
Ruling on a Muslim who sells wine or drugs

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the ruling on a Muslim who sells wine or drugs? Can we call them a Muslim? What is the ruling on a Muslim who works in a factory that produces wine? Should they leave that work even if it is the only work he can find?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: It is a great evil and prohibited that a Muslim sells wine or other unlawful item or that he works in factories that produce wine. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: [**Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwaa** (virtue, righteousness and piety); **but do not help one another in sin and transgression**]. Selling wine, drugs and tobacco undoubtedly pertains to cooperating in sin and transgression. Similarly, working in wine-making factories is a form of helping one another in sin and transgression. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: [**O you who believe! Intoxicants** (all kinds of alcoholic drinks), **and gambling, and Al-Ansaab, and Al-Azlaam** (arrows for seeking luck or decision) **are an abomination of Shaitaan's (Satan) handiwork. So avoid** (strictly all) **that** (abomination) **in order that you may be successful. Shaytaan (Satan) wants only to excite enmity and hatred between you with intoxicants** (alcoholic drinks) **and gambling, and hinder you from the remembrance of Allaah and from As-Salaat** (the prayer). **So, will you not then abstain?**]².

Moreover, it is authentically narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him): [**... Cursed Khamr** (intoxicants), **the one who drinks it, the one who serves it, the one who squeezes it** (the grapes, etc), **the one for whom it is squeezed, the one who carries it, the one to whom it is carried, the one who sells it, the one who buys it and the one who consumes its price.**]³

Also, it is authentically narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [**Verily Allaah made a covenant to those who died while drinking Khamr** (intoxicant) **to make their drink Tinat al-Khabal. They said: Allaah's Messenger , what is Tinat al-Khabal? He said: It is the discharge of the denizens of Hell or the sweat of the denizens of Hell.**]⁴

This person is disobedient and Faasiq (someone flagrantly violating Islaamic law) due to his action. His faith is not complete and on the Day of Resurrection he will be left to the Will of

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² [Soorah al-Maa'idah 5:90]

³ Sunan Ibn Maajah - On the authority of Ibn Umar (may Allaah be pleased with both of them).

⁴ Saheeh Muslim

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Allaah; He may forgive and pardon him or He may punish him. This is the opinion of Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah (adherents to the Sunnah and the Muslim mainstream) on such a person if he died before repentance. Allaah (Glorified be He) says: [**Verily, Allaah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him (in worship), but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He wills.**]

This ruling applies to the person who does not hold consumption of wine lawful; otherwise, he will become a disbeliever on whom the Muslim should not offer his Funeral Prayer or wash his body if he died in that state.

This is the opinion of the majority of scholars because declaring consumption of wine to be lawful is considered belying Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) and His Messenger (peace be upon him).

The same ruling applies to the Muslim who holds as lawful Zina (sexual intercourse outside marriage), sodomy, Riba (usury/interest) or other well-established prohibitions, such as undutifulness to parents, severing kinship ties and killing people unjustly.

The person who commits any of these sins, believing that they are prohibited while they are disobedient to Allaah (Exalted be He), will not be a disbeliever; he will just be Faasiq. He will be judged according to the Will of Allaah (Glorified be He) in the Hereafter if he does not repent before his death, as stated above. May Allaah grant us success.