

Everybody's Doing It – Surviving Peer Pressure

Surviving as a Teen, Part 2

Open

- Peer pressure. Everybody's felt it, but few are able to survive its pull. Everybody wants to fit in and be part of the "cool" crowd, but there's a way to resist the call of peer pressure.
- Why do you think peer pressure can be such a strong force in your life?
- Peer pressure provides a strong pull away from godliness, but you can survive it!

Numbers 13:26-30

And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, and said, "We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it".

When the spies went into Canaan to investigate the Promised Land that God was leading them into, they saw a fierce enemy guarding a beautiful land. They gave a terrifying report of an enemy too strong for Israel to win against. Caleb alone stood up in defiance of the rest of the spies and declared, "We should go up!"

When peer pressure strikes, pulling you away from what God has told you, you've got to be ready like Caleb.

BE SMART

1. Get the Bible

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. – Psalm 119:9

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.."

- When we talk about resisting peer pressure, what we're talking about is keeping your way pure.
- What does this verse say is the answer to stay pure? To live according to God's word.
- The first thing you need to resist peer pressure is to know what God expects, so you can live that way.
- Paul tells us that the Bible is useful to learn how to live right (2 Timothy 3:16).

2. Get Wisdom

KJV- To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

“Wisdom will deliver you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech” – Proverbs 2:12

- Wisdom will protect you from following people into sin.
- The wiser you are, the harder it will be to fall into the trap of peer pressure.
- Does “wicked men” mean just the really bad people, or everyone who doesn’t serve God?
- Read *Proverbs 2:10-17* for more.

3. Get Away

KJV- Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

“Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” – 1 Corinthians 15:33

- If you hang out with people who don’t live for God, you will become like them.
- To resist peer pressure, be smart – Don’t put yourself in bad situations.
- A lot of problems happen because of our own wrong choices. To make things easier, just be smart.
- *Proverbs 4:4-17* tells us to not even “set foot on the path” of people who live immorally. This doesn’t mean you should not minister to them, but be smart in how you do it.

BE SURROUNDED

1. ...By Godly Friends

KJV- Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” – Hebrews 10:25

- Peer pressure can work either to suck you away from God or toward God.
- How can peer pressure work in a positive way at times?
- To win against peer pressure, be surrounded by godly friends who encourage you to seek God and do things his way.
- Even Jesus and the disