's special people. We must take a stand for something, or we'll fall for anything. Peter said it well in 1 Peter 2:9:

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

2. *Drinking Destroys Our Bodies.* Our bodies are referred to as the temple of God (2 Corinthians 6:16). As such, we should be careful how we treat them. Romans 12:1 teaches that Christians are to present their bodies as living sacrifices to God, pure and holy. Alcohol can literally destroy our bodies. The damage is not seen immediately, but the body will eventually break down from excessive drinking.

Overindulging in alcohol is harmful to everyone, but special problems are well documented for female drinkers. The Alcohol Advisory Council states that because women have a higher proportion of body fat and less water in our bodies,



alcohol affects us differently and more adversely than it affects men.

Even if a woman is the same size as a man, she will generally feel the effects longer. A woman who weighs the same as a man and drinks the same amount of alcohol will end up with a blood-alcohol content a third higher than the man's.

A woman is more sensitive to alcohol. She will develop alcoholic liver disease within a shorter period of heavy drinking and at a lower level of drinking than a man will. More alcoholic women die of cirrhosis than do alcoholic men, and many women die younger than men with similar drinking patterns.

I've seen seemingly innocent partying destroy the lives of some of my close friends. I remember a young girl with whom I played ball during our high school years who was an outstanding athlete and the fastest girl I had ever seen on a basketball court. She could have easily played on many college teams as a point guard, but Mandy didn't go to college after graduating from high school.

The last time I saw her, she was wasted on drugs and alcohol. Just a few years later, I read of her death in the paper. That brief obituary told nothing of the beautiful girl I remembered. From friends, I learned she had died from cirrhosis after years of heavy drinking. Mandy was only 38 years old when she died.

3. *Drinking Can Damage or Kill Our Unborn Children.* Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is one of the leading causes of birth defects and developmental disabilities in the United States and is the leading single cause of mental retardation in the Western Hemisphere. FAS is caused by pregnant women drinking alcohol. Common features of FAS include growth deficiencies; facial defects such as a small head, small eyes, and a pug nose; and central nervous system defects including attention problems, seizures, and learning disabilities. Research shows there is no known safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.
4. *Drinking Destroys Our Self-Image.* Excessive drinking is not cool, vomiting in public is disgusting, and passing out is not a pretty picture. Nothing can destroy our self-image more than constant partying and drinking. The behavioral ill effects



brought on by drinking alcohol can linger for weeks, months, or even years. Not remembering what might have happened at a party the night before, who was there, or what was said to others is embarrassing, demoralizing, and a sure way to lose all self-respect and our credibility to others as a Christian.

5. *Drinking Destroys Our Families, Our Names, and Our Reputations.* Alcoholism is one of the leading causes of depression, violence, and divorce. Families are torn apart when there is an alcoholic in the home. Jobs are lost because of the ill effects of drinking, and money that could be used to support the family is wasted on alcohol. DUI and alcohol-related wrecks become reality. More importantly, reputations and names are destroyed, and Christian influence is lost forever when a person becomes enslaved to alcohol. Solomon said it well in Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches." Alcohol, whether used by a mother, daddy, or child, is sure to bring tragedy to a family!

It's Up to You

Alcohol and drug use and addiction will make your life less than it could be. Engaging in these devastating practices will assure you of heartbreak, health issues, and finally spiritual demise. As Christian women, we should embrace all who need help, guidance, and love in their attempts to win over addiction. It's often a hard battle.

If you or someone you love is a user or abuser of any kind of drug, take the time to study the facts concerning addiction, read God's Word for yourself, talk to a trusted friend, and make an intelligent and Christ-centered decision concerning alcohol and drug use. What would Jesus want you to do?





1. How does God expect His children to deal with alcohol?
2. What do you think about the concept of designated drivers?
3. What are the dangers of social drinking?
4. Cite a verse in the Bible that condemns drinking. Also cite a verse that condemns drunkenness and one that condemns drug use.
5. Why are teenagers drawn to alcohol and drugs when they are fully aware of the dangers?
6. What is the number one reason young people drink?
7. How important are companions when it comes to partying?
8. What are some special problems for female drinkers?
9. List some ways in which a young woman can be on guard against date-rape drugs.
10. Is alcoholism a disease or a sin, or both? Explain.



CHAPTER TWO

Everyone Else Is Doing It

Compromising Our Morality

Fence-Straddling Position: “I’m gonna see just how close I can come to sinning, without going over the edge. You only live once.”

Bible Position: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22).

Scripture Search

Psalms 119:1–3	Galatians 5:19–21
Psalms 119:9–16	Philippians 4:8
Proverbs 1:10	1 Timothy 1:9–10
Romans 12:1–2	1 Timothy 2:9–10
1 Corinthians 6:9–10	1 Timothy 4:11–12
1 Corinthians 6:18–20	2 Timothy 2:22
1 Peter 2:11	
