

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE A BARTENDER?

An Editorial on Guy Malone's Defense of The Merits
of Christian's Bartending as A Profession

By David Ben Ya'akov

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Preface:

One has to wonder just how many times a man or woman can push the envelope of Yahweh's tolerance and grace until he or she finally steps over that line one too many times and it forces Yahweh's hand to take some sort of corrective action. I don't want to know the exact number and I use that question in a rhetorical manner only. I do know that someday we will know the answer to that question when we are with Yeshua and we are like Him.

Most of you reading this are like me I would assume, and would agree that we wouldn't ever want to know and we tend to avoid even getting around that envelope let alone picking it up and seeing just how many transgressions that envelope will hold until Yahweh says, "okay, that's enough!"

My involvement in this saga started in 2005 when I decided to fly to Roswell, New Mexico to attend the "Ancient of Days" seminar that was being presented by the founder and administrator of Alien Resistance; a fellow named Guy Malone. Before my trip I had read through his whole Resistance website and found it to be a no-nonsense Biblical answer to the enigma that the world calls Alien Abduction. Actually, I had started to look his website as early as 2001 just a couple of months before a couple of friends and myself had decided to take a road trip down to Roswell via Rachel, Nevada.

Before my trip to Roswell in 2005 I had been contacted by Joe Jordan from CE4 Research; a ministry down on the space coast in Florida. Joe had somehow discovered my Delusion Resistance website and contacted me, asking me if I was going to be attending the

seminar that was being put together by Malone. I informed Jordan that I had my plane tickets and we agreed to share a car rental at the Albuquerque airport and drive down to Roswell together.

We arrived in Roswell after dark that day and after procuring our motel rooms we met a few other people at a local Steakhouse that was billed the best in Roswell; it was quite good. At the steakhouse I was privileged to sit with other researchers including but not limited to Dave and Mark Flynn, Stan Deyo, Norm Franz and a few others that I cannot remember now. Guy Malone was also there and I found out then that our accommodations at the steakhouse were arranged by Guy who worked there as a waiter.

The days went by quite fast and because I was considered to be a friend of Joe Jordan, I was able to see all of the presentations and I was included in many of the afterhours activities by this group; you know, things like dinners and other fellowship activities. On the last night Joe asked me to go to the bar with him where he was going to meet up with Guy Malone. I thought that the three of us would sip cokes or something of the like. I'm not one for drinking alcohol and if I've had fifteen drinks since I've been saved 32 years ago it would be a highly inflated number. Although alcohol isn't really my thing, I don't have an aversion of someone else drinking as long as they don't take it to excess. I was quite a party person before I was saved and I saw how drug and alcohol abuse ruined the lives of some of my friends and led to the death of others via drunk driving accidents where drinking is concerned and overdose where drugs are concerned. These are substances that can ruin lives especially in people with addictive personalities.

When we got to the bar Joe and I found a table and looked around for Guy. He showed up a couple of minutes later and asked if we'd like anything to drink. I think that Joe ordered an alcoholic beverage and I ordered a coke. Guy walked behind the bar and prepared our drinks. I thought that odd and when he returned, I asked him how he had access to the bar and how he knew how to make Joe's drink. It was then that he informed me that he was a Christian Bartender. I remarked that I had never met a Christian Bartender before and asked him how he reconciled being a bartender with being a believer in Yeshua but he ignored the question and focused on how well the seminars had been and even talked about planning the next year's event. On the way back to the motel I asked Joe what he thought about Christian Bartenders and he told me that he didn't know exactly what to think but noted that Guy had told him that it was a great ministry field and after that the subject dropped.

After a period of time, which I really cannot recollect I went back to Guy's website and noticed that he had other websites that branched off of his Alien Resistance website and I followed one of those branches. It was on this branch that I found the article below. While reading the article it became clear to me that others had asked Guy the same questions that I had; how could a believer in Yeshua tend bar and serve mind altering substances to people; especially when our research indicated that one avenue that demonic entities use to gain entrance into a person is when they (the person) relinquishes their sovereignty by introducing mind altering substances of which alcohol is definitely one. I present the article that I found on Malone's website (which is still there by the way) for review and we'll look more at what the fallacy of his thesis is, and how it can impact people negatively.

Note: I did not find a copyright on the web page but assume that there is one and that it is copyrighted to Guy Malone and/or Alien Resistance. Guy has claimed authorship in his dealings with those who rejected the notion that is presented; or at least those who wrote to me to ask me about it.

Can a Christian be a bartender?

I'm occasionally (but not frequently, darn it!) asked, "Well how can you be a bartender if you're a Christian?"

