

Wine in Communion

Wine in Communion

**Why do we use red wine
in the Lord's Supper?**



Our description and proof
of the elements in the
Lord's Supper are here:

The Lord's Supper (document) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/heresies/communion.php>

The Lord's Supper (slides) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/lords-supper.pdf>

First Corinthians 11 ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/first-corinthians-11.pdf>

Drink Ye All of It ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/church/all-of-it.htm>

Closed Communion ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/church/closed-communion.php>

Spirit, Water, and Blood ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/spirit-water-blood.pdf>

Eating and Drinking Christ ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/eating-and-drinking-christ.pdf>

Ancient Landmarks ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2006/ancient-landmarks/>

What should we use?

Red wine from grapes

What Was Our Proof?

- The Corinthians were drunk by their beverage.
- “Fruit of the vine” was generally or only wine.
- The Jews historically drank wine at Passover.
- Wine is “unleavened” to match the bread.
- Church history says wine until 19th century.
- It must be red wine of grapes to show blood.

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Some of these “proofs” are weak or wrong, thus a study.

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“For in eating every one taketh before
other his own supper: and one is hungry,
and another is drunken.”

I Corinthians 11:21

#1 ... Corinthians Were Drunk

- “Drunken” is a participial adjective (I Cor 11:21).
- The OED for such a “drunken” = intoxicated.
- Therefore, Corinth used intoxicating wine.
- Paul did not correct or alter their beverage.
- He wrote much, but he did not alter the wine.

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#2 ... Fruit of the Vine is Wine

- Jesus said “fruit of the vine” (Mt 26:29; Mk 14:25; Lu 22:18).
- Beverage of choice was wine (Ps 104:14-15; Judges 9:13).
- Abraham and Melchizedek used wine (Gen 14:18).
- O.T. worship clearly used wine (Deut 14:26; II Sam 6:19).
- Jesus’ beverage of choice was wine (Luke 7:33-35).

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#3 ... Jews Historically Drank Wine

- In general, the Jews drank wine. See #2 above.
- History says the Jews drank wine at Passover.
- Most any conservative commentary confirms.
- We teach scripture is enough without history.
- Though not key ... it supports our use of wine.

What Was Our Proof?

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#4 ... Wine Is Unleavened

- Passover had unleavened bread (Matt 26:26; Mark 14:22).
- Communion needs unleavened bread (1 Cor 5:6-8).
- Like the bread, the cup should be unleavened.
- Fermentation destroys the leaven by alcohol.
- Therefore, in a sense, the cup is unleavened.

What Was Our Proof?

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#5 ... Church History Says Wine

- A wine controversy like today did not exist.
- Wine was beverage of choice of grapes.
- The “Temperance Movement” changed it.
- Thomas Welch (dentist) pasteurized juice.
- Since then, grape juice can last a long time.

What Was Our Proof?

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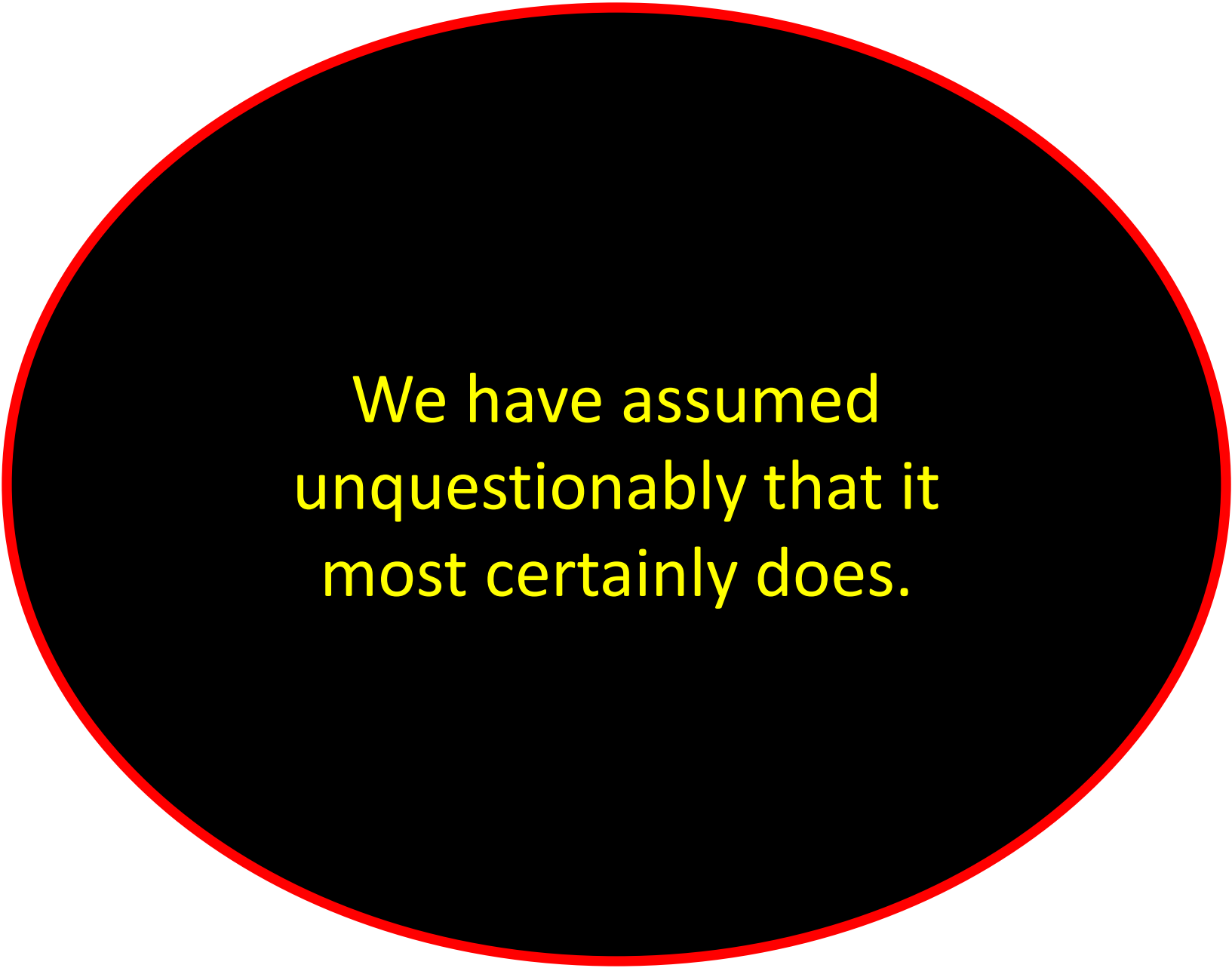
#6 ... Only Red Grape Wine Works

- It must be grape to be ... “fruit of the vine.”
- It cannot be blackberry, raspberry, apple, etc.
- It must be red ... to properly symbolize blood.
- It cannot be White Zinfandel, Riesling, etc.
- All Bible references to wine indicate red only.

Does the word “drunken”
in I Corinthians 11:21
prove our point?

“For in eating every one taketh before
other his own supper: and one is hungry,
and another is drunken.”

I Corinthians 11:21



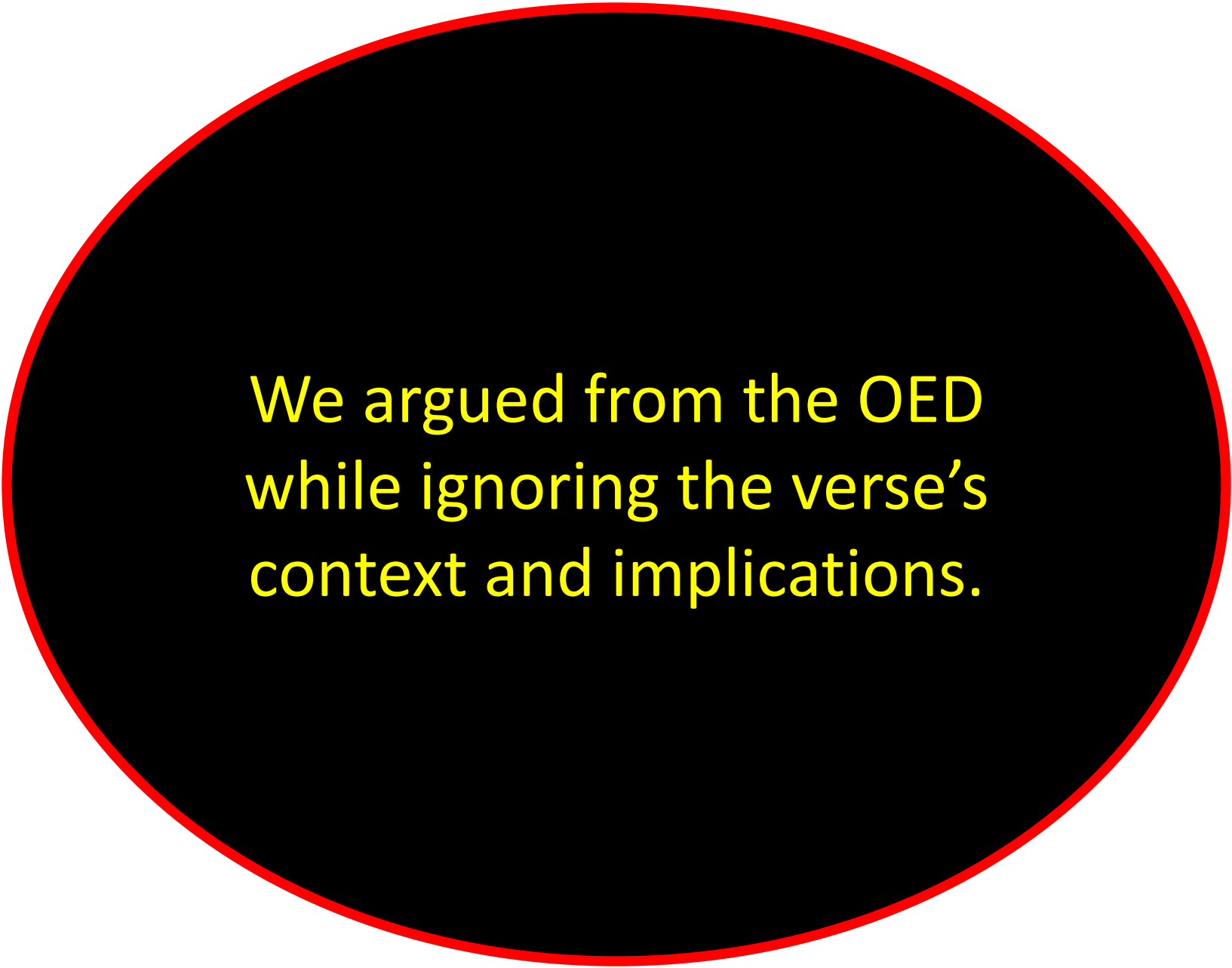
We have assumed
unquestionably that it
most certainly does.

“For in eating every one taketh before
other his own supper: and one is hungry,
and another is drunken.”

I Corinthians 11:21

We have argued that this
participial adjective can
only mean intoxicated.

We argued from
extreme esteem of the
Oxford English Dictionary.



We argued from the OED
while ignoring the verse's
context and implications.

“For in eating every one taketh before
other his own supper: and one is hungry,
and another is drunken.”

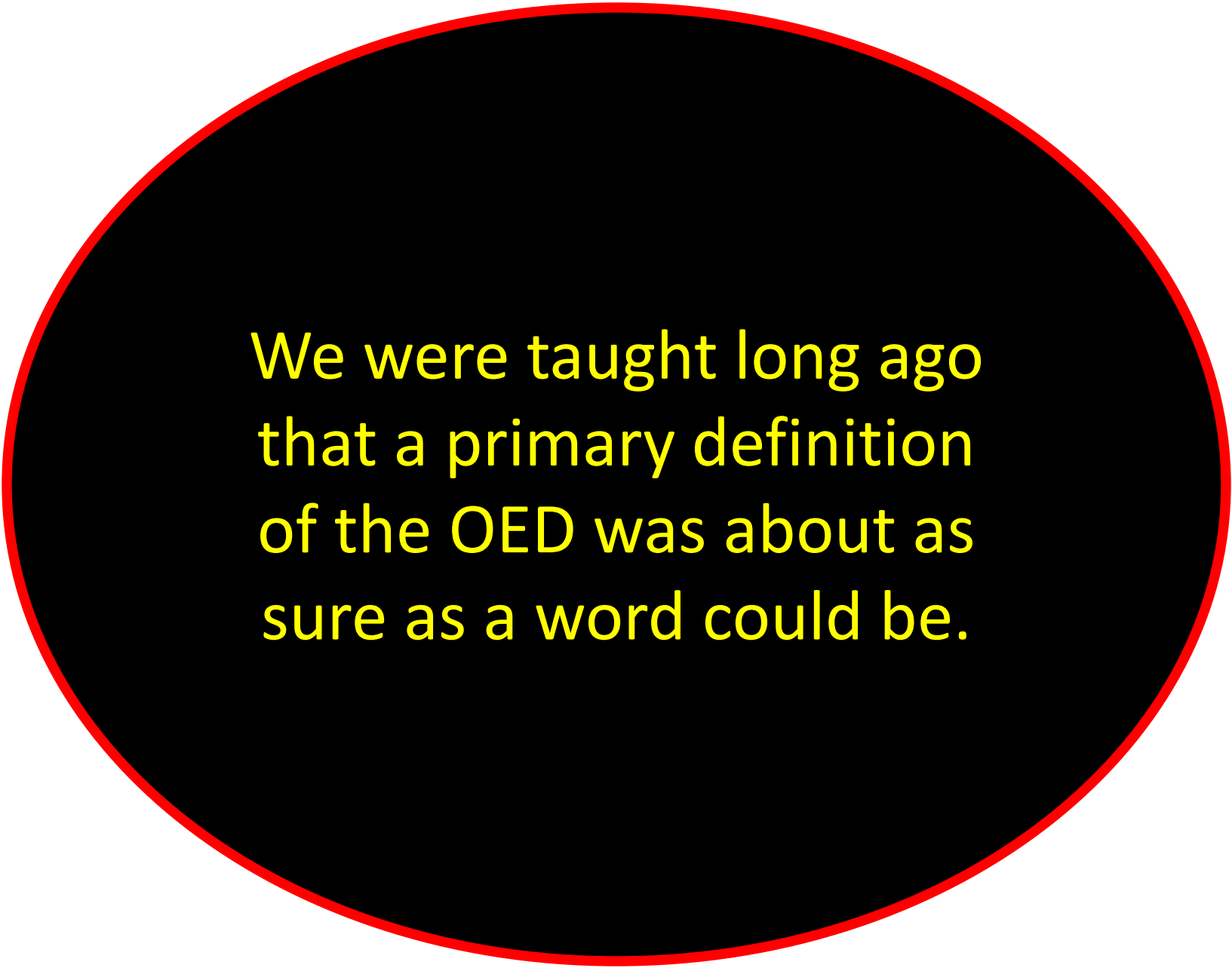
I Corinthians 11:21

One is *hungry* ... predicate adjective.

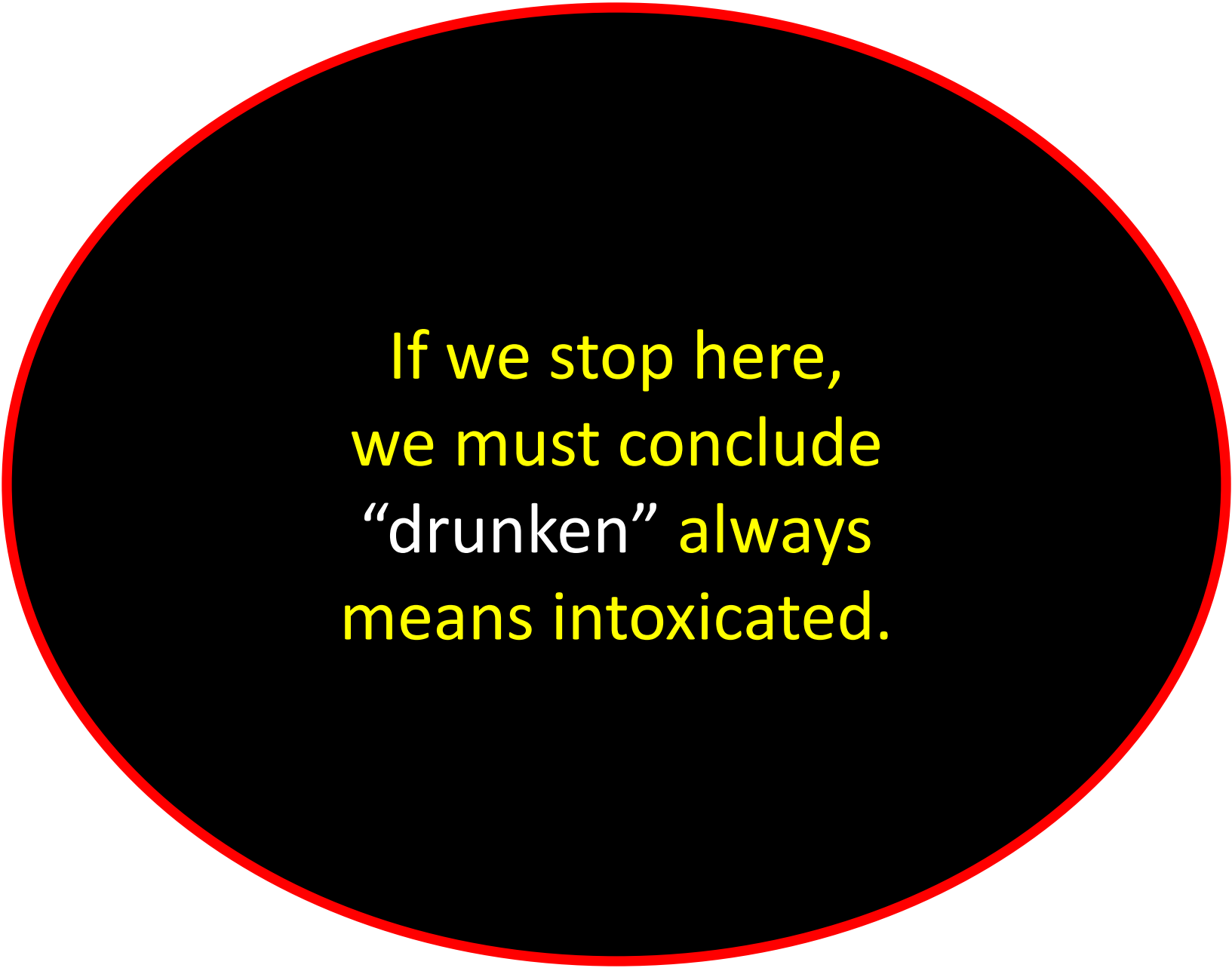
Another is *drunken* ... participial adjective.

