



# THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Today, we're jumping into a new series called "The Elephant in the Room." We often use this comical phrase to emphasize that we're not discussing the obvious. These "obvious" subjects are those everyone's talking about, and yet NO ONE is talking about them within the church context. Over the next several weeks, we will discuss some things that we would classify as elephants in the room when it comes to church because either they're a bit uncomfortable or they're complicated. We'll talk about priorities in your family, sexuality, money, and politics, just to name a few. Today, we're going to talk about alcohol.

## Warm Up:

1. What's something big or small that happened this week that you're thankful for?

## Discussion Questions:

2. What stood out to you the most from the sermon on Sunday?
3. What kind of relationship with alcohol did you have modeled for you growing up? How has this impacted you as an adult (as a parent)?
4. What does our culture have to say about alcohol? How does that message differ from what the Bible says? See Ephesians 5:18, Proverbs 23:29-35 and Proverbs 20:1.
5. It's tempting to believe that what we do with our bodies only affects us, but our choices have a collateral impact. (What one generation does in moderation, the next does in excess.) Read 1 Corinthians 8:9-13. How does Paul's example in this passage apply to our choices with alcohol? How does this mindset differ from the modern "you do you" narrative?
6. As mentioned in Sunday's sermon, the CDC released a study that found that 1 in 3 people are excessive drinkers, contributing to about 88,000 deaths in the US annually. How do these odds impact your view of alcohol? What does it mean that alcohol is more of a wisdom issue than a permissible issue?
7. The topic of alcohol can bring up feelings of shame for those who have or are struggling with addiction; at the same time, this topic can lead others to adopt an attitude of judgment toward those who struggle in this particular area. What truths from the Word of God can help us to remain humble and loving when discussing this topic? How can we create an environment of grace and restoration for people struggling with alcohol addiction?
8. How can we move toward obedience to God as a group and individuals in this area?