*Especially as one involved in any type of ministry (**and I am**), it's a fair, and relevant question. But since I am one (or both, really), of course I'm going to argue affirmatively. But trust me – the person who's asking this is probably asking (and often answering) from a knee-jerk type of reaction, while I've had YEARS to study and pray, to hear from God, and to walk this out.*

Over a decade ago, I quit bartending shortly after I became a Christian, yet here I am doing it again, and I know it's because God has placed me here. Suspend your presumptions for just a little while, and prepare to see exactly how – theologically

speaking – God can and does call and use people in the least likely places. I'll gladly pose and answer your most obvious questions and objections to a Christian bartending however, if you want to sit back and hear from someone who's put a little more time into this question than you probably have. And by the way, I won't be arguing "liberty" at all.

Rather than start with the theological argument(s) though, I'm going to first deal with the practicum of bartending (which I've found often settles the issue before even getting theological about it, for many of my Christian friends).

PRACTICUM

- 1) What makes a good bartender? and**
- 2) A bartender's role in a community**

1) What makes a good bartender?

Generally speaking, many Christians naturally wouldn't know the truest answer to this question. Some might be surprised to know that restaurants and places that serve alcohol aren't necessarily looking for the things you might first guess though. Employers AREN'T looking right off for "Who makes the best drinks?" or "Who's the funnest, most partying person we know?" The latter would be a liability in many places of employment in fact, while the former can be taught and learned... No, there are other qualities an employer would usually look for first, before making someone a bartender – on the rare occasion that they have the luxury of choosing from quality candidates anyway. And before I even start, the key here, is CHARACTER...

Firstly, as a bartender, I have a cash drawer. At my place of employment (and many restaurants), the bartender is the only employee (outside of management) who has such easy access to the restaurant's cash flow...

*Secondly, I have a key to some of my restaurant's more expensive inventory items as well – the beer and wine coolers, and liquor cabinets. If you owned a restaurant and this were **your money** on the line, are you going to begin your search for a bartender by looking for a wild party animal? No, not really – **you're looking firstly for someone you can trust.***

For any bartender, both the opportunity and the temptation to steal are there all the time – and I mean every minute of every day. It's ridiculously easy to steal when you're a

*bartender in fact... say, by only looking like you're ringing up the drinks you accept money for (heck, regulars who know how much they've spent often will just leave their money and walk off, without even asking for a check). Or pouring the fine, expensive liquor into your own coffee cup, or even walking out late at night with a bottle, when everyone else is gone, and the manager is doing paperwork (I've seen it more than once!). It's especially easy to give away drinks – which don't belong to you – to favored guests and friends, in order to get them to tip you better. This happens all the time, everywhere, and could actually be “the leading reason” bartenders get fired – simply for not ringing up all drinks they've served. So rather than asking “**Can a Christian be a bartender?**” the question – **for the employer** – really becomes “Who is (at least likely to be) the most trustworthy individual on my staff, that I can put in charge of my belongings and my money?” (You might already be thinking of Joseph or Daniel here, if you're sharp.)*

As a Christian concerned with the original question, wouldn't you WANT the owner's answer to the second question to be, “Oh, a Christian, naturally.” It's too bad that Christians are not considered trustworthy anymore simply by virtue of their faith, but at least individuals (Christian or non) can eventually earn a reputation for integrity in their environment.

*So anyway, I'm here to report that the reason I'm a bartender is not because my employer thinks I'm a lot of fun to hang around with, but that I got moved into the position because he's **absolutely certain that I can be trusted with his money, and his property**. While we'd be tempted to argue that bartending is a “bad” Christian witness, that's just if we're only ever witnessing to the church! If I'm considered trustworthy by my non-Christian boss(es), isn't that a good witness – to those whom we're supposed to care about anyway?*

As far as personal integrity and bartending... very recently a server I worked with had an ethical breach in his home life (infidelity, and much deception to his wife and girlfriend, who didn't know about each other). My manager immediately stopped scheduling him as the back-up bartender anymore, as a direct result of finding out the details. He didn't fire him of course (kept him as a waiter), but this says A LOT when you think about it – that “the wise manager” knows that someone who lives (and lies) like that outside of work, is not trustworthy enough to bartend

*So... while certain mechanical (drink-mixing) or even people skills can be learned over time by anyone with an aptitude, KNOW that to get – and especially to keep – a bartending job, employers are looking FIRSTLY for the most honest and trustworthy people they can find. Still think “being a good Christian” disqualifies someone from bartending? I’d argue that in the category of first priority, the one which employers are mainly interested in **above all else**, it makes exemplary Christians **the most suited** to bartend – at least it should anyway!!!*

I realize of course that honesty and integrity are expected (or at least valued) in almost any position. My point however is that they are not exactly the norm amongst bartender candidates. Like politicians perhaps, to have a truly trustworthy Christian in the field is a very rare exception. This is precisely because most people assume these arenas are simply too “corrupt” for Christians to inhabit, and to especially be able to remain “Christian” in. Therefore, these fields (which are white for harvest btw are generally left without a representative of God’s love or any witness for Christ, while other “safer, respectable” professions are nearly over-populated with them. Restaurants, bars, etc, have generally been deprived of any Christians who genuinely like – or can at least stand – being around people who are drinking since... well, since a certain wedding in Cana almost 2000 years ago.