Oxford English Dictionary

DRUNKEN. *ppl. a.* Overcome by liquor; intoxicated; = Drunk.



We were taught long ago
that a primary definition
of the OED was about as
sure as a word could be.



If we stop here,
we must conclude
“drunken” always
means intoxicated.

“For in eating every one taketh before
other his own supper: and one is hungry,
and another is drunken.”

I Corinthians 11:21

However, there is more to the word “drunken,” if we read the long description of the OED verb “drink.”

Oxford English Dictionary

DRINK. The full form *drunken* has been and can be a past participle as adjective, meaning *to have taken drink*.

The following examples
taken from OED are verb
forms or adjectives to show
drunken is not intoxication.

Oxford English Dictionary

DRINK. I. 1. a. To take (liquid) into the stomach; to swallow down, imbibe, quaff.

1398 TREVISA Barth. De P.R. iv. Vii. (1495) 91

Yf bulles blode be dronken rawe.

Oxford English Dictionary

DRINK. I. 1. a. To take (liquid) into the stomach; to swallow down, imbibe, quaff.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* i. ii. 6

Wormwood ... drunken with vineger is good.

Oxford English Dictionary

DRINK. I. 1. a. To take (liquid) into the stomach; to swallow down, imbibe, quaff.

1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball.*, *Triumph of Time* 26,

I trod the grapes, I have drunken the wine.

Oxford English Dictionary

DRINK. II. 10. a. To swallow down or imbibe water or other liquid, for nourishment or quenching of thirst.

1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* viii. 31

The kynge of Fryse had nothre eten nor dronken.

Oxford English Dictionary

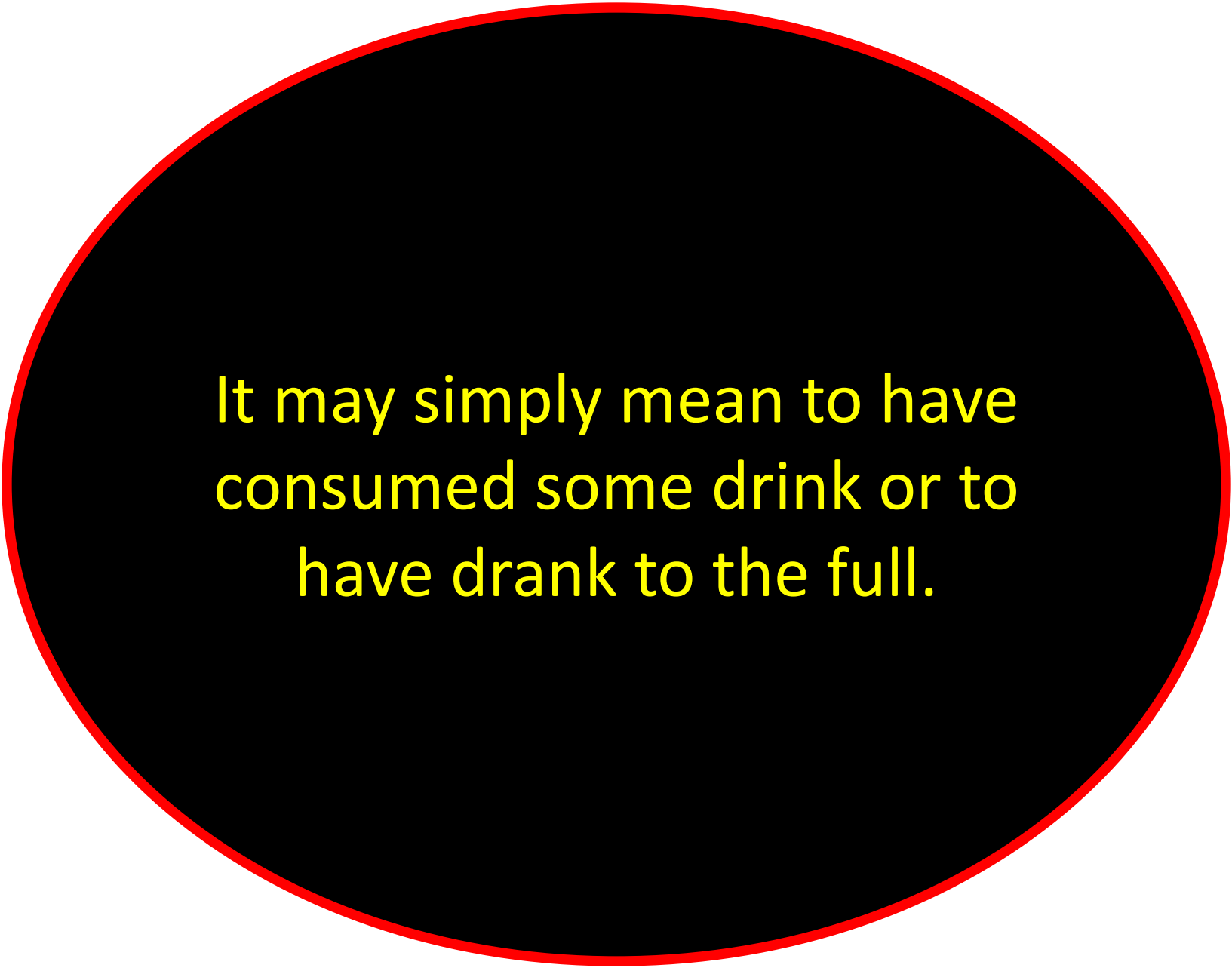
DRINK. II. 10. a. To swallow down or imbibe water or other liquid, for nourishment or quenching of thirst.

1876 RUSKIN *FORs Clav.* VI. Lxvii. 214

Having sufficiently eaten and drunken.

What is all that about?

Drunken as a participial
adjective does not have
to mean intoxicated.



It may simply mean to have
consumed some drink or to
have drank to the full.

The following examples
taken from Bible are verb
forms or adjectives to show
drunken is not intoxication.

Compare

“Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and *drunken*; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?” (Luke 17:8).

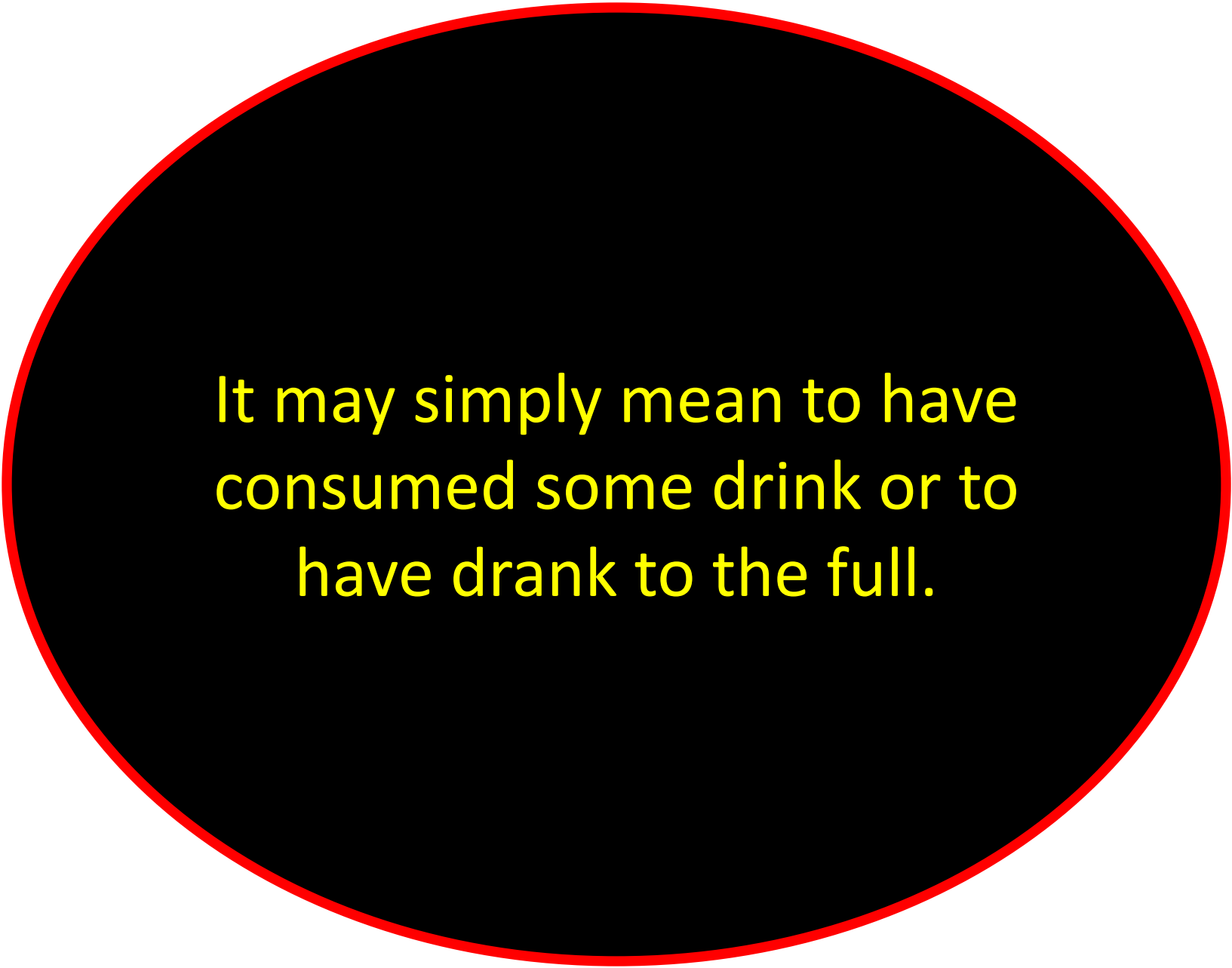
Compare

“And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be *drunken*, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.”

