



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Sep 17, 2023
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Title: No Holding Back

Text: *“that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Target: Our forgiveness in Christ purchased freedom from our sin, not permission to continue to sin or live in such a way to cause others to be tempted to sin.

Discussion Opener: Encourage everyone in your group to take 1 minute each and share one thing they are celebrating and one thing they are praying for. Rejoice with those who rejoice! (Rom. 12:15) And bear one another’s burdens together (Gal. 6:2).

- I. **Syncretism Defined:** The combination of different forms of religious beliefs or practices.
 - A. **Cultural Ex.** Tex-Mex **Religious Ex.** Chrislam **Biblical Ex.** Satan’s “truth”
 - B. *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears...will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”* (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
 - C. *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

Question #1: *What aspects of syncretism do you think contribute to its worldly appeal and popularity? And as Christians, how can we maintain our spiritual grounding amidst the world's multitude of conflicting religious ideas?*

Question #2: *In what ways might Christians encounter temptations to incorporate non-Biblical religious practices or beliefs into their lives? Can you think of any specific examples or personal experiences that illustrate this challenge?*

II. Cohabitation Defined: Cohabitation is when two adult partners, usually in a sexual relationship, live together but aren't married.

A. Cultural consideration: 65% of American adults agree that cohabitation is a good idea. Among the reasons why: to test compatibility (84%), it's convenient/practical (9%), cheap rent (5%), and other (2%). (Barna study group, 2016)

B. Missional consideration: *"Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."*
(1 Peter 2:12 NLT)

C. Scriptural consideration: *"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."* (Hebrews 13:4 ESV)

Question #3: *How would you describe the potential spiritual and moral consequences of cohabitation outside of marriage? What guidance and support can we provide for couples wanting the assumed benefits of cohabitation (testing compatibility, convenience, cheap rent, etc.) while encouraging them to embrace God's intended design for their relationship? What alternative approaches can we endorse to help couples build strong and Godly relationships?*

III. Cannabis and the Christian - Marijuana affects us:

A. Physically: *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

B. Mentally: *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8)

C. Spiritually: *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."* (Galatians 5:16)

Question #4: *Try to see things from the perspective of the other person. What are the factors that might lead individuals to engage in recreational marijuana use, and how can we assist and encourage them towards finding fulfillment in Christ, creation, or community to meet their needs?*

Optional Question: *How can Christians balance the idea of using marijuana for medicinal purposes with the principle of maintaining a sober and clear mind, as encouraged in Scripture?*

- IV. Spirit Filled or Filled w/ Spirits:** *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 5:18)
- A. Proof of Exaltation:** *“and wine to gladden the heart of a man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man’s heart.”* (Psalm 104:15)
 - B. Provided at a Celebration:** *“Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.”* (John 2:8)
 - C. Permissible unto Moderation:** *“drink your wine with a merry heart.”* (Eccl. 9:7)
 - D. Point of Consideration:** *“It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.”* (Romans 14:21)
 - E. Prohibited unto Intoxication:** *“Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”* (Proverbs 20:1)

Takeaway: Does the Bible allow it? Does my Conscience allow it?

Question #5: *In what ways can Christian community help individuals remain accountable for their actions and choices in alignment with God’s will and word? How can you effectively communicate your concern and care for someone struggling without coming across as judgmental or critical?*

Right Now Media Additional Resources:

Building Church Community - Dr. Henry Cloud

Dr. Henry Cloud covers tools and principles needed for groups to thrive as a healthy community, including balancing grace, truth, and challenging conversations.