

Dear JD,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked if it was wrong biblically for a Christian to own and operate a restaurant/pub that serves alcohol.

Most who own and operate restaurants need to have liquor licenses, in order to host weddings, funerals and parties, etc. where alcohol is normally served. Additionally, many people who drink wine with their meals, especially when they are out to dinner with friends, need to be accommodated. Not having a liquor license puts restrictions on the type of activities the restaurant will be able to host. But, on the other hand, those who do not drink and those with children, would be more than happy to go to a “family” restaurant where liquor is not served.

There are no scriptures that forbid the drinking of wine with meals. In fact, the very first miracle that Jesus performed was changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11). The Apostle Paul admonishes Timothy, “Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.” (1 Timothy 5:23) Drinking in moderation on occasion is not a problem for most people. But, for some, even one drink can trigger an addiction. For others, drinking becomes excessive, ending in drunkenness. The Apostle warns against drunkenness by including it with a list of other sins. “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. . . . Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.” (Galatians 5:19-21)

Therefore, each Christian restaurant operator needs to be cognizant of the dangers of drinking alcohol and has a responsibility to his patrons and to himself. We definitely do not think that Christians should operate pubs or bars where alcohol is the main focus and reason for frequenting. Christians cannot in good conscience serve the ammunition that could lead to the demise of an individual with a weakness. “It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.” (Romans 14:21) Even though we do feel that it is acceptable biblically to operate a restaurant that serves liquor, there is a huge responsibility placed on the owner and operator to maintain the highest standards of sobriety and decorum.

We hope we have answered your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio