

Was the wine people drank in biblical times the same as people drink today?  
If it was, then why is it considered by some wrong to drink?

Scholars do not agree on how much, if any, alcoholic content there was in the wine used in the times of the Bible. Some think it was completely unfermented grape juice; others that it was fermented.

If there is this difference of opinion then is it all right for a Christian to drink today?

Listen to the answer in Rom 14:21: Now there is no question that people stumble and are made weak by alcohol. No one becomes an alcoholic by drinking water. Every alcoholic began by drinking some form of alcohol. So the verse says it is a good thing if believers do not drink.

But not everyone that drinks becomes an alcoholic?

That's true, but let me remind you of several things. Alcohol ~~does~~ can harm the body. Alcohol harms society. Half of our traffic fatalities are due to drivers that have been drinking. And someone's supposed liberty to drink may well hinder the progress of another Christian. That other person may not be able to drink in moderation and may end up an alcoholic. Three out of every 10 who drink become alcoholics, and those aren't too good odds. One other thing, I notice that Christian leaders apparently did not drink in N.T. times, for Paul had to urge Timothy to take a little wine for medicinal purposes 1 Tim 5:23. This obviously means that up to that time he drank only water, <sup>and</sup> for the verse says so. So the NT is clear--if you want to be a leader in your example and influence on other people, don't drink at all.

Why did God allow sin in the first place?

That's a very difficult question to answer. In fact I think it is impossible to answer it completely. The Bible really does not let us in on why in the plans of God He chose to allow sin to be a part of those plans.

Does the Bible give us any help on the subject?

For one thing we know that God's ways are perfect. This doesn't mean that God approves of sin, but it means that He/was for reasons He thinks best He permitted sin to happen. For another thing we know that God is all powerful and that He was in no way obliged to allow sin to enter the world. But again for reasons best known to Him He did. But there's also another consideration.

What's that?

In Eph 2:7 Paul writes... Now there would be no eternal display of the grace of God if man did not need to be redeemed and cleansed from his sin. But because God did permit man to have the choice to sin, and because man did and does sin, and because God also provided a way to make sinners righteous through believing in His Son, JC, then God can display through all the ages to come the riches of His grace. Sin is a fact of life and the experience of every human being born into this world. Don't spend too much time speculating on why God may have allowed this, but spend your time telling people how they can be cleansed and freed from sin through JC.