

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God -

Jeremiah 10:23

“I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.”

Primary passage - Luke 5:29-30

29 And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them.

Corrected translation – “And Levi threw a grand banquet for Him and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were dining *with* them. “

30 The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?"

Points of Doctrine

POD – Dining in the ancient world consisted of wonderful conversation, eating prepared dishes, and drinking wine.

Reasons for the party that was thrown:

1. Levi's formal declaration to his friends that he had become one of Jesus Christ's students. *Matthew's baptism?* Remember that baptism connotes “*association with.*”
2. He is honoring the Lord with a grand soiree with Him as the guest of honor.
3. He is introducing his friends to the Lord.

Ingredients for a great soiree:

1. Wonderful conversation (*determined from a well thought out guest list, including believers who have Bible doctrine circulating in their stream of consciousness*)
2. Great food
3. Complimentary wines
4. Guest of honor – the Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. His presence is insured by inviting two or more positive believers as guests.
 - b. A presence of Christ at the party is based on Matthew 18:20, “Where two or more are gathered in My name. . .”

A few points on wine:

1. Wine was at every great wedding, banquet, and dinner party in the ancient world (**John 2:1-11; Luke 5:29-39**).
2. Jesus Christ will throw or host the greatest banquet in human history where fine wine will be served (**Isaiah 25:6**).

6 The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine.

3. Drunkenness is a sin. Drinking is not (1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Cor 11:20-22; Eph 5:18; Prov. 28:1,7-8) Drunkenness impairs the believer to apply Bible doctrine and squelches the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16, 25 cf. Hosea 4:11).

Hosea 4:11 Harlotry, wine and new wine take away the understanding.

Corrected – “Harlotry, wine and new wine **take possession or captivate the heart.**”



Luke 5:29

Corrected translation – “And Levi threw a grand banquet for Him [*the Lord*] and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and **others** [sinners who had rejected the Pharisaical legalism of the day] who were dining *with* them.

30 The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?"

List of disciples or students of the Lord now includes: Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Levi.

Note the groups who are assembled at this party –

- The Lord and His disciples
- Non-religious crowd (tax-farmers / sinners)
- The religious crowd - self-righteous crowd (Pharisees and Scribes)

The *religious crowd* is trying to bait the disciples. The Pharisees have introduced a concept that one’s holiness or spirituality is contingent on a system of morality or works.

POD – The believer is not spiritual because he follows a law of DON’TS (a system of morality).

Don’t think that because you do not lie, steal, fornicate, masturbate, OR DRINK that you are holy and spiritual!

The Christian is moral *because* he is spiritual.

MORALITY IS NOT SPIRITUALITY.

POD – The believer is not spiritual because of his WORKS.

Works like attending church, giving 10% of your income (a.k.a. tithing), singing, working around the church, teaching Sunday school, or even playing the piano

Ephesians 5:18 ff indicates the results of the spiritual life.

**The believer fulfills his responsibilities as a Church Age Believer Priest
because he is spiritual. Phil. 2:13**

POD – The believer is spiritual because of what the Lord does in grace (from within you as a believer).

God the Holy Spirit doing all that He was sent to do from within you.

POD – The believer who is positive to Bible doctrine can expect to be attacked by religious people.

POD – The believer must live his life by grace through faith because he was saved by grace through faith.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.