
Part 3: Social Standards

Chapter 9, Social Standards

9-1

Current Wording:

1. Alcoholic Beverages

Alcoholic beverages are injurious and at the core of significant social problems. The manufacturing, vending, and use of alcoholic beverages are contrary to the best interests of personal and social morality, economy, and welfare. Therefore, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, stands in opposition to the alcohol industry and advocates abstinence by all people from using alcoholic beverages in any form, except as a medical prescription.

Furthermore, the church believes that even the moderate use of alcohol by believers undermines our efforts to oppose the alcohol industry and may be a stumbling block to others. Members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA, are to abstain from the use of beverage alcohol of any kind. They are expected to oppose the manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. They are not to be involved as a direct investor, manager, or owner (full or partial) of businesses which engage primarily in manufacturing or selling alcoholic beverages. Neither should members lease or rent property to those who would use it primarily for manufacturing, storing, or selling these harmful beverages.

Replace with the Following:

Alcoholic beverages are often personally injurious to their users and are often at the core of significant family and social problems. The use of alcoholic beverages is often found to be contrary to the best interest of personal and social morality, economy and welfare. Holy Scripture teaches us to exercise good stewardship of our bodies. Scripture also admonishes us to avoid abusive indulgence of alcoholic beverages (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35). The Church of the United Brethren in Christ believes an experience demonstrates that the abuse of alcoholic beverages is harmful to our physical bodies and is a detriment to the best stewardship and witness of our lives. Therefore we urge all of our members to avoid abusing alcoholic beverages in anyway. We also urge our leaders to teach as well as counsel about the hazards of abusing alcoholic beverages and that deliverance is possible through the ministry of the Spirit.