

WHAT CAN DRINKING ALCOHOL COST ME?

September 9, 2018

Recently, in my Fox News feed I read an article about pro skateboarder Cory Kennedy, who was just sentenced to four years in prison for an automobile accident in which he was intoxicated and one of his best friends was killed. The judge said of Kennedy, “Mr. Kennedy might be a talented athlete and a good person, but on Aug. 30, 2017, he was selfish and irresponsible.” Kennedy made the statement, “This will forever be the biggest mistake of my life.”

In the United States each year, drunk driving claims over 10,000 lives.ⁱ Statistically, every 50 minutes, a person dies in a drunk driving accident.ⁱⁱ Every two minutes a person is injured in a drunk driving accident.ⁱⁱⁱ On average, two in three people will be involved in a drunk driving crash in their lifetime.^{iv} These statistics are frightening to say the least. But that is only the beginning. Alcohol is also involved in 80% of all crimes and 80% of all prison admissions. It is involved in 64% of the homicides in America each year and 30% of the suicides in America each year. If this were not bad enough, it also contributes to over 200 diseases and injury-related health conditions. Please consider these things as a preface to the article that follows.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Bob Plunket (Hartford Bulletin, Volume VI, February 25, 2001, Number 45)

I get a little angry every time I hear this spot on the television. The liquor people are trying to appease all of the mothers and fathers and husbands and wives whose loved ones have been slaughtered on the highway by drunks. The impression they want to leave is this: “You can do everything else and drink.” Of course, you should not drink and drive. It would make a lot more sense, however, if they said, “Don’t drink and do anything.” And why not? Alcohol is a narcotic, depressant drug. Many times, they say to young people, “Don’t fool around with drugs and alcohol” as though alcohol was in a different category. Listen, the same thing that makes drinking and driving dangerous makes everything else dangerous while drinking.

I can think of a few more things we ought not to do and drink. Don’t drink and play with matches or smoke. Many of the fires in the woods and in the home are alcohol related. Don’t drink and go home. Family members are there. Much of the wife battering and child abuse is alcohol related. Don’t drink and go to work. You may turn out sorry goods or you might push the wrong button. Don’t drink and go to bed. Seventy percent of all people who choke to death in their sleep have been drinking. Don’t drink and walk. You might fall and kill yourself. We are aware of two nationally known figures who both died intoxicated. One was walking across the room intoxicated, fell and cut his head on a coffee table and bled to death. The other fell off a boat and drowned.

Someone may ask then, “When can we drink?” There is no safe time to drink, there is no safe place, and there is no safe amount to drink any more than there is a right time, a right place or a right amount of cocaine or heroin to shoot. They are all drugs. We must not let this deceitful commercial fool us into thinking we can drink all we want to as long as we don’t drive. The wise man said it well, “*Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise*” (Proverbs 20:1). Christians are urged to be sober (II Thess. 5:8). “*The end of all things is at hand. Be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer*” (I Peter 4:7). **BE NOT DECEIVED!**

ⁱ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. “Traffic Safety Facts 2016: Alcohol-Impaired Driving.” Washington DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2017.
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812450>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ “The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2010.” National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, May 2014, DOT HS 812 013. <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/812013.pdf>.

^{iv} Ibid.