

Continuing our studies on "The Bible Speaks to Human Relationships" this third unit of studies upon which we are bout to embark concerns itself with a variety of aspects of the danger of consumption of alcoholic beverages as they affect the individual and the family as a whole. In this con-nection, the story of the Rechabites brings forecefully home the fact that temperance is a highly individual responsibility: moreover, it proves the power that lies in example. A clan of nomadic wanderers in the desert, the Rechabites lived in tents rather than cities, earning their living as shepherds, rather than agriculturalists. Invasion by the Babylonians and Syrians, however, caused the Rechabites to set aside their a version to city dwelling, and they took refuge in the city of Jerusalem. in the city of Jerusaiem. Seeing them there, Jeremiah seized the opportunity to emphasize his teachings and warnings against the city's sinful way of life, and invited them to a meal in a very public place. As was the custom of the time, he set before them wine (a common beverage in Biblical days) and urged them to drink. This the Rechabites refused to do, explaining that it drink. This the Rechabites refused to do, explaining that it was against the tenets of their faith as set down by their founder, Jonadab. This public demonstration of integrity was exactly what Jeremiah wanted: by their integrity the Rechabites rebuked the wayward nation of Judah. There is a lesson for us today in the action of the Rechabites. Jonadab had been dead for more than two hundred years, yet so faithfully had his tenets been taught to the children of the tribe, his principles were very much alive two centures later! This fact along should give pause to many modern parents and cause them to ask themselves what kind of teaching, by example, they are giving their young people! young people! We live in stressful times, which take their toll among the We live in stressful times, which take their top among the weak. Concerned as we are over a growing drug problem amongst our youngsters, we should be equally concerned about the weaknesses of our own generation. For the con-sumption of alcohol is just as dangerous as the taking of drugs. . . it, too, can become habit-forming! Those who consider themselves "fashionable" when they include in cocktails, or good sports when they drink socially, in a ground are sating a none example for their children. in a crowd, are setting a poor example for their children. Moreover, they expose themselves to the dangers o acconousm, and all the resultant misery for themselves and es obes. They may excuse their insidious drinking by saying they reunder daily stress, and need to unwind. They need respite rom tensions and worry. They used alcahol as a crutch ROBERTSON'S CLEANERS m tensions and worry. They used alcohol as a crutch, tead of God as their spiritual support. They ignore the fact t when the alochol-induced rosy hase wears off, the ubles and tensions they sought to escape are still there --ivery often are compounded by a new set of problems! No ly Christian-motivated family would ever so expose medves to such dangara, for they are ever aware that God hele streamth! eir strength!



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