

IS ALCOHOLISM A DISEASE — OR JUST WEAKNESS?

If alcoholism is a disease, as so many social workers contend these days, at what point does steady drinking become alcoholism? Is the disease there all the time? Or does it appear only when drinking goes beyond normal control?

If alcoholism is a disease, requiring medical and psychiatric care, how is it that some — perhaps many — who are considered alcoholics, or at least habitual drinkers of a problem kind, quickly cure themselves under circumstances of strong desire by the simple step of stopping drinking?

There is no doubt that habitual drinking may lessen the ability of an individual to stop. Yet we all know individuals who have done so, without assistance of sanitariums and cures.

If alcoholism is a disease, are some individuals more resistant? Or is it a mistake to call alcoholism itself a disease, rather than to consider it a result of some other ailment, mental or physical?

We ask these questions because we sometimes have doubts that the professional experts on alcoholism, who are forever preaching that this kind of drinking is a disease, are really going at the problem in the right way.

Are they not making it easier for the addict to alcohol to go along with his habit, rather than to resist it, on the easy premise that he can't do anything about a disease?

Laying all the fancy phrases aside, drinking normally starts as a sort of parlor game in conviviality with one's favourite companions and progresses into a habit which feeds on itself.

Sure, it is hard to stop drinking if one drinks every day. It means a not inconsiderable change in social response amounting to almost a new life. Not many want to trade the old life for the new. But many do and think they have gained something.

Perhaps we do not understand the difference between habitual drinking and alcoholism, if there is any. The so-called experts put out charts showing when social drinking becomes problem drinking, but we cannot go along with most of them.

For example, why should drinking alone or drinking with others be any different? Is the quantity of alcohol consumed a reliable gauge? Why is a drink in the morning worse than a drink in the evening, if it does not lead to excess?

The trouble with the alcoholism mumbo-jumbo, it seems to us, is that it tends to classify all problem drinkers in the same neat pigeon-hole labelled "disease". The ailments, it appears to us, may be what encourages drinking or the debilitating affects drinking has on the brain and body.

Our guess is that there were fewer alcoholics in the days when alcoholism was considered a disgrace than now, when it is excused by the sympathetic term "disease".
Portland Oregonian

—The Advocate

GOOD FAMILY HORSE

A horseman once went to Henry Ward Beecher and said, "Mr. Beecher, I have a good family horse I want to sell you. He is a good saddle horse, a good buggy horse, and a good carriage horse. He works double with any other horse, and on either side of the wagon tongue. He is a good, all-round horse, and a good team worker."

"I can't buy your horse," replied Mr. Beecher, "but I would surely like to have him as a member of my church."
—Moody Monthly.

The King's Highway

GOD'S PURPOSE

A young man was trying to establish himself as a peach grower. He had worked for years, and invested his all in a peach orchard, which at last bloomed bounteously — and then came a frost. He did not go to church the next Sunday, nor the next, nor the next, nor the next. His minister went to hunt him up, and inquired the reason. The discouraged young fellow exclaimed, "No; and what is more, I'm not coming any more. Do you think I can worship a God who loves me so little that He will let a frost kill my peaches?"

The old minister looked at him a moment in silence, and then replied kindly, "Young man, God loves you much better than He does your peaches. He knows that, while peaches do better without frosts, it is impossible to grow the best men without frosts. His object is to grow men, not peaches."—Selected.

MISS NKOSI

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diploma. But I will go where He wants me to go. It may be on the mountains, in the desert, or on the mountain tops where I shall have to serve. I am determined to go without a murmur, to where I can serve Jesus best. But I long to reach the unreached, tell them of the love of Jesus, and snatch them from the pit of sin, cure their suffering bodies, and help to develop the undeveloped.

I pray that Jesus may bend me and let me do what is solely his will, that he may help me leave comfort to his will. There is a song I love very much.

1. Willing am I and ready alway
Willing am I His word to obey
Willing am I to speak in His Name
Willing His love abroad to proclaim.

Chorus: Willing to do what Jesus requires
Willing to go where Jesus desires
Willing to serve him ready alway
Speak to me master I will obey.

2. Willing to go no question no pause
Willing to do my best for His cause
Willing the way to heaven to show
Willing to do the best that I know.

3. Willing to serve as duty demands
Willing to aid with kind helping hands
Willing to be of use anywhere
Willing all things for Jesus to do.

4. Willing the empty vessels to fill
Willing to leave comfort to his will
Willing to wait, to watch, and to pray,
Willing to wait his coming someday.

When I sing this song it always has a deep meaning for me.

May the Good Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, God the father, keep you from falling and make ready your souls for the glorious eternity.

Your friend in Jesus.

(Miss) Eileen E. Nkosi

P.S. (By Rev. William Morgan)

Eileen is one of our Christian girls possessing a deep experience in the Lord and at the same time more than holds her own in academic competition with her classmates. She has now completed grade 13 with a first class pass. In fact for the past six years she has gained a first class pass.

Eileen has set herself the goal of becoming a doctor and her high academic accomplishments have won for her a bursary that will assist her to that end. She still has before her 3 years towards a B.Sc. degree and then follows 5 years in medicine.