Ezekiel 39:19

The previous verse has
a parallel structure:

“eat fat till ye be full,” and
“drink ... till ye be drunken.”



It may simply mean to have
consumed some drink or to
have drank to the full.

What is all that about?

*We love every word of God,
and we have misused one
of them – drunken.*

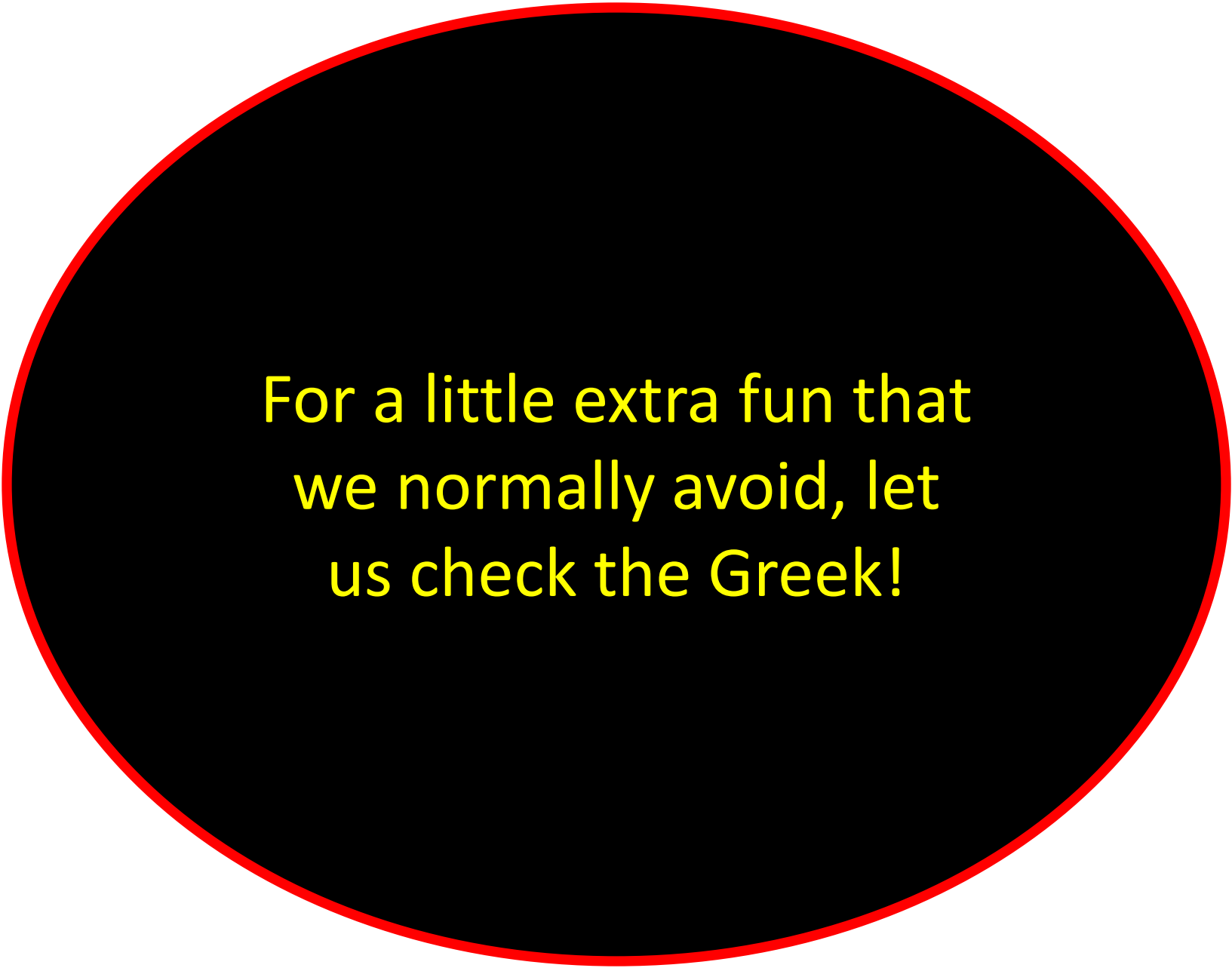
AI searches found other
English dictionaries dated
around 1611 that had this
alternate sense of drunken.

Ancient English Dictionaries

Mulcaster, 1582 ... “over-full of drink”

Rider, 1617 ... “filled with drink”

Blount, 1656 ... “having taken much drink”



For a little extra fun that
we normally avoid, let
us check the Greek!

Greek Word ... *methyō*

The Greek verb ... *methyō*
has a range of meaning:

“to be drunk,” ... and ...
“to drink freely; to be filled;
to be satiated with drink.”

Lexicon Support

BDAG ... “to drink freely, to become full”

Thayer ... “drink to the full; to be satiated”



KJV translators used a word
that naturally carried both
senses, and the context
determines the sense.

“Drunken” in I Cor 11:21
may mean to *have drunk*
or *be full of drink*, as both
English and Greek allow.

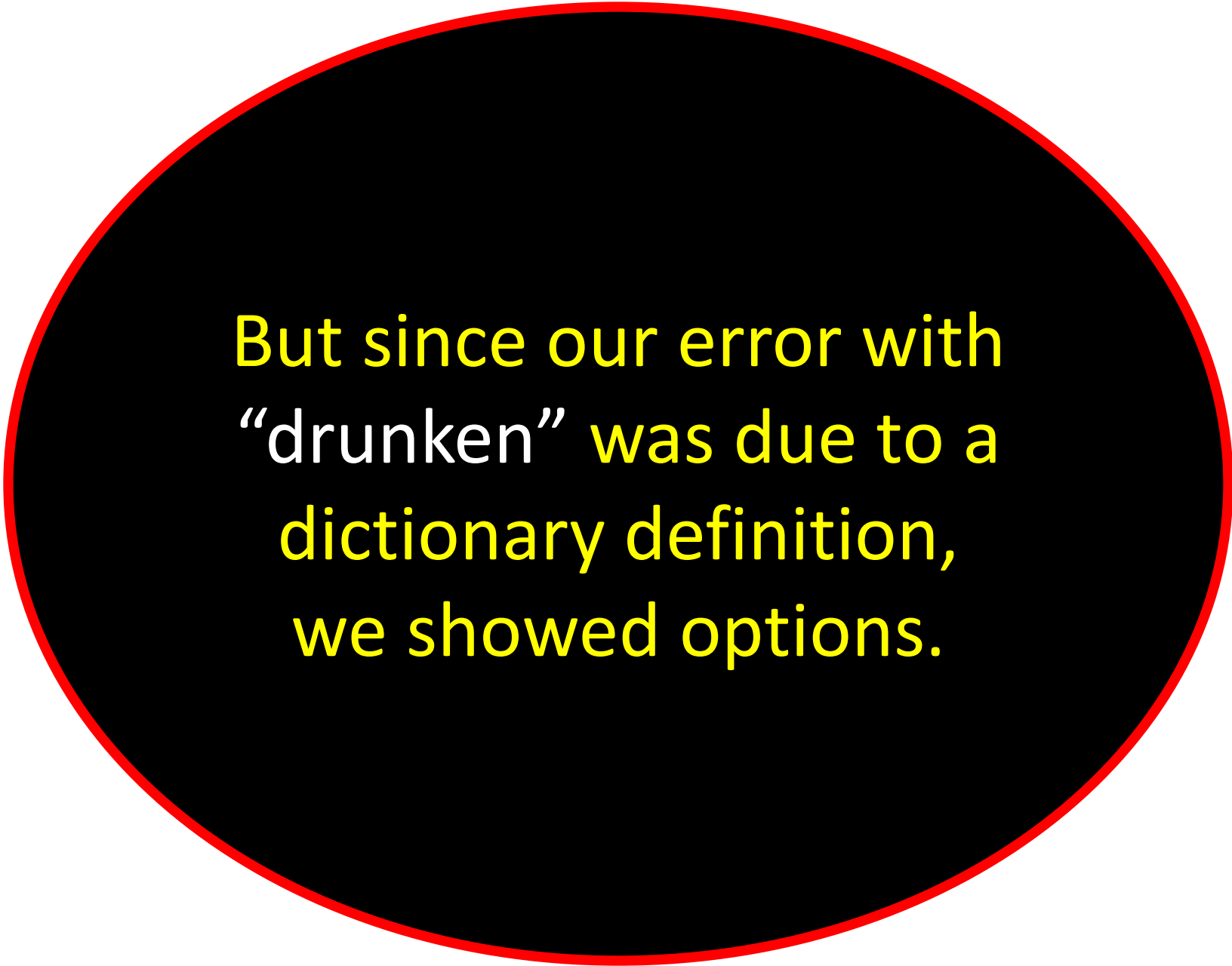
“Drunken” in I Cor 11:21
does not have to mean
a person is drunk or
intoxicated.