*Think about that! Y’see, no matter how wrong you might initially think it is, there’s just no getting around the fact that Jesus served wine (great stuff too!) to a crowd that had been drinking for days. (They weren’t driving though...) You’re not really going to argue “Well..... it was kinda his first miracle, so he really didn’t know what he was doing...”
ARE YOU?*

*If so, the other way to argue that is that **Jesus BEGAN his public ministry** by serving alcohol to people who were already drunk!!!! He initially drew attention to God.... by being the guy who kept the party going! The story of Jesus providing alcohol to drunks at a party is **STILL** being told today! It’s a part of the gospels which the Holy Spirit saw fit **NOT TO CENSOR!!!***

*For **SOME**, the same **COULD** be true today, as well. True, Jesus didn’t make a career out of it, but He was absolutely led by the Spirit to do what he did (do you really wanna argue that point?), and you simply cannot argue that nobody today could ever be led the*

same way. After all, the same conditions exist today – **there's drunk people everywhere who need a miracle, and they need someone who speaks for God in their midst.**

So..... to answer the question “Can a Christian be a bartender?” you really need to go no further than to ask WWJD? In this case, you actually have chapter and verse to go on, and can pose the question as “What DID Jesus Do?”

2) The Bartender's role in a community

Well, when I wasn't a Christian 15 years ago but was at my first bartending job, I really blew this one. I regularly let my community down. Many people (especially Christians) might assume that a Christian shouldn't bartend because, “Well, isn't the main thrust of your job to get people drunk?” And that's a fair assumption, and charge, but what the Lord has shown me is that it's just the opposite!

Simply because of the nature of sin, and the lack of self-control amongst even many Christians, **people are going to get drunk – with you or without you!** If you're thinking Matthew 17:1 here, I'm the one through whom the offense is STOPPED btw, NOT “through whom it comes.” One main thrust of my job is to actually STOP people from getting drunk – at least SO drunk that they pose a danger to people other than themselves.

That means cutting people off.

And believe me, cutting off people who want to continue drinking (and are more than ready to argue about it) is one of the most difficult things any server or bartender ever has to do, but it's an occasional necessity of the position.

Everyone wants to be liked... everyone wants to be spoken of as “cool...” but by cutting someone off, you immediately lose all likeability with most people. They will curse you to your face, and many will try to intimidate you. It takes a type of strength and resolve that just doesn't come naturally to most people (especially when you consider that hospitality industry employees are “people-pleasers” by nature, or they can't last).

Because of this, I honestly have to rely on the Lord to give me the strength to exceed my human nature and natural personality, just to remain firm and to say “No...” when

someone's had too much to drink. It's honestly supernatural at times – but in order to fulfill why God has placed me where I am in my city, I have to die (not quite daily) to the desire to be liked, and actually let someone remain demonstrably mad at me, rather than keep serving them alcohol to the point that they may hurt someone on the road. Like I said, my job is to keep people from getting drunk, not to get them drunk. In situation after situation, the Lord has shown me that a responsible bartender's true function is to be the "control agent" in a society – to be the Holy Spirit in fact, for people who are not obeying Him – in order to save lives, both of the drinker and others on the road. In one sense, the bartender's role in society is to say, "Yes, as a matter of fact I am my brother's keeper."

So who better to assign the task – Cain, or Abel?

Other than having the ummmmm, uhhhhh, intestinal fortitude... okay balls.... to look a rich, ANGRY drinker with some strange sense of "entitlement" in the eye and say "NO MORE... NOT ON MY WATCH..." however, what does everyone who works, work for?

That's right, money! And THIS is why the Bible says that the love of money is the root of all evil. Restaurant people rely almost solely on tips for their income, and it's the rare person indeed who will still tip you after you've cut them off. So many times before I was a Christian, I'd find myself in a situation where I knew good and well that a person (or group) had had way too much to drink, yet they were still ordering more. But every time, I'd also think to myself, "Man, if I cut this guy off now, it's gonna cost me \$20..." Or even \$50!!!

EVERY NIGHT in EVERY TOWN in America, this situation is occurring OVER and OVER! And in all too great a percentage of the time, people are getting OVER-SERVED because the server wants that \$20-\$50.

Without The Lord strongly present in someone's decision-making process, need or greed wins almost every time. *The love of money is what gets people killed by drunk drivers by the way, NOT Christian bartenders. There are some things which I simply WON'T DO for it! The difference for me now though, is that in Christ, I know that that twenty dollar bill is not my source. I know that that drunken slob is not my source, and I do not have to bow to his will. GOD is my source!!! He provides for me beyond any job, and I can thankfully bow to His will and trust Him in this situation – even if my rent is*

due. Knowing Christ makes a difference in the way that I conduct myself as a bartender, and because of Him, I know can refuse the tip and do what's right. And I also know that my community is a little bit safer because I'm back there, and I know that God is pleased in this. I kinda am too.

Whether from a legal or Christian standpoint though, practicing not serving minors is one of the more important functions of a bartender – and one of the most tempting to fudge on, as well. Most people would honestly not have a moral dilemma serving someone over 18, but 21's the law these days, and there are many valid – albeit nerdy – reasons for enforcing this law. While people have more of a “Tom Cruise” image of bartending, your responsibilities to the community and your employer just as often put you in the position of having to be the mud-stick “Miss Ratchet” school-marm, enforcing the rules when everyone else just wants to have fun. However, alcohol consumption often results in a person having fun at others' expense, and this is where the bartender's unappreciated mettle gets tested.

For example, before I finally accepted a full-time position bartending again (because I didn't think a Christian could be doing it) I allowed my restaurant to schedule me on Friday and Saturday nights “as long as bartender wasn't really my job title,” because the manager wanted someone with my experience back there on the busiest nights. During this time I helped train a new guy for several months, who'd never bartended before. Once a pretty woman around 25 years old came to us from the lobby and asked us for two beers. I politely asked her for two IDs. She sighed, and went back to the lobby to get... HER DAD'S ID for me! Now what kind of nerd is going to put a pretty lady through that? But really, I saw it as an opportunity to train the other guy. He immediately punched me in the shoulder and said “You stickler – I'd have never thought of asking that.” I said, “Kirk, that's how 21 year-old boys get high school girls drunk and pregnant. They walk into the bar, show their ID, and walk out with 2 beers. Then they get a table and the waiter thinks “...well surely the bar carded them already – I'm not going to piss them off by doing it again...” and the girl gets wasted.” Much to my delight, a month or so later when I wasn't bartending (and Kirk didn't even know I was there), I saw him likewise ask a “college boy” for 2 IDs, and couldn't help but smile, knowing I'd seen God's purposes accomplished in my placement. Kirk had followed my example, and time showed that he made this his practice – which was great, because Kirk was the full-time bartender by then. (So by the way I walked up and talked to him for awhile after that first example, and while I wasn't really hanging out to see, college boy never returned. I

actually thought then, “My work here is done...” But God had different plans, as it turned out.)

I said I wasn't going to argue “Christian Liberty” to make my points here, and now perhaps you see it's just the opposite. You actually have to become a legalist, in the strictest senses of the word, to uphold the law when people are flashing money at you to bend the rules for them. Guys will pay you BIG MONEY to serve their underage girlfriends, and it REALLY HELPS knowing that you are going to give an account to God for every minute of your life, when confronted with this decision! People assume you must be “cool” (or that you're some backslidden pagan or you wouldn't be a bartender... However, the true inside world of bartending is a plethora of opposites from what people usually assume – in fact, you have to be a real – well I can't say it here, but you have to be one much of the time in order to be a godly bartender! You have to be un-cool when everyone is telling you “Oh come on man, be cool.” But people will often still try to argue or tip you extra to serve a minor (especially female ones), and once again, it takes more moral resolve than I ever had as a non-Christian to remain unspotted in that area now. Got daughters? If so you can thank me later I guess, but ask yourself: Do you really want someone who is ruled by coolness (ie, the pride of life), and the love of money, making these decisions in your town? Or are you beginning to think that maybe you'd like to see a few more truly Christian bartenders watching over them, when they're out in places you can't be?

*I like to tease some of my Christian friends who are parents sometimes in fact... “Now Mr. and Mrs. Smith, we all know your kids are *angels* and certainly aren't going to be getting in any trouble riding around tonight, but let's think about this a minute... With your kids on the road as well, who do you want behind the bars in this city when Mr. Drunkenslobben is asking for another? Do you want someone who's main concern at work is how much money they're going to make tonight? Or do you perhaps want someone who has even a little Holy Spirit operating on the job? Who might actually hear from God about cutting someone off, even if they seem to be okay – as long as they're just sitting on a barstool anyway? After all, it's your kids out there riding around from 10pm – 2am... And it's your 17 and 19-year old daughters being asked out by the older boys with the IDs... Who do you want making the calls behind the bar the night she walks in? The local party animals, or the local youth pastors? Or when your angels are driving*

home after midnight from the picture show, and there's 200 people leaving the bars at the same time?

"It's your kids going out this weekend, and it's your call. So let's get real here, and put the rubber to the road. It's your kids' lives that are on the line. So you tell me – Can a Christian be a bartender...?"

You'd better hope so.

Even if you disagree, God has kids going out this weekend too, and I think that's at least part of why He has me where I am.

DID YOU KNOW KOSHER SALT IS REQUIRED TO MAKE A MARGARITA CORRECTLY...?

