

## 3D's of Drinking

INTRODUCTION: Story of Drunk going ice fishing.

- **Like this drunk, a lot of young people are looking for life in all the wrong places.**
- Just like this rink, which had the appearance that it was a lake and there was fish in it, there are a lot of things that give the appearance of life but in the reality produce death. Proverbs 14:12 says, *“There is a way {which seems} right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*
- **There are a lot of things in this life that this scripture could speak to, but for our purposes I would like to address just one.**
- I am the greatest criminal in history. I have killed more men, than have fallen in all the wars, of all the world. I have turned men into brutes. I have made millions of homes unhappy. I've changed many promising young men into hopeless parasites. I destroy the weak and weaken the strong. I make the wise man a fool and I ensnare the innocent. I have ruined millions and shall try to ruin millions more. I am alcohol.
- **In our culture “alcohol” has been portrayed by the media as a source of life and happiness.**
- I want to emphatically tell you that as the drunk came to the realization there was no fish underneath the ice, you as young people need to come to the realization that there is no life in that bottle of alcohol.

**Listen to these list of things that are said about Alcohol.**

1. The driver who has a few quick ones, is bound to have a few close ones.
2. **Many things can be preserved in alcohol, but Christian character is not one of them.**
3. Corkscrews have sunk more people than cork jackets ever saved.
4. **The steady drinker soon becomes an unsteady driver.**
5. The tavern keeper is the only businessman ashamed of his customers.
6. **When a man drinks to forget, he usually forgets to stop.**
7. Liquor fools the man who fools with it.
8. **The drunkard commits suicide on the installment plan.**
9. Arresting a drunken driver, is like destroying the web and leaving the spider alive.
10. **Glasses change your personality, especially if you empty them too often.**
11. Alcohol is something that often puts the "wreck" in recreation.
12. **The person who thinks won't drink.**
13. Keeping blood free from alcohol, is the best way to keep the highways free from blood.
14. **The hand that lifts the cup of cheers, should not be used to shift gears.**
15. There is not situation so bad , that a few alcoholic drinks won't make worse.
16. **Strong drink can weaken character.**

In light of this I want to talk to you about what I call the 3 D's of Drinking. Most people start to drink as a result of some form of **deception**, they continue to drink because of some form of **denial** and the only way most people stop drinking is through some form of **death**.

## **I. Deception - Is what causes people to start drinking.**

- Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines deception this way, "to mislead the mind in order to ensnare, to cause err, to believe what is false as though it were true."
- **Deception is what causes people, especially young people to start drinking. Because of the way that it is promoted, it's one of those "ways that seems right to a man."**

A. Myth about Alcohol - Alcohol does not make you feel good.

### **1. Mood elevator**

2. That's why it is so dangerous - because you are not guaranteed to stay in the same mood.

- **Someone makes you mad**
- Someone stimulates you from the opposite sex
- **Someone hurts you.**

3. Too many unknown, unpredictable, and uncontrollable elements can be introduced into your setting.

## **B. Alcohol turns the voice of reason into the voice of rebellion. Alcohol transforms your conscience into a consenter.**

1. It lowers your inhibitions, your values, your standards.

2. **You will think, say, and act in ways that you would never do in your somber state.**

3. It may bring you some temporary freedom only to cause long term bondage.

## **C. Commercials**

1. The biggest deception surrounding alcohol is the way that it is advertised on TV.

2. **Kid's favorite and most devastating drug is the alcohol in beer. It's legal for adults and heavily advertised.**

3. TV ads often reach millions of teens and children with messages that appeal to their humor, sense of fantasy, or identification with sports.

- **Chicago Blackout** - **Old Milwaukee** - **Busch Beer**

4. The Alcohol industry spends more than \$1 billion annually on advertising. The reason they are willing to spend so much is that alcohol advertising has proved to cause an increase in alcohol consumption especially among young people.
  - a. **More children ages 9-11 know the slogan associated with the Budweiser frogs (“Bud-weis-er”) than that for Smokey the Bear (“Only you can prevent forest fires” or “Don’t play with matches”) or Tony the Tiger (“They’re Grrreat!”)**
  - b. Students surveyed in 1996 reported that they had “been drunk” in the following proportions: 27% of 8th graders; 48% of 10th graders; and 62% of 12th graders.
  - c. **Alcohol is a factor in the three leading causes of death among 15-24 years Olds: accidents, homicides, and suicides.**
  - d. Nearly 4 million young people suffer from some form of alcohol dependence.
  - e. **High school students who drink are four times more likely to have sexual relations and twice as likely to have four or more sex partners than non-drinkers, behaviors which increase the risk of HIV infection and unwanted pregnancies.**
5. The societal costs of alcoholism and other alcohol-related problems was close to \$100 billion in 2001.
  - a. **This included the costs of health care, lost productivity crime, law enforcement and premature death.**
  - b. For every dollar that society spends on drinking another dollar has to be spent to undo the damage of that drinking.
6. **This deception is seeking to ensnare an entire generation of young people.**

Listen to what King Solomon said about Alcohol thousands of years:

*“Whose heart is filled with anguish and sorrow? Who is always fighting and quarreling? Who is the man with bloodshot eyes and many wounds? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new mixtures. Don't let the sparkle and the smooth taste of strong wine deceive you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous serpent; it stings like an adder. You will see hallucinations and have delirium tremens, and you will say foolish, silly things that would embarrass you no end when sober. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And afterwards you will say, "I didn't even know it when they beat me up.... Let's go and have another drink!”* **Proverbs 23:29-35 - Today's Living Bible**

II. Denial - A frame of mind that keeps people drinking. You either hide it or excuse it.

**A. DENYING THE TROUBLE**

1. **Some one once said “You are only as sick as the secrets you keep.”**
2. **You can’t change into someone you are pretending to be already.**

**B. DISMISS THE TROUBLE**

1. No big deal everyone is doing it.
2. **I don’t really have a problem.**
3. I can control it - I can handle it.

**C. DEALING WITH THE TROUBLE**

1. You can’t put something behind you until you face it.
2. **Jason with a splinter - He wanted the healing without the treatment.**
  - a. How can we get healing when we deny that we are hurt?
  - b. How can you find a solution when you deny you have a problem**

III Death - The eventual result of all drinking.

**A Not necessarily physical death but:**

- death of a marriage
- **death of a family**
- death of a career
- **death of a dream**
- death of potential
- **death of a future**

**B. Every time you drink - you are playing Russian roulette with:**

- **your family**
- your future
- **your reputation**
- your health
- **the lives of others**

**C. Story of Minister to Mortician - Don’t let something die before you decide to straighten it.**