THE CREEK
COLLEGE MINISTRY

WHERE DO WE GO FOR ANSWERS?

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

Following Jesus means trusting what God says about how we live.

SPEAKER
Pastor Drew

ASK ME ANYTHING

WEEK 01 / PASTOR DREW / SERMON NOTES

Introduction

Everybody gets their answers somewhere.

When you have a question about a relationship, who do you call? When you want to know whether something is okay, where do you look? Maybe you ask a friend. Maybe you search online. Maybe you grew up hearing, “This is what our family does,” and you have never really questioned it.

We all have voices shaping us. And when it comes to sex, alcohol, drugs, dating, and relationships, those voices can tell us very different things.

“If you love each other, what is the problem?” “Everybody drinks.” “As long as nobody gets hurt.” “You have to figure out what works for you.”

Over this series, we are going to bring those questions into the room. You can ask an honest question here. You do not have to clean it up to make it sound like something you are supposed to ask at church.

But before we talk about where the line is, we need to settle where we go for answers. Because if my feelings have the final say, the answer can change every time my feelings change. If my friends have the final say, my convictions can change with my friend group.

Here is the question underneath this entire series: When what I want and what God says disagree, whose voice will I follow?

Paul writes this letter to Timothy, a younger ministry leader facing opposition and false teaching. Just before our passage, Paul describes people deceiving others and being deceived themselves. Then he tells Timothy to continue in what he has learned. Paul points him back to the Scriptures.

ASK ME ANYTHING

WEEK 01 / PASTOR DREW / SERMON NOTES

1. GOD'S WORD LEADS US TO JESUS

2 Timothy 3:14–15

Paul reminds Timothy of the Scriptures he has known since childhood. Those Scriptures make him wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The Scriptures Timothy grew up with were the Old Testament, and Paul says they point him toward salvation in Jesus.

That matters for how we begin this conversation. We are going to talk about behavior, but we need to understand the gospel first. You cannot make yourself right with God by getting your dating life together or going a semester without getting drunk. We need forgiveness. We need Jesus.

Jesus died for our sins and rose again. We receive salvation through faith in him. And when we trust him as Savior, we begin learning to follow him as Lord.

Some of you know what Christians are supposed to say about sex and alcohol. You know how to answer a question in a Bible study. But have you personally trusted Jesus? Have you brought your actual life to him?

Others hear these topics and immediately think about something you regret. I want you to hear this at the beginning: you can bring that to Jesus. His grace reaches into the things you are afraid to talk about. First Corinthians 6:9–11 names serious sins and then reminds believers that they have been washed, sanctified, and justified through Christ and by the Spirit of God.

Forgiveness is available. A new direction is possible. As we talk about obedience, we are talking about responding to the Savior who gives us life.

APPLICATION: Have I personally trusted Jesus, or have I mostly learned how to act around Christians?

2. GOD'S WORD RESHAPES OUR THINKING

2 Timothy 3:16

Paul says all Scripture is God-breathed. Its authority comes from God. That means we approach the Bible ready to listen, including when it challenges an answer we already like.

Paul describes Scripture as useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. It teaches us what is true. It exposes sin. It corrects our direction. And it trains us to develop habits that honor God.

Sometimes we open the Bible hoping to find permission for a decision we have already made. We need to ask, "God, what are you saying, and am I willing to follow it?"

As we work through these topics, we need to recognize clear biblical commands, apply biblical wisdom, and understand matters of conscience. Those require careful reading. Let me give you two examples.

Sex and relationships

Genesis 2:24 presents the marriage union of a man and a woman, and Jesus affirms that design in Matthew 19:4–6. First Corinthians 6:18–20 tells believers to flee sexual immorality and honor God with their bodies. Hebrews 13:4 calls us to honor marriage and keep the marriage bed undefiled.

Our conviction is that sexual intimacy belongs within marriage between a man and a woman. Sex outside marriage crosses that boundary, even when you love each other, have been dating for years, or plan to get married.

That gives us a foundation for the question, "How far can we go?" The Bible does not give us a chart covering every possible physical interaction. It does call us to sexual holiness. So we should ask whether our choices are stirring up sexual desire we intend to pursue outside marriage, pressuring another person, or making obedience harder.

Love takes the other person's faithfulness to Jesus seriously. If a relationship keeps asking you to compromise your convictions, that needs an honest conversation and a change in boundaries.

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol requires a different explanation. Ephesians 5:18 clearly condemns drunkenness. Scripture does not universally prohibit drinking alcohol, so we should be careful not to call every drink sinful. We should be equally careful not to treat drunkenness as a small thing.

First Corinthians 6:12 gives us a helpful principle: we must not be mastered by anything. In its context, Paul is confronting a misuse of freedom as he addresses sexual immorality. That concern about being controlled also helps us examine habits involving alcohol or drugs. Romans 14 teaches us to consider conscience and how our choices affect others.

We need to ask honest questions. Am I seeking intoxication? Is this gaining control over me? Am I hiding it? Am I violating the law? Am I pressuring someone else to participate or drawing them into something that violates their conscience?

Getting high for recreation and misusing drugs to become intoxicated conflict with the biblical call to sobriety and self-control. Taking medication as properly prescribed is a different matter. We need to speak carefully about that distinction.

Choosing not to drink is a faithful choice. You do not have to prove your freedom by drinking. And if a substance is controlling you, please bring someone into that struggle who can help.

The question we need to carry into every week is this: Am I willing to let God change my mind?

APPLICATION: Where am I looking for permission instead of honestly seeking God’s direction?

3. GOD'S WORD CHANGES HOW WE LIVE

2 Timothy 3:17

Paul says Scripture equips the person of God for every good work. In Timothy's case, that includes his ministry. It also shows us the practical purpose of Scripture in the life of a believer. God prepares us to live faithfully.

We can have an interesting conversation about dating and walk right back into a relationship where we keep compromising. We can agree that drunkenness is wrong and make the same plans for this weekend. At some point, what we are learning needs to become a decision.

Maybe you need to sit down with the person you are dating and establish boundaries you will actually keep. Maybe you need to change where you spend time together or what happens late at night. Maybe you need to tell a trusted leader about a habit you have been hiding and ask for help.

As we apply this passage, we also need one another. Taking a step of obedience can involve asking someone to walk with you, check on you, and help you follow through. If substance use has become a dependency, getting help may include qualified professional care.

And if someone has pressured you, coerced you, or abused you, the wrong done to you is not your sin to confess. You deserve care and support. Please talk with someone you trust.

Some questions will take time to work through. But there may already be something God has made clear to you. What would it look like to act on that this week?

APPLICATION: What has God already made clear that I need to act on?

Response

As we begin this series, bring your real questions. We will open the Bible together, read it carefully, and be honest about what it says. When a question involves wisdom or conscience, we will say so. When Scripture gives a clear command, we need to receive it.

But tonight, start with your own response. What question do you need to bring honestly? What voice has been shaping your decisions? What step do you already know you need to take?

Maybe your first step is trusting Jesus. You can come to him today with your sin and receive his forgiveness. Maybe you belong to Jesus, but you have been holding part of your life back. Bring that to him too.

Following Jesus means trusting what God says about how we live. Will we trust him with our relationships, our bodies, our habits, and the decisions we make when nobody else is watching?