

Spiritual Conversation

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Introduction: Our Fellowship in Christ Should Result in Spiritual Conversations.

A. Christians of the first century were devoted to fellowship, a close relationship or partnership, sharing what they had in common in Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:42**).

B. Spiritual conversation should be the result of Christians in fellowship with one another, yet sometimes in some cases this is not the result at all!

1. If examined, would God find **spiritual** content in our conversations?

2. Is God pleased with what He hears?

C. Spiritual conversations can lead to many spiritual blessings such as the spiritual growth and strengthening of the church and the encouragement to brethren to be faithful.

D. Conversations that are not spiritual, but carnal can be a curse! The church does not grow spiritually as it should, worldliness prevails, and over time brethren lose heart and even some become unfaithful.

I. Spiritual Conversations Among Christians is *not* About...

A. Worldly wisdom (**Col. 2:8**).

1. What advice do we give each other? Where does our instruction come from?

2. Christians should purpose to impart *God's* wisdom to one another (**Col 1:28**).

B. Worldly possessions (**Mat. 6:19-21**).

1. What we talk about the most often indicates what we love the most!

2. **1 Tim 6:8** "*And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.*"

We do not demonstrate contentment by constantly talking about getting "more."

3. God takes care of our needs; we should not be anxious about them (**Mat 6:33**)

C. Worldly activities (**Rom. 12:2**).

1. If we talk about the *very same* things that the world does without emphasis on spiritual matters in our conversations with one another, *what then sets us apart?*

2. Now some activities of the world may not be sinful in and of themselves; Yet, they **can** be! (**1 Cor 6:12**) (e.g., TV, movies, Internet, gaming, hobbies, etc.).

3. When Christians spend more time talking about worldly things (e.g., sports) than spiritual matters, you've got to wonder: What is truly their religion!?!

D. Gossip (**1 Tim. 5:13**)

1. Do we spend our time with one another talking about other people's confidential business?

2. Gossip often involves falsehood, half-truths, and groundless rumors

3. **T.H.I.N.K.** **T** - is it True? **H** - is it Helpful? **I** - is it Inspiring? **N** - is it Necessary? **K** - is it Kind? *–We should not speak it, if it does not pass these tests!*

E. Corrupt speech (i.e., swearing, cursing, profanity, vulgarity, "near-swearing") (**Eph. 4:29; 5:4; Col. 3:8**)

1. The speech of Christians should be set apart from the way the world speaks.

a. Avoid "near swearing" / euphemisms (e.g., darn, heck, shoot, etc.)

2. Corrupt speech includes taking God's name in vain (**1 Tim. 6:1/ Ex. 20:7**).

a. Avoid euphemisms (e.g., gosh, lordy, gee, dog gone it, etc.).

3. We must think not only of ourselves, but what is good for others (**Eph. 4:29b**).

F. Doctrines of men (**2 Tim. 2:16-18**).

1. Some brethren who are weak may be easily swayed by the doctrines of men.

2. Conversations among Christians should not be centered on latest religious fads, but on what God declares in His book giving book, chapter, and verse!

G. Complaining

1. Our circumstances in life do not force us to complain (**Phil. 4:11-13**).
2. Complaining is grumbling about things that are *not* wrong (**1 Cor. 10:10**).
3. Complaining involves things that we are doing nothing to correct, failing to take the needed action ourselves (**Heb. 6:11-12**).
4. Complaining involves harsh judgment of others, unwilling to forgive (**Jas 5:9**).
5. Brethren who complain do not build others up, they drag them down!

II. Spiritual Conversations Among Christians is About...

A. Encouraging one another (**Heb. 3:12-13**)

1. Everyone needs encouragement to keep them strong against sin, so that they don't lose heart and give up serving God.
2. Encouragement is given by speaking supportive words, instilling courage in others, praising or commending others for the good they do and giving thanks.
3. We all have our own struggles in life. Yet, no matter how difficult the trials, we can gain needed strength and be renewed by encouraging one another.

B. Edifying (building up) one another with God's word (**Acts 20:32**).

1. Instead of competition or jealousy, we aim to build each other up in the faith!
2. Christians talk about God's word with one another because the gospel has the power to build us up and make us "grow"! (**Eph. 4:15-16**).

C. Admonishing one another (**Rom. 15:14; cf. 1 Thes. 5:14**).

1. Admonish means to warn, caution, or reprove gently another about the dangers of sin; this is a *duty* that we have to one another!
2. Sometimes we are fortunate to have just one good friend in Christ who will warn us that we slipping or backsliding in our service to God.

D. Correcting, reproving, rebuking (**Jas 5:19-20; cf. Tit 1:13; 2:15; 2 Tim. 4:2**)

1. Too often we wait for the "perfect moment" or we allow our fear of offending hold us back from saying anything.
2. Yet, spiritual conversation will include *caring enough* of the salvation of one another's soul to speak up!

E. Confession (**James 5:16**).

1. It is a sham to pretend you are something you are not, to continually tell your brethren that all is fine and well spiritually, yet in truth you really need their help.
2. If we can't be "real" with one another, **who** can we open up to?
3. Unlike people of the world, brethren should be able to confide in one another and share our struggles with sin (**Gal. 6:1-2**).

F. Love (**1 Pet. 1:22; cf. John 15:12-13**)

1. A fervent love is an intense and earnest love that is demonstrated, in part, by what we *say* to one another.

Examples: (1) I pray for you **Phil. 1:3-7** (2) How can I help? **Gal. 5:13** (3) Words of compassion for the troubles of others, words of joy for their victories **1 Cor. 12:26** (4) Telling them how important and valuable they are to the body **1 Cor 12:12-26** (5) Express concern for their spiritual well-being **2 Cor. 2:4**

G. Forgiveness (**Eph. 4:32**)

1. Spiritual conversations must include forgiveness: Have you forgiven him / her? – *Then tell them! They need to hear it.*
2. How does a brother know you have forgiven him unless you tell him? (**Luke 17:3-4**)

Conclusion: May We Always Strive as God's Children to Have Spiritual Conversations with One Another.