So to close "practicum" ... After theft, I'd say that serving minors is the #2 most frequent reason bartenders lose their jobs. So in the real world, it takes honesty and integrity (not stealing), and a penchant for obeying the law (not serving minors or accepting bribes) to make a good bartender. Add to that the subtle role of "watchman" for the community, and then tell me you honestly think that only non-Christians should be bartending – cos after all, that's what you're arguing if you say that Christians can't. I'm going to argue that bartending is actually a field tailor made for Christians to inhabit.

Okay, let's just never-mind the whole divine appointments thing, or the hypothetical opportunity to reach out to hurting people when they're down (opposed to the church's more typical "Go ye into all the non-smoking sections of the world, and preach the gospel..." attitude; see also Matthew 9:12 about "them that are whole..."). The real fact here is that a bartender who honors God in his profession creates a ripple-effect of maintaining moral and legal standards within his restaurant "oikos" that benefits the community tremendously, and ultimately saves lives. Just try to imagine what the drunk-driving rate, the teen pregnancy rate, and the STD rate might be, if every bartender in your town both feared and wanted to honor God in what he does.

Regardless of what you might think initially if confronted with the idea of a Christian bartending, in practice the potential to be the salt of the earth truly is there. Yes, the opportunity for much sin and backsliding is there also, but remember, God's all about risk – there were two trees in the garden! Many Christian advisors would rather remove

the potential to fall from people's lives, just to be safest. Often, this is the best counsel for certain people (especially "the weak"), but it's just not a cut-and-dried place to rest on doctrinally, either. It's not Kosher! God's way is always to test us in small situations, then if faithful, to put us in positions to glorify Him and benefit His people – so long as we've learned to rely on Him for the victory.

“David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.” 1 Samuel 17:37

In my own strength, I would certainly succumb to the pressures and temptations that my job is rife with. But for the called, God is delighted to put us in situations where we would fail, if not for His presence. God's pattern is to make us have to choose Him in tough situations, but most often, the church's pattern is to remove the tough situation – and I think many, many Christians live neutered, boring lives of little growth as a result. They don't see God move, because they won't allow themselves to need to see Him move. Rather, they live lives who's daily routine can be handled in their own strength, thank you very much, because the church almost always advises ALL Christians to make decisions as if they are still newborn babes – to take the paths of least resistance, and least risk. As a result, far too many Christians are some of the most worthless, un-salty people on the face of the earth. They remain forever stirred, but never shaken.

So yeh, like most of us at work, I have my good days and bad days... I've made some bonehead, un-Christlike moves, no doubt. But more often, I choose to serve God, when the opposite path would be so much easier. As a result, I know I'm a better vessel in the Master's hands as well, more fit for nobler purposes one day, because I'm in a position of being refined in the fire of the real world all the time. And in the big picture, I know my community is a better, safer place when I've done my job well, as surely as I know God is the author of the decision to have me there.

For the few rare people who actually allow me to entertain them this long with this line of reasoning, I like to conclude this portion by saying... “If the modern church really understood the actual role of a bartender in society, instead of shunning the idea of Christian bartenders, they'd pay us as missionaries and keep us in constant prayer. And instead of sending our best and brightest off to another town for seminary, we'd be sending them to a local bartending school!”

THEOLOGY

Oh come on, with that warm-up do you really want me to get theological on you?

Well let's make it quick then... The major points are always seem to revolve around

“The example you set,” “Causing someone to stumble” and/or

“If my brother is offended...”

Join my mailing list for the conclusion of this article

Right at the end of his theorem letter Guy says that the rest of the explanation could be obtained by joining his mailing list. Personally, I have never liked this approach. I've seen it many times on the internet and it is basically used to get your e-mail address upon which time it is given to others or sold to vendors and then you get endless spam. I didn't want to take the chance. In addition to that I had been on Malone's email list for a little while under a different email account and what I had received was nothing of interest and a waste of what was quickly becoming valuable time that didn't need to be wasted reading bupkis information. Lastly, I'm not crazy about people when they offer to give out information only to a few privileged individuals; I've always hated cliques and saw this as having to join a clique in order to get the rest of the information. Knowing too that these e-mails sometimes involved invites to “bring your own beer” parties at the Alien Resistance Headquarters caused me not to want to be on that list. I get grieved by things that grieve the Ruach Ha Kodesh.

So, if I was to miss out on the rest of the information, or miss out on the “secret” that was revealed by becoming one of the email partners I was just going to have to be satisfied that what I needed to know was revealed in the information that Guy Malone made available to the public; and that information says a lot about his character and the way that his mind processes information and/or doesn't take all things into account.

The reader should know that this author and Mr. Malone have broached this subject before by letter. I had written an article and the mention that he was a Christian Bartender did arise in the article and I did question the matter. In his usual form, instead of addressing the matter he turned the subject around and mentioned that he knew that I worked in pharmacy. He was quick to mention that the Greek word “pharmakeia” is a word that is actually used to describe witchcraft and the occult, but he forgot to include that the other meaning is the dispensing and preparing of legal medications for the purpose of bringing healing and comfort to the sick. Funny how those things just seem to escape him sometimes. I didn’t even answer that accusation because I knew that if he had ever walked into a pharmacy to buy any sort of medication; whether it was a bottle of aspirin or a preparation for toenail fungus it would make him a hypocrite so why point out the obvious, which anyone who read his letter to me would immediately see. Yes, he did send out his reply for the world to see.