We confirmed this English
definition by comparing the
Spirit's words in the Bible.

I Corinthians 2:13

We usually check context
first, for it often fixes
a word's meaning
best of all.

"Please use that word in a sentence."



But since our error with
“drunken” was due to a
dictionary definition,
we showed options.

Now it is time to look at
the context of 11:21 and
see the sense it must be.

“Please use that word in a sentence.”

“For in eating every one taketh before
other his own supper: and one is hungry,
and another is drunken.”

I Corinthians 11:21

The Verse Has a Clear Contrast

- Some ate well but others had little or nothing.
- “One is hungry” ... vs. “another is drunken.”
- The contrast is little food ... vs. ... getting filled.
- See the selfishness and inequality at the meal.
- The issue is quantity rather than intoxication.

Were They Falling or Vomiting? (1)

- Paul made no mention of such a great offence.
- Paul hated it (I Cor 5:11; 6:9-11; Rom 13:13; Gal 5:19-21; Ep 5:18).
- Their fault was ... not eating/drinking together.
- The verse uses *drunken* ... opposite of hungry.
- Paul's correction was for 11:21 at home (11:22).

What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

I Corinthians 11:22

Were They Falling or Vomiting? (2)

- Did Paul suggest getting intoxicated at home?
- The fault shamed the poor, not drunkards (11:22).
- Their fault was ... not eating/drinking together.
- The correction was to tarry for each other (11:33).
- The correction was to eat/drink at home (11:34).

Were They Falling or Vomiting? (3)

- The condemnation was eating before others.
- Their error was no charity or brotherly love.
- Show Corinth charity ... they were not wasted!
- Paul would have said more ... and differently.
- Conservative commentators vary about this.

Conservative Commentators

“Drunken” = Intoxicated

Albert Barnes

Matthew Henry

“Drunken” = Full of drink

John Calvin

Geneva Bible

John Gill

JFB

Matthew Poole

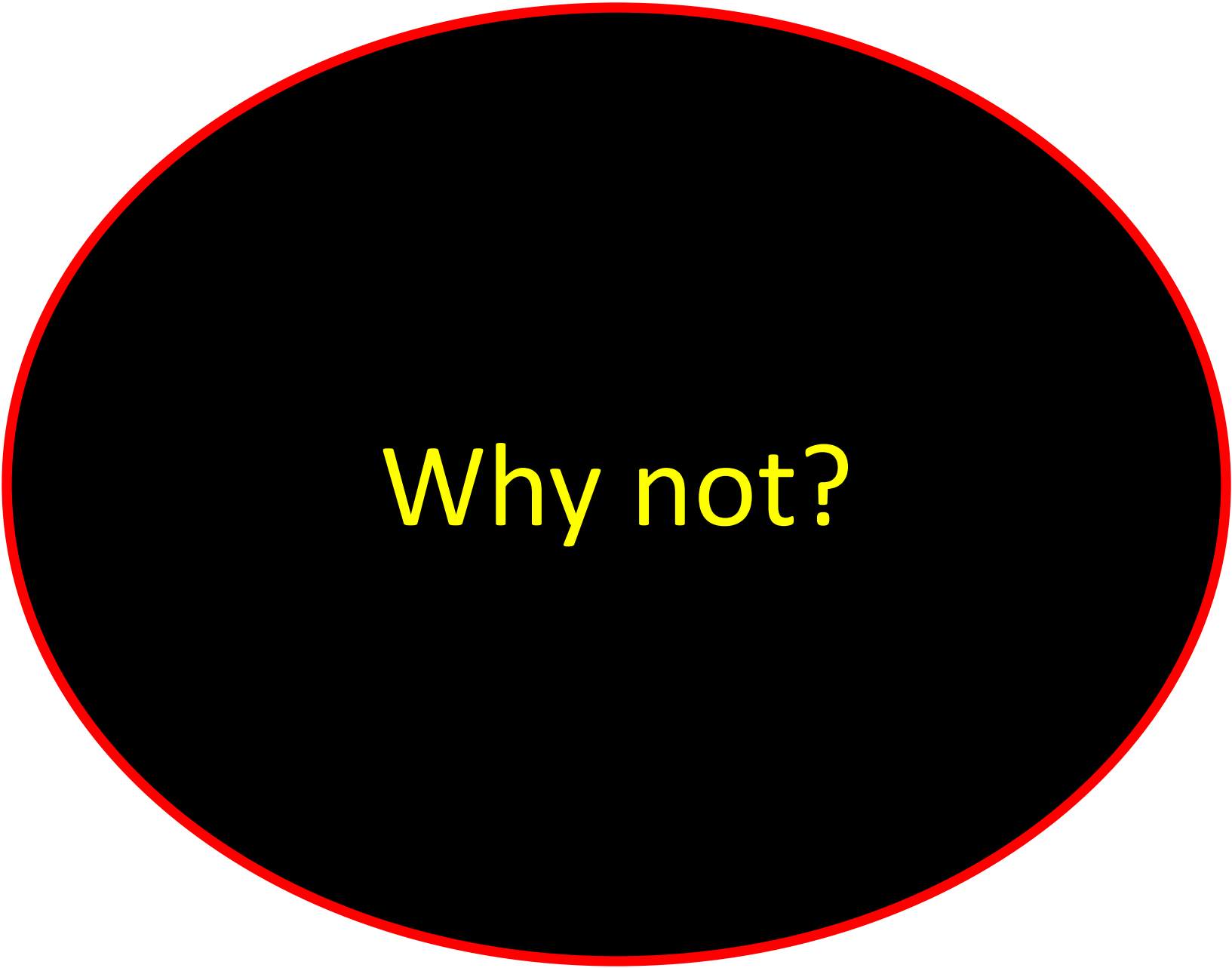
Ignored Controversy

Adam Clarke

John Trapp

Where are we?

We cannot prove the use of
wine for communion from
I Corinthians 11:21.

A large black oval with a red border, centered on a white background. The text "Why not?" is written in yellow inside the oval.

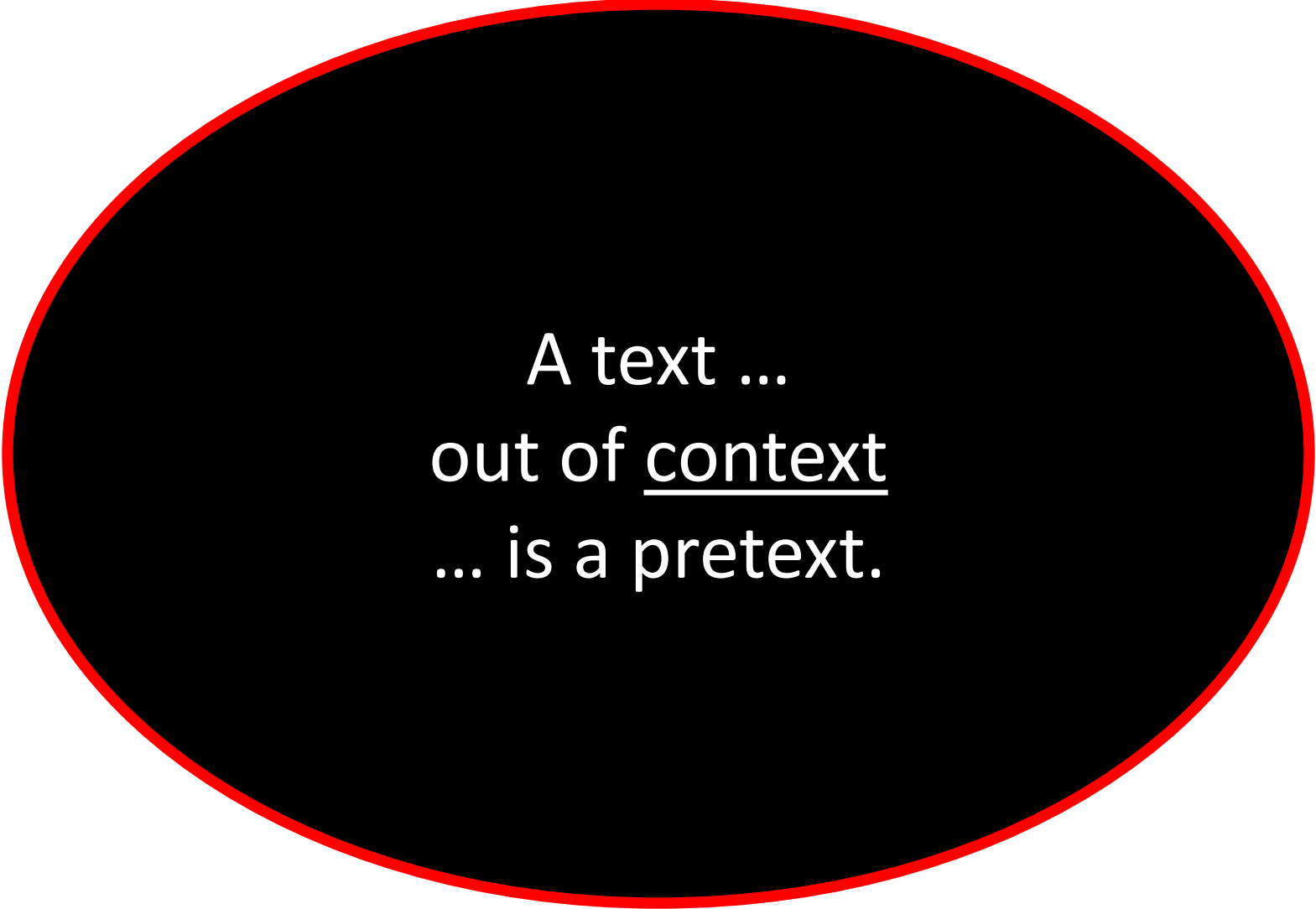
Why not?

