



This newsletter contains some content which you may not feel comfortable with your children reading.

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faye.jaffee@uscm.org
767 Blackstone Blvd
Providence, RI 02906
(401)441-3456
CCC# 0538198

Faye Jaffee :: Serving with Campus Crusade for Christ at Brown University

My dear friends,

When I originally figured out what I wanted to write to you about this month, I really second-guessed myself, because in many Christian circles, **sex** just isn't discussed with any regularity. Bringing it up seems a sure way to invite judgment and make you uncomfortable. But then I thought, "Well, that's exactly the reason I want to write to you about it! College women I'm ministering to are confused about sex because they don't know whom to talk with about it!"

Possibly more than anything else this semester, I have been talking with students about sex. It could probably be dated back to when Dr. Ruth spoke on campus. Shortly thereafter, the "FemSex" course at Brown advertised in the cafeteria with pictures of female genitalia, and the annual SexPowerGod dance party began to come onto the campus radar.

It hasn't just been in campus-wide discussion, though—sex has been coming up a lot in my personal ministry. As it should, I think. Sex permeates the college atmosphere, and if Christians aren't discussing sex with others, we're the *only* ones not doing it.

It is my prayer that you'll find these stories and thoughts to be encouraging, thought-provoking, possibly, and God-honoring.

Love,

Faye's Sex Talk Tips:

1. **Be vulnerable.** You set the bar for how honest they'll be by how vulnerable you are.
2. **Be specific.** Talking in generalities leaves people confused, unsatisfied, and often feeling like they can't really be honest.
3. **Be anticipating.** Assume that the person you're talking to has in the past or in the present dealt with sexual sin.
4. **Be heart-centered.** God wants to deal with their heart, first and foremost. Their sexual action or inaction is just an outward manifestation of what's going on inside.
5. **Be gracious.** They *need* to come away from the conversation with you feeling accepted, challenged and loved.
6. **Be positive.** God created sex to be a really good, beautiful thing to be celebrated! In a loving marriage it is a great gift. Let the desire for great sex in marriage set the tone for your conversation.

Let's Talk About It!

At Brown (and Brown is not unique in this), I'm finding that Christian *women*, in particular, are not discussing sexual desire, sexual sin, or hope for sex in marriage with *anyone*! At our fall retreat in October, the four women on our staff team (two married, two single) shared very honestly and explicitly about our histories with sexual sin issues and our longing for (or experience of) great sex in marriage.

The 20 or so college women in the room were *shocked*. It turns out that none of them are discussing (or have discussed in the past) sex with their parents, and only one of them said that she talked about it with any frequency with friends. **This is terrible!** How will these women ever escape from sexual sin, hold out for God's best or even dream of God's intent for sex in marriage if they can't talk about it?!

I've had two especially great conversations with women about masturbation this last month, and how God so longs for them to be free from sin in this area. I am very hopeful that their talking with me and sharing with a couple other very close friends is an incredible first step toward freedom for these women. James 5:16!



Sex and Intimacy

- Talking openly about sex has also opened some really neat doors for me in relationships with women who aren't Christians. A new friend of mine (who works at Brown with Jewish students) and I were talking about the Jewish view of sexual intimacy, and how God designed sex to be a self-giving expression of love, and a uniting of souls.
- She made the comment to me, in a time of very little intimacy in her life (relational intimacy in general, not sexual in particular) that it was "weeks like this one when [she felt] that the world was beyond saving". How profound! Isn't that exactly where we encounter the need for a Savior? Jesus the Messiah died to rescue a world full of broken relationships, void of intimacy, and to give us hope for true intimacy with God and other people.