In his theorem Malone does make some points that could be seen to be correct if you stretch things to a thin line. It could be possible for a believer in Yeshua to stand behind a bar and witness to the unsaved and those who are suffering from the ills of society. Having spent time in bars before I was saved, I know that a bartender can be a great person to talk to when things aren’t going so well and they do seem to be impartial and caring. It is also true that an employer could probably trust a believer in Yeshua better than an unbeliever where cash flow and inventory is concerned. There is however an equal amount of problems that outweigh by far the good points that Malone presented.

There are two kinds of drinkers; happy drinkers and mean drinkers:

Having been a drinker before my salvation and having spent time in bars I learned very quickly that there are two kinds of drinkers. The majority of people, when they drink alcohol turn into happy and jovial people who love everyone; everybody is their friend. There are those who after a little as one or two drinks can turn into ugly and wicked people. The majority of domestic violence calls that police answer were usually initiated by one or both of the people having ingested alcohol. Even if you were to ascertain that a drinker is a mean drunk after one or two drinks the bartender cannot predict whether or not that person will then go home and abuse their spouse, children or anyone else that they come into contact with. If you’re a Christian Bartender then you run the risk of serving someone who could seriously injure their loved one because the alcohol aroused their anger. Sure, they will go to another bar if you don’t serve them; but we’re talking about a believer in Mashiach here doing the right thing, not another bartender or bar.

Some People Have Bad Alcohol Reactions:

There are some segments of society where alcohol is not tolerated well. For instance, within the Asian population there is quite a large number of people who have what is akin to an allergy to alcohol. You never see very many Asians at AA meetings because most of them know that they could have a bad reaction; not to mention that liquor is not very popular in the Asian community anyway. Imagine that you're a bartender and several young Asians come into your bar. They've never had a drink before but they're out for a night on the town and two of them lack the enzyme that allows the body to process alcohol properly. If I was that bartender, I'd feel guilty the rest of my life. I guess it all comes down to conscience.

To alter the mind opens up gateways to the enemy:

Nobody can deny that even the smallest alcoholic beverage alters the mind somehow and the more you drink the more that the mind and perception is altered. From our studies in the alien abduction research we've done for quite a few years now we know that whenever the mind is altered by alcohol or illicit drug use it allows the entrance of demonic forces into someone's life. I think that if it were possible to be a Christian Bartender and you were called upon to cast out some demonic entities it would make you think twice about serving alcohol to anyone.

People sometimes fall off the wagon and you don't know that they have a drinking problem:

It's true that many bars and taverns have regulars; people who frequent the bar and because of their regularity they are predictable and you know if they have a drinking problem or not.

I attend a church where the majority of the brothers and sisters are recovering alcohol and/or drug abusers. For these folks to be around anything that could cause them to stumble will probably cause that stumble. Guy Malone worked in Roswell when he wrote his paper on being a Christian Bartender. I'm sure that he had his regular customers and that he knew them well. However, during the July Fourth weekend every year the population of Roswell doubles and there are a lot of new faces in town. Let's say that some of those visitors are recovering alcoholics and because Guy didn't know that they were recovering substance abusers. They wander into the bar during a weak moment and order a drink and fall off the wagon. All of the progress that has been made in their recovery is gone and if they ever recover again it could take

months or years to come back to where they were before. Guy could argue that it isn't his fault and that he didn't know; but if there wasn't a Christian Bartender working that night then there would be no problem on his account. The people would still have had that drink, but it would not be a (supposed) righteous man serving them the drink that ruins their lives and causes them to stumble and relapse.

It is common knowledge that the customer becomes the ward of the bartender and is responsible for just about anything that happens as a result of ANY problem that arises due to alcohol consumption:

Mr. Malone talked about how he took care to make sure that the law was observed and that is an honorable thing; but any bartender who makes tending bar his profession will do the same thing if he or she wants to follow that trade to retirement and/or keep out of trouble. I've known many unbelievers who tended bar and when it comes to their work, they are some of the most honorable people I've ever met. They never stole from the till nor did they water down drinks and some were pretty good counselors when it came to human affairs. To say that being labeled a Christian Bartender would make one more honest, reliable and forthright is really stretching things a bit. I've worked in both construction and in the medical field and I've worked with Christians (or those who claim to be Christians; only Yahweh knows for sure) who were some of the worse witnesses for the cause of Mashiach that I've ever had the displeasure to know.

To say that someone who is hiring a bartender would choose the Christian over the other people is stretching the truth a bit also. I don't discount that it could happen; but most of the bosses that I've ever known, had they owned a bar would have laughed if I would have presented myself as a Christian Bartender. They would see the two words in conflict with each other; a bit of an oxymoron like claiming that one is a Christian Prostitute, a Christian Pimp or a Christian Drug Pusher. In fact, if they did hire me in such a position as a Christian Bartender, they would probably put me through rigorous tests because the two words don't mesh and they would think that I was up to some sort of scam or something. Also, seeing that they would have to keep an eye on me would probably cause them to hire someone else whom they didn't see as a dichotomy. And, let's be a little more real here. If I was the owner of a bar or tavern and I was not a believer would I really hire someone whom I would think would drive away people by preaching about God? If you own a bar or tavern you want people to come in who have had a bad day and have nothing else to turn to; who have no comfort and no peace and want to find

that peace in liquid form. If they all found salvation in Yeshua then they would not come back and you'd constantly be losing clientele.

Let me tell you a short story. My late wife was from Mexico. She became a Born-Again believer in Yeshua in a nation where leaving Catholicism is frowned upon. She explained to me one of the reasons why Christians are persecuted in the little villages in Mexico. Each village down in that nation has a holy day where they honor the patron saint of the village. There is a lot of drinking and the makers of the liquor make a lot of money which in turn they give a large amount to the local church. However, when evangelism is successful in those little villages people no longer want to drink; they see it as being wrong. So, then the maker of the booze is losing money and cannot prosper and then the church starts to lose money. This starts the persecution of the true believers in Yeshua. Point being here that saved people curtail greatly their consumption of alcohol or stop drinking altogether and it severely hinders the makers of booze and those who make money serving it. Now I'm not going to make any claim that Mr. Malone evangelized while tending bar, but he's a smart man and he'd have to know that if evangelism was successful it would eventually drive customers away. Also, if he was successful then he would be violating the "good employee" clause that he talked about in his theorem because causing a lack in business is in effect not exactly taking out of the till, but causing it not to fill up and it would make him a liability to his employer, not an asset. In essence, if he was evangelizing from behind the bar, he would be putting himself out of work eventually; but he never mentions in his defense of being a Christian Bartender that this was his intention.

Mr. Malone touched lightly on what could happen if a minor drank and then a pregnancy resulted from the sexual arousal that alcohol brings out in people. The fact that Malone carded people like he did is a cause for praise because he seemed to take underage drinking very seriously and I'm sure that there are girls in Roswell that should be thankful that he kept a careful eye on identification documents. What he seemed to avoid for the most part is that the bartender is responsible for just about anything that happens to his customer while in the bar and even after they leave. There is always a story in the news about a fatal crash that involved someone that had been drinking. And, while Malone says that he knew how and when to cut people off; there are people that are very good at not looking inebriated on the outside but are sloppy drunk on the inside. I know because I used to be one of those people. Imagine how if a Christian could be a bartender; how he or she would feel if they had to live with the fact that their customer left that night and killed a carload of kids returning from a football game or something of the like. I guess that it all depends on if one has a conscience or not.

Many people are on medication for medical problems and those medications can be either have a blocked action or accentuated action by ingesting alcohol.

Ask any pharmacist about the effects of Alcohol consumption while taking medications that treat health problems. It interacts with just about every drug in a negative way. It will either hinder the effect of the drug or it will potentiate it, depending on the medication that is being prescribed to the patient. Let's take the guy who is a diabetic. The human body metabolizes alcohol into sugar which is the arch enemy of the diabetic patient. If a diabetic consumes even one drink it can spike their sugar levels and left unchecked the patient can go into a diabetic coma and possibly die. Factor into the equation that when a person drinks their judgment is impaired so that could cause the drinker to ignore his blood sugar test or forget to take his medication. If they are lucid enough to know that their condition is bad, they might try to compensate with extra diabetes medication and cause a blood sugar reversal, causing hypoglycemia which has a whole new set of problems. They might inject themselves with too much insulin; and if done over a period of months or years they can become insulin tolerant causing their body to reject the insulin.

Alcohol works in strange ways in people who are taking psychiatric medications. It makes depressed people more depressed and it increases the effects of just about every medication used in psychiatry. Alcohol interrupts or potentiates drugs used for cardiac patients; those who have arrhythmias those with high or low blood pressure. If you gave me a list of one hundred medications, I could guarantee you that alcohol use is contraindicated in ninety-eight of them.

Mr. Malone could argue that it would not be his fault because he could not possibly know about medical conditions or medications but that is just the point; the ignorance of such a thing by a supposed Christian Bartender would put someone's life in danger. I seriously doubt that Yahweh would put someone in such a position where could endanger someone's life. You can't witness to people when they are dead, and if they died without being saved and the death was ultimately caused by the alcohol that the Christian Bartender served them; well we'll let Yahweh sort that one out, shall we.

Many extramarital liaisons are performed in bars and the ingestion of alcohol makes "sinning" easier.

