

Sermon Bible Study Questions: Spiritual Friendships + Lust vs. Chastity

Sept 14'25 Sermon by Brendan Dick

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

Optional Icebreaker Question: Is there a historical place from the Bible you would like to (or have) visit? Why would you choose that location? Or what was special about it? What 5 people would you want to go there with?

Spiritual Friendships Bible Study:

Brendan preached on the vice of lust and the virtue of chastity. One of the things Brendan mentioned in his sermon is that humanity is created for relationship! Therefore, building strong relationships and/or friendships is a key way in our lives to help us live in line with God's will for us to reflect his love and character.

How would you describe a spiritual friendship? How does it differ from a regular friendship? Or does it?

Read these passages together:

- **John 15:12-15** – Jesus calls His disciples friends.
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** – Two are better than one.
- **Proverbs 27:17** – Iron sharpens iron.
- **Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25**
- **What stands out to you from reading these passages?**

- **David and Jonathan's friendship: If your group is familiar with the story, get the group to share it before reading. 1 Samuel 18:1-4 and 1 Samuel 20:16-17**
- **What stands out to you in their friendship? What are the qualities of their friendship? (Selflessness, loyalty, covenant love)**
- **What does this teach us about godly friendships? What can we learn about putting a friend's needs before our own.**

Teaching/Discussion Points

What is Spiritual Friendship?

- More than just “hanging out” with Christians.
- A relationship centred on Christ where both help each other grow.

Why it Matters:

- Encouragement in faith (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Accountability and support in temptation or suffering.
- A taste of God’s love in human form.

What are some Key Qualities of Spiritual Friends?

- Christ-centered conversations.
- Vulnerability and honesty.
- Prayer for one another.
- Mutual encouragement and challenge.

Application:

- **How can you be a Jonathan to someone this next week?**
- **Identify one friend they could intentionally invest in spiritually.**
- **Plan one practical step this week (invite them to coffee, pray for them, share Scripture, etc.).**

Lust vs. Chastity Sermon Questions:

****Remind the group: this is a sensitive topic. “I want to acknowledge that this topic is uncomfortable for some, that there is shame and pain and confusion for many. And also that no one in human history, other than Jesus has got this area fully right, meaning that we all have some form of sin and baggage in this area, but the beauty of the Christian story—the reason why we are here—is that Jesus came to redeem us from all sin and hurt, including sexual sin and hurt; there is grace and forgiveness and transformation available in the name of Jesus.”***

Read Together: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- **What word or phrase stood out to you as we read this passage?**

Urged to Holiness:

Paul “urges” believers to live in a way that pleases God. Why do you think urging one another to holiness is rare in the Western church?

Lust vs. Love:

The sermon contrasted love and lust. In your own words, how would you describe the difference?

Chastity as Virtue:

Chastity isn't just about abstaining; it's about loving rightly. What might "loving rightly" look like in your stage of life (single, dating, married)?

Practical Steps:

What practices (spiritual or practical) help you keep your desires under Christ's lordship? Which one could you try or strengthen this week?

Application:

- Memorize and meditate on one of these passages: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. 2 Timothy 2:22. 2 Corinthians 7:1. Job 31:1
- Encourage participants to identify one practical way to "redeem and redirect" their desires this week (e.g., prayer, accountability, fasting, service).
- Remind them: Forgiveness and transformation are available through Jesus.

Closing Prayer:

- Pray for courage, purity, and joy in God's design for sexuality.
- Invite participants to pray silently for any area of shame or struggle, then thank God for His grace and ask for His Spirit's help.