We are slaves to context.

We must serve this master.

"Please use that word in a sentence."

"I beat my wife last night."



A text ...
out of context
... is a pretext.

For wonderful detail
about Bible context ...

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2006/slaves-to-context/>
<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/two-step-bible-study-1/>
<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/two-step-bible-study-2/>

What should we use?

Red wine from grapes

**Red Wine
From Grapes**



Why?

It is the beverage of choice
from the vine through
the whole Bible.

Jesus said it must be
the **FRUIT OF THE VINE**
in Matthew, Mark, Luke.

What about our other Proofs?

- The beverage for Passover is outside the Bible.
- Wine is not unleavened ... it is fully leavened!
- The leaven did its complete job to make wine!
- Church history is evidence outside the Bible.
- Passover and history confirm ... we seek more.

Are There No Other Proofs?

- The word “wine” is not used for communion.
- *“Wine” is never used for communion? Right!*
- The word “cup” is used, but what is in a cup?
- “Fruit of the vine” is used, but it is figurative.
- There is no other Bible proof requiring wine.

What should we use?

Red wine from grapes

Why?

It is the beverage of choice
from the vine through
the whole Bible.

Jesus said it must be
the **FRUIT OF THE VINE**
in Matthew, Mark, Luke.

What Is “Fruit of the Vine”?

- Literally ... juice, wine, or raisins from grapes.
- Since it was liquid in a cup, we rule out raisins.
- Literally, it can be unfermented juice or wine.
- But it is a figurative phrase that is not literal.
- Bible context, history, experience define it.

What “Fruit of the Vine” Is Best?

- The one Jesus used to be called a winebibber.
- The one God made and blessed (Psalm 104:14-15).
- The one Abraham and Melchisedec shared.
- The one used in Old Testament worship.
- The one specified throughout New Testament.

What Does “Fruit of the Vine” Mean?

- It is an elegant figure of speech for wine.
- Metonym = a related thing replaces the thing.
- Metonym = the White House reported today.
- Metonym = rod gives wisdom / tongue is a fire.
- Metonym = wine is a mocker (only its abuse).

Are These Literal or Figurative?

- “He covered his feet” ... with socks or shoes?
- “Custom of women” ... to be afraid of snakes?
- “Sleep with his fathers” ... in one bed or cot?
- “Wolf in sheep’s clothing” ... a white wool coat?
- “Apple of his eye” ... seeing his favorite apple?

Are These Literal or Figurative?

- “Salt of the earth” ... sodium chloride ... NaCl?
- “Light of the world” ... but sun? or godly life?
- “Lamb of God” ... the sacrifice to please God.
- “Bread of life” ... like water of life, spiritual food.
- “Blood of the grape” ... figurative for red wine.

Binding his foal unto the vine, and his
ass's colt unto the choice vine; he
washed his garments in wine, and his
clothes in the blood of grapes:

Genesis 49:11

The previous verse has
a parallel structure:

“garments in wine” =
“clothes in blood of grapes”

Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with
fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of
Bashan, and goats, with the fat of
kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink
the pure blood of the grape.

Deuteronomy 32:14

What Is the Only “Fruit of the Vine”?

- The one Jesus used to be called a winebibber.
- The one God made and blessed (Psalm 104:14-15).
- The one Abraham and Melchisedec shared.
- The one used in Old Testament worship.
- The one specified throughout New Testament.

What Is “This Fruit of the Vine”?

- Matthew has a demonstrative adjective – *this*!
- The fruit of the vine was that in Jesus’ hand.
- It must be the fruit of the vine of the Passover.
- It cannot be a different beverage of other use.
- We limit “fruit of the vine” to wine at supper.

What should we use?

