

FUSION Q's... Becoming an Apprentice 2: Lust of the Heart

Discussion Questions

Q1. Jesus makes some very bold statements in his sermon; in fact, he says it would better to pluck out your eye than to have your eye cause you to miss out on the Kingdom of God. Why do you think Jesus thinks that looking lustfully at the opposite sex is so destructive?

Q2. Pastor Chris mentioned that there are 2 ways to fulfill our God-given desires: God's way or our own way. Why do you think so many people choose to go their own way even though it leads to more pain and emptiness?

Q3. In the clip, Gollum desires the ring so much it has almost completely destroyed him. This is how God sees us when we lust after emotional intimacy with another person. How can we make sure that our desire to be in relationship is not controlled by lust?

Read Galatians 5:19-26

Q4. How can the writer of Galatians (Apostle Paul) say that the acts of the sinful nature are obvious? If these acts are so obvious, why do so many people choose them anyway?

Q5. What is the consequence for people who choose to live their own way (sinful nature) rather than God's way? What does this mean?

Q6. God's desire for us is to develop the "fruit of the Spirit" in our lives. Why do you think this is important for the follower of Jesus to do? What is the alternative?

Q7. Why do you think it's important for followers of Christ to be "self-controlled and alert"? What does it mean to be self-controlled?

Digging Deeper – A Reflection on Emotional Lust

When people talk about lust, they usually associate it with physical lust, but the lust for companionship and emotional intimacy can be just as devastating and destructive. One of the greatest fears for guys and girls alike is that they will be alone and that nobody will want them (this is especially true for girls). It is amazing what a person will give up (including his/her beliefs and faith) for a romantic relationship with another person. Lusting for emotional intimacy with someone has been the cause of more young people giving up their virginity, their faith and their own self-respect than any other sin. In almost every case, a girl or guy who chooses to date someone who does not share his/her spiritual convictions and beliefs will end up compromising their beliefs to stay in the relationship. In fact, it is only the exception where this does not happen (thus the excuse "but I know so-and-so did and their boyfriend became a Christian").

Q8. Why do you think that so many people are willing to compromise their faith for a relationship with another person?

Q9. What do you think about the lust for emotional intimacy? Have you ever thought about it before? Has it ever played a part in your life?

Q10. What is your plan to not fall into the trap of lusting for emotional intimacy?

Bible Passages for Fusion Discussion

Galatians 5:19-26 (NIV)

¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.