

ASKING FOR A FRIEND PART 1

Finding Truth When Everyone Has an Opinion

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:24 NIV

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure ... Hebrews 13:4 NIV

What Does Living Together Outside of Marriage Do?

- **It increases sexual temptation.**
- **It weakens your witness.**
- **It offers partial benefits of marriage without the total commitment of marriage.**

“... at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’ ...” Matthew 19:4-5 NIV

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.¹⁹ ... You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NIV

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:11 NIV

Following Jesus means allowing Him to define what’s good and holy, even when it’s different from what we want.

... “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24 NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

What Forgiveness Is Not

- **It's not saying what they did was okay.**
- **It's not pretending what they did didn't hurt.**
- **It's not removing healthy boundaries.**
- **It's not the same as reconciliation.**

Forgiveness is a decision, but trust may take time to rebuild.

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. 2 Timothy 4:14-15 NIV

- **Forgiveness determines what you carry in your heart.**
- **Boundaries determine what you allow in your life.**

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read 1 Corinthians 6:11 and Ephesians 4:32. How do these verses influence the way you understand God's grace when you ask honest questions?

Talk about a time when God's truth changed your mind about something. How did you rely on trusted relationships to help you find wisdom?

What question do you have for God right now? How will you bring in trusted voices as you explore God's Word for an answer?

Start the Bible Plan *How Can I Trust the Bible?* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/bible

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept 16th – 6:30 pm: Dinner and Discussion

Sept 17th – 11 am: Men's Bible Study

Sept 20th – 10 am: Asking for a Friend Part 2

October: Pastor Appreciation Month