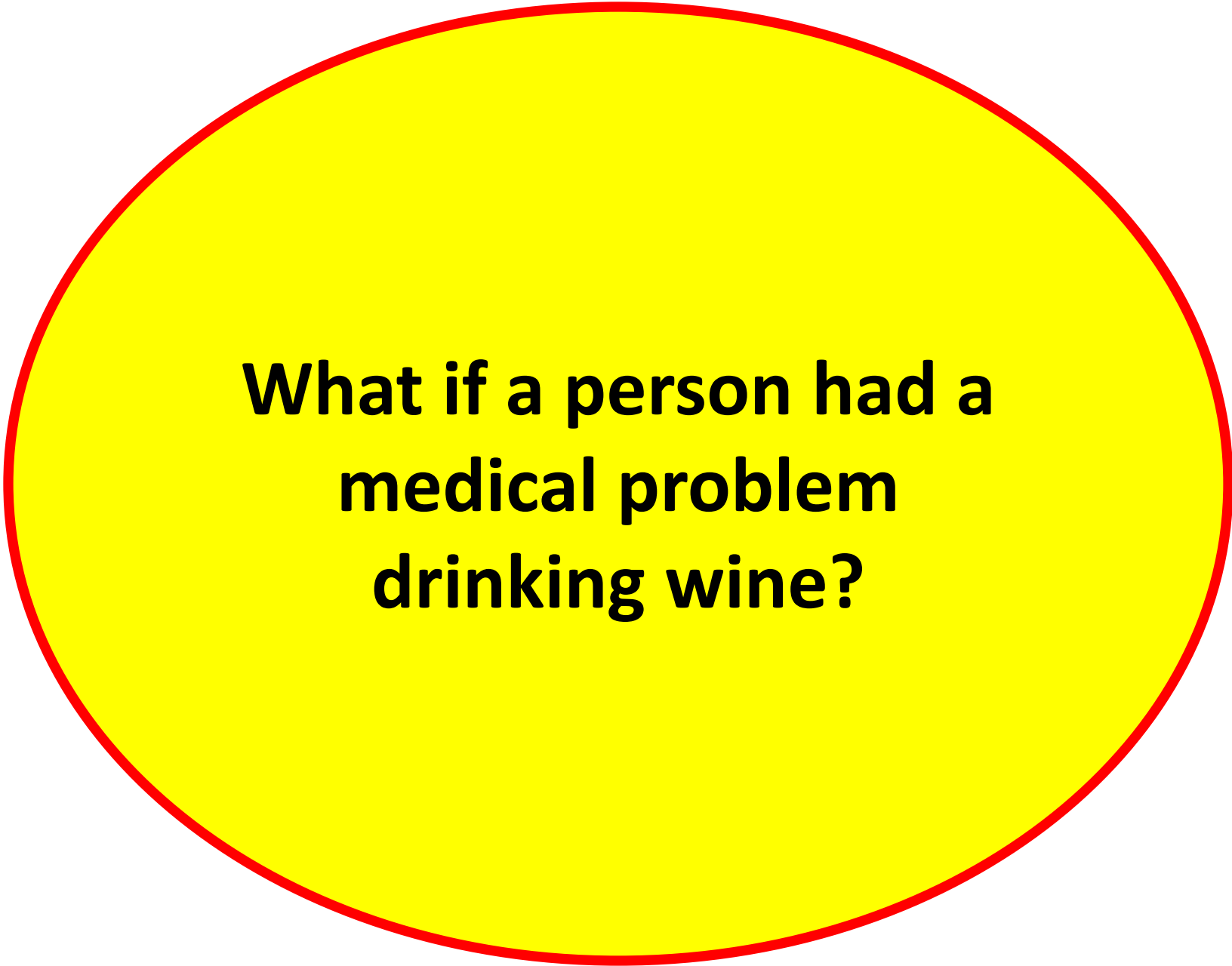
Red wine from grapes

**Red Wine
From Grapes**

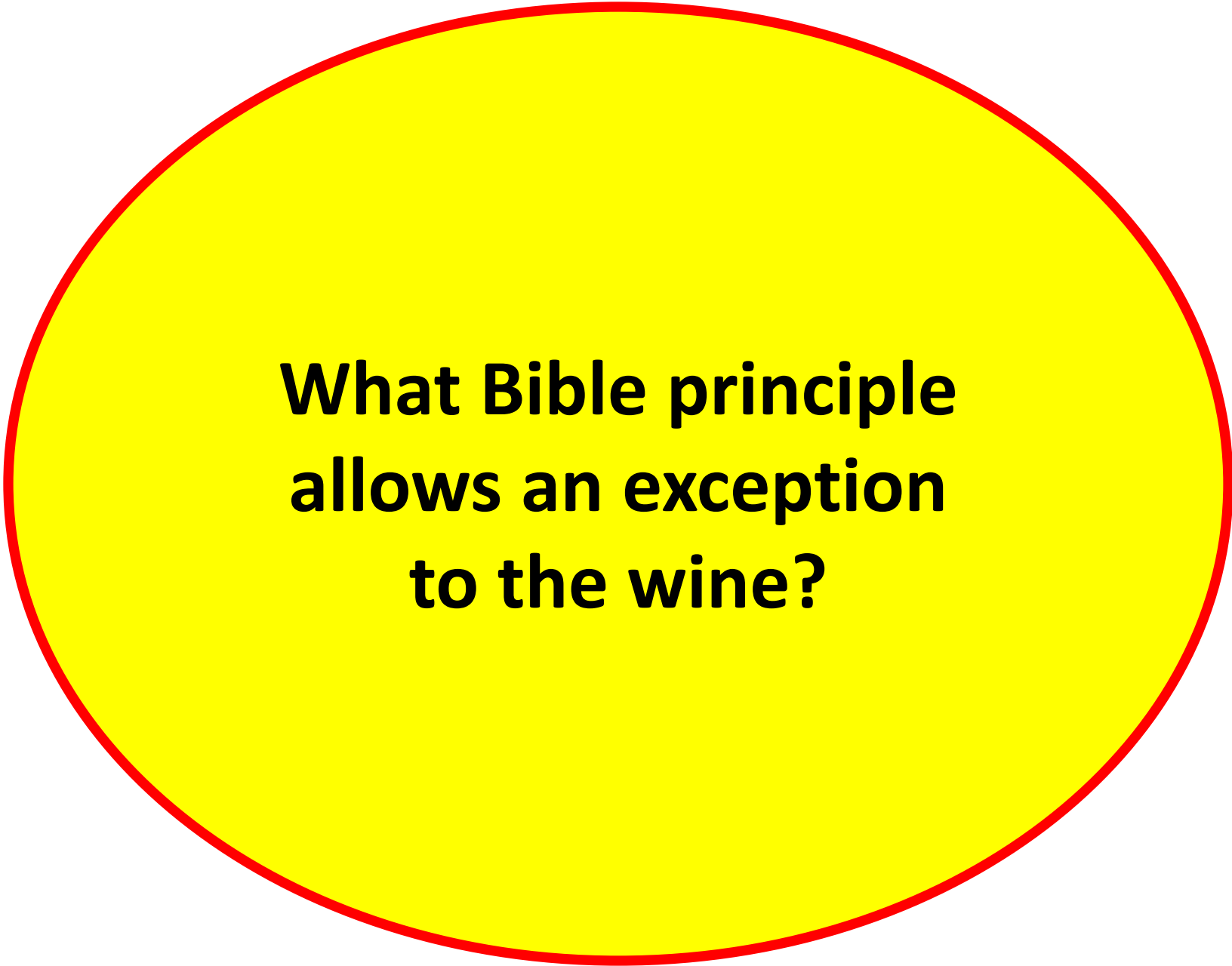




**There is more to this
matter of wine in
communion.**



**What if a person had a
medical problem
drinking wine?**



**What Bible principle
allows an exception
to the wine?**

God's Priority

“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.”

Matthew 12:7 cp Hosea 6:6 cp Proverbs 21:3

The Mercy Principle! (1)

- This rule of Jesus is worth its weight in gold.
- He overrode Sabbath law for apostles' hunger.
- He argued David and shewbread to justify it.
- The Sabbath was one of God's highest laws.
- Neither Jesus nor David had real emergencies.

The Mercy Principle! (2)

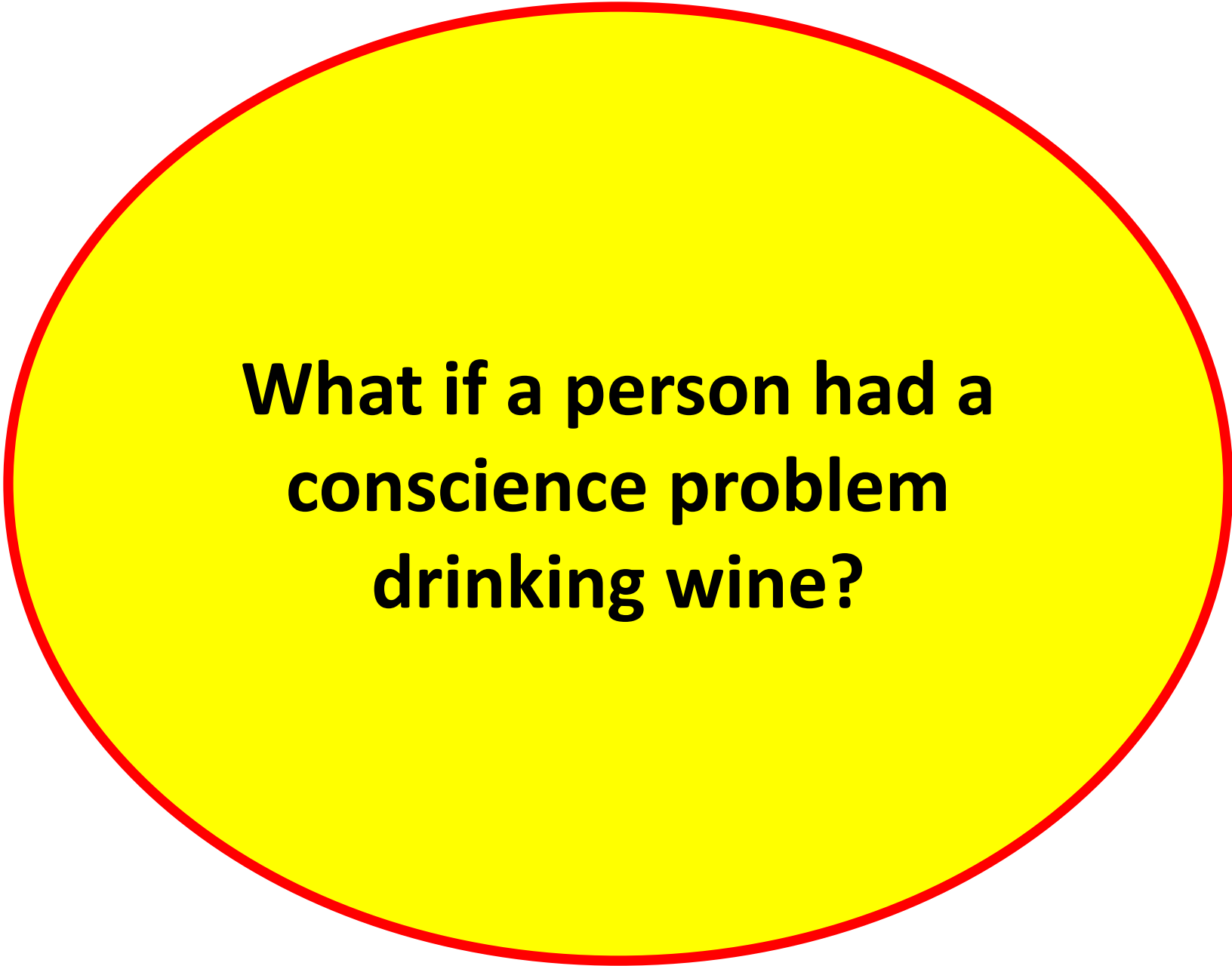
- You may study the principle in Christian Ethics.
- It is taught throughout the Bible (Prov 21:3; Hos 6:6).
- It is application of brotherly love and charity.
- We could allow grape juice ... or no beverage.
- We cannot show mercy to rebels or scorners.

