

"Is it wrong to use light wine on the Lord's table?" Guy N. Woods

As indicated elsewhere in the letter, this querist means by "light" wine, wine of lower than average alcoholic content. Our Lord, in the institution of the Lord's supper said to his disciples, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves: for I say unto you, I shall not drink from henceforth of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." (Luke 22:17.) Grape juice, when fermented, is wine. It is, nevertheless, "the fruit of the vine." Grape juice, unfermented, is also "the fruit of the vine." It follows therefore, that either the fermented, or the unfermented juice of the grape, meets the requirements of the phrase which the Lord used.

Since either wine (of alcoholic content), or the fresh juice of the grape may be used, it becomes a matter of expediency in determining which is preferable. I much prefer the unfermented juice of the grape for many reasons: (1) It is vastly more pleasing to my taste than the alcoholic variety. (2) It may be obtained where groceries are sold, thus not requiring one to go into areas where hard liquor is dispensed. Christians have no business being seen at counters where whiskey and other intoxicating beverages are sold. (3) There are instances on record where people who were once alcoholics but have broken the habit have returned to it from the taste of wine at the Lord's table. These and other similar considerations have been regarded by our brethren as sufficiently weighty and convincing to prompt them to use only the unfermented juice of the grape on the Lord's table, with the rarest of exceptions. I am continuously engaged in meetings throughout the year, I have done this type of work for more than a quarter of a century, and in such association with hundreds of congregations throughout the land, I can at the moment recall but four congregations where I have conducted such meetings which used wine rather than unfermented grape juice. (Questions and Answers, Vol. 2, pg. 192)