When I was a young man in New Jersey the drinking age was 18 years old. I got saved at twenty years of age. When I would get off of work my friends and I would head out to the bar and we would go there for two reasons; to get a buzz and to pick up girls. We didn't go to the bar to pick up our future wives either; we went there to find the "easy" girls. The bar was a place where you scored or you went home scoreless. The thing is however that in order to make things easy you'd buy a couple of drinks for your perspective lady friend after which the games would begin, so to speak.

The question then is asked, if you're a Christian Bartender and you see a young couple sitting in a dark corner of the bar and they're ordering drinks so that they will lose their inhibition to be able to sin without feeling guilt what does that make you? Well, what does that make the bartender? The word "pimp" comes to my mind right at the moment. You're getting paid to charge a guy money to give him something that will make it easy for him to take the girl home or to a motel so that he can be sexually satisfied. What now, are there going to be Christian Pimps?

Witnessing effectively to someone under the influence of alcohol is usually not effective.

When we were sinners and before our conversion to faith in Yeshua we drank or smoked dope because we were trying to escape reality. We just had a very bad day at work and we wanted to forget about it. We had a fight with the girlfriend and we wanted to forget about it. Life had a little bit of a rough edge about it that particular day and we wanted to take the rough edges off of that day. The last thing that we wanted to do was to learn that aside from having a bad day; we were sinners and on our way to hell. To us our lives that day were hell and sin and hell were the last subjects that we wanted to hear. I know that it was that way for me. I would shut off anyone that tried to preach to me and if I had enough liquor, I might even try to silence them with a jab or two of my fist to their teeth.

To make things even worse, the compounds that we were drinking or smoking were clouding our judgment and if someone explained about Yeshua or salvation or grace it just got lost in the haze that the buzz was giving to us. Hardly ever did I wake up in the morning and remember being preached to. If you want to preach to someone about sin and hell; the wages of sin, eternal separation from Yahweh and salvation then the day after is the best day to do that; and the bartender usually isn't there during that time. When you're suffering from a hangover, your head is pounding and every breath makes you want to vomit that is the lesson that can teach someone that there is a better way to having peace than letting the bartender help you to make

life better. The bartender makes the problems go away for a while, but they come back in the morning; only Yeshua can make all things right.

Conclusion:

In conclusion I have to say, sorry, I just don't buy it. To say that sending men and women to bartending school would be more effective than sending them to Bible College is stupid and lacks any sort of mature deductive reasoning. Mr. Malone can choose to call me prudish if he wishes and if he thinks that I am wrong for believing that we have to draw the line somewhere as to what is permissible and what is wrong. He is free to use all of the worldly wisdom that he wishes; that is his right; but where did worldly wisdom ever get anyone.

Over the past several years I've run into folks who use all sort of this wisdom to do what they please. Tattoos is one area where this has become rampant. A group of young people in church were getting new tattoos almost on a weekly basis and their claim was that it was to witness to people with tattoos. When I asked one particular girl how many people, she led to Mashiach because of her tattoos she answered, "well, I'm planting seeds." Well, planting seeds is fine but the important part of planting seed is what sort of soil you're planting in. Yeshua told a parable about that; and only the seed that fell into good soil grew and prospered.

As we spiral toward the end of the age the "I'm going to become something to witness to a specific group," phenomenon has started to escalate. An article in the paper a few years ago talked about a woman who wanted to become a pole dancer so that she could minister to pole dancers. Another woman wanted to become a hooker so that she could minister to hookers. A relative of a Church brother once told him that the reason why she commits crimes is so that she can be sent to jail to minister to the prisoners there. I guess she never heard of prison ministries. In the future are we going to hear about men and women becoming child molesters so that they can witness to that element of society? Will some become Hindu's, Buddhists or Satanists so that those elements can be witnessed to? Hey, why not become a serial killer so that you can witness to serial killers! The thing is Yahweh has made it so that He brings people OUT of those elements so that the people in those elements can see the change, notice the difference and want to come out of it themselves. This is an effective witness; not turning things bass-ackwards.

So this practice of becoming sin so that a person can minister to sin is a bunch of rubbish. The Vatican has practiced it for years and all it has done is it has caused any Gospel that the Roman Church possessed to be watered down by paganism. If we allow those who want to

become the sin so that they can minister to the sinner than there is no witness there. You then have darkness trying to shed light on darkness and that is impossible.

Therefore, the premise of The Christian Bartender would seem to be just another attempt by someone who constantly tries to push the envelope of grace to its highest limits, even higher. No, not going to buy this one and no true follower of Yeshua should buy into it either. Of course, anyone is welcome to try but I can guarantee three things: Yahweh will not be in it; Yahweh will not prosper it and it will end up dragging you down with it. It is a fruitless deed of unrighteousness and those things ALWAYS fail and they NEVER bring Glory to Elohim, nor His Son, nor the Ruach Ha Kodesh.

David