The Mercy Principle! (3)

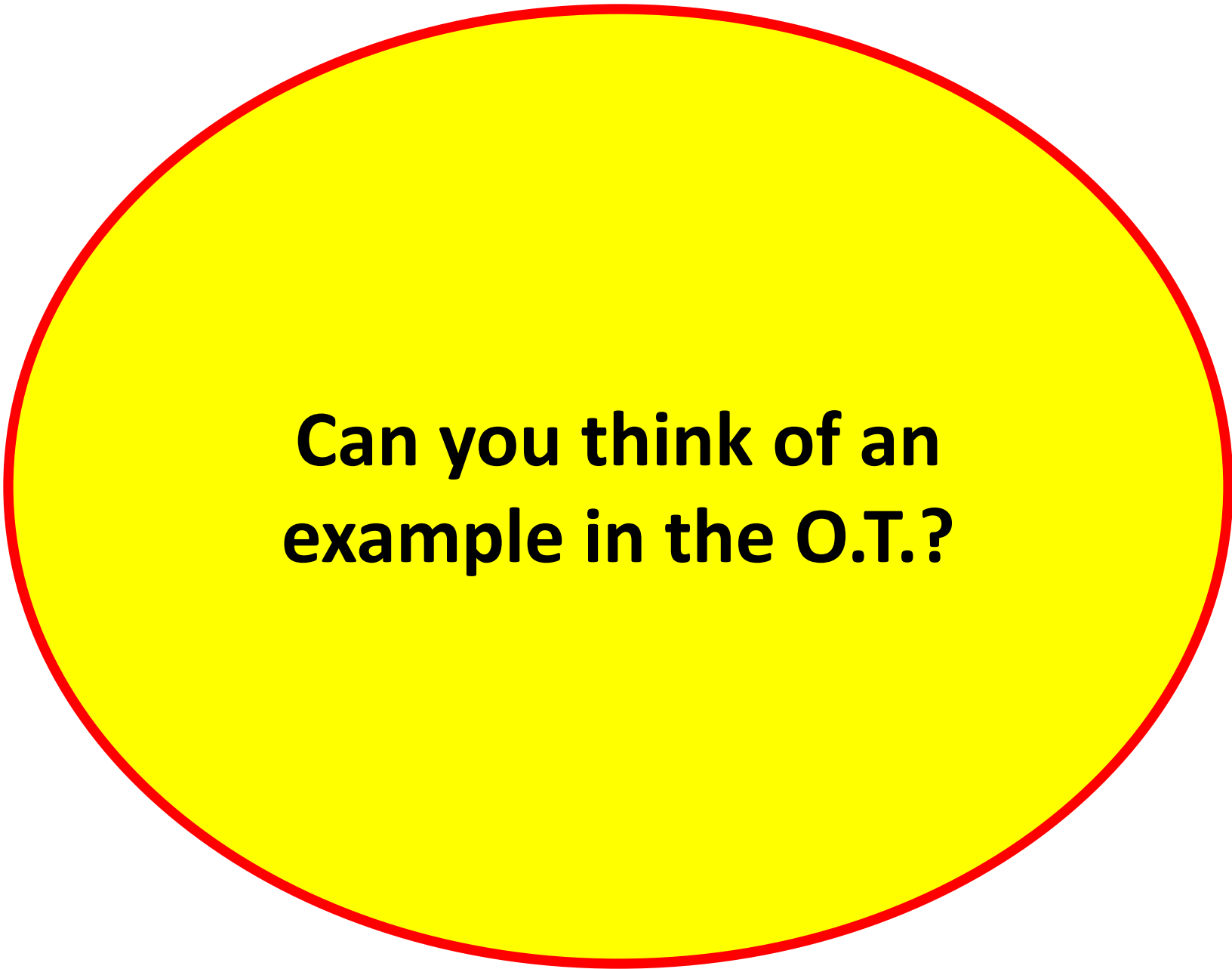
- A church has authority to exclude for a jig saw.
- It can surely require wine for the Lord's Table.
- It should show mercy for health or conscience.
- Why cause fear or doubt at the Lord's Supper?
- Why would we risk the health of a brother?

The Mercy Principle! (4)

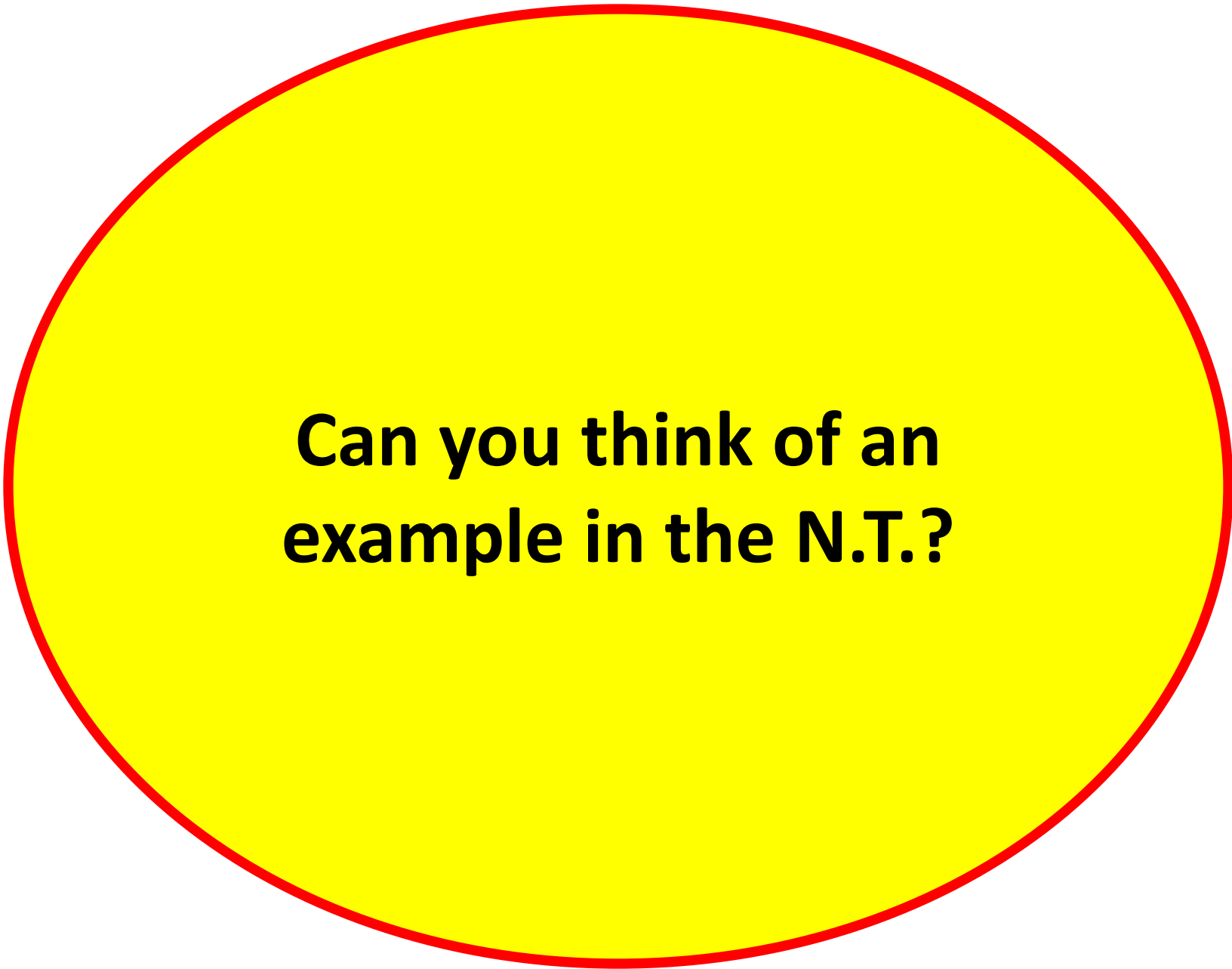
- Is grape juice *in a manner* vine blood? Yes!
- Hezekiah observed Passover on wrong date.
- What if allergic to wine? Then grape juice.
- What if allergic to grapes? Then no beverage.
- If we love mercy and charity, this is quite easy.



**What if a person had a
conscience problem
drinking wine?**



**Can you think of an
example in the O.T.?**



**Can you think of an
example in the N.T.?**

O.T. = Jonadab

Jeremiah 35:1-19

N.T. = John the Baptist

Luke 1:15 and 7:33

The Rule of Charity Applies (1)

- Why would we force a person to sin? (Rom 14:23)
- Why would we distract from Christ? (I Cor 11:26-29)
- Teetotalers will be rejected ... for it is heresy!
- Scorners will be rejected ... for it is rebellion!
- A person with a conscience problem can grow.

The Rule of Charity Applies (2)

- We use the conscience for rebaptism (Rom 14:23).
- Could we allow sprinkling for baptism? Never!
- Real Christians delight to show mercy (Micah 6:8).
- We will not show mercy for rebellion or scorn.
- We have helped physical and medicinal issues!

Kingdom Priority

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 14:17

For the Next Lord's Supper

- If you have a conscience against wine, see me.
- Your conscience must admit Jesus used wine.
- Your conscience must admit using wine is holy.
- If a conscience truly fears wine, he gets juice.
- Logistics of how to do it best are in progress.

What should we use?

Red wine from grapes

What can we not use?

A verse out of context
for any argument
of truth or error.

What is the main point?

We want to correct any
misuse of any word the
Lord will kindly show us.

What Other Factors Are There?

- Hate any bias or opinion against truth (Ps 119:128).
- Hate any custom or tradition not fully Biblical.
- Examination and discernment are very crucial.
- Partaking unworthily (sins) brings damnation.
- Partaking congregationally is Paul's emphasis.

What Other Factors Are There?

- Congregationally! We want no divisions (11:18).
- The context of heresies was Corinth's supper.
- Charity, love, and mercy should totally prevail.
- We are not against a meal and every Sunday.
- Let us always exalt Jesus as our heart's delight.

For Further Study

Christians and Wine

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2016/75-bible-references-on-drinking/>

<https://letgodbetrue.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/wine-seminar-92.pdf>

<https://letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/index/proverbs-by-topic/food-drink/>

Context

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2006/slaves-to-context/>

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/two-step-bible-study-1/>

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/two-step-bible-study-2/>

One-Word Bible Arguments

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2015/every-word-of-god/>

Knowing the Scriptures (Hermeneutics)

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2010/hermeneutics/>