

"Bad Company Ruins Good Morals."

I Cor. 15:30-34

I. Peer Pressure Defined:

—the psychological force exerted by another or others of equal standing, which often influences one into acting in a manner that is inconsistent with their normal behavior.

—“is when friends persuade you to do something you really do not want to do, but you let them talk you into it...”

—You allow others to lead you to do things that you know are wrong, but in doing so, gain their association and acceptance.

—No one is immune from the temptation presented by peers.

•Lesson: Looking to the word of God for strength to overcome the pressure of our peers – examples, motives, keys to overcoming.

II. Peer Pressure Illustrated:

•Israel...

—rejected God's rule, and asked for a king. (I Sam. 8:5)

•Saul...

—failing to obey God's command to destroy Amalek. (I Sam. 15:9,22-23,24,25)

—the desire to be liked and praised by the people led Saul to try to kill David. (I Sam. 18:5-7,11)

•King Herod...

—beheaded John in part because of peer pressure. (Matt. 14:9)

•Jewish leaders...

—attempted to intimidate the “common” people with intellectual peer pressure. (John 7:45-49)

•Peter..

—denied Jesus three times because of peer pressure. (Lk. 22:54-62)

—mistreated the Gentiles because of those who came from James. (Gal. 2:12)

•Pontus Pilate...

—delivered Jesus to be crucified because of the pressure of the crowd. (Mk. 15:8,15)

III. Peer Pressure— When Are We Vulnerable?

•When desire to be accepted regardless of what we must do to fit in. To do, have, and be what others are. To conform. To be liked. (Rom. 12:1-2; Ii Cor. 5:9)

•When we fear being rejected by our friends, etc., being looked on as different, laughed at, mocked, or ostracized. (Matt. 10:28)

•When we are insecure about our own lives, choices, the path we pursue, and so we simply follow the leader, go with the flow. (Phil. 4:13)

IV. Peer Pressure – Keys To Resisting...

•**Decide ahead of time what you are going to do...what your answer is going to be.**

—Dan. 1:8 → Daniel determined...

—Ps. 119:11 → In my heart, I store up your words, so I might not sin against you.

—Ps. 119:9 → How can a young person maintain a pure life? By guarding it according to your instructions. (NET)

—Matt. 4 → It is written.

—Build up your faith, and be willing to talk to others. (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 6:10ff)

•**Stand for what is right, even if it means that you are standing alone.**

—Micaiah → I Kings 22:13-14

—Vashti → Esther 1:10-11

—Daniel → Daniel 1:8; 6:10

—Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego → Daniel 3:17-18

—Paul → II Tim. 4:16-17

• **Consider the consequences of the choices you make** (Prov. 13:15; Rom. 6:23)

—Alcohol, Drugs, Fornication, Lying, Immodest Dress, Bad language, etc

—Sin harms the body, mind, conscience, influence, ones self-respect, and most importantly relationship with God.

—You are not the exception. (Gal. 6:7-8)

• **Choose your friends wisely:**

—I Cor. 15:33 → “Be not deceived, evil companions corrupt good morals.” (I Cor. 6:18)

—Prov. 13:20 → “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

—Prov. 1:10-16...

•10 **My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.**

•11 **If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause;**

•12 **Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:**

•13 **We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:**

•14 **Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:**

•15 **My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:**

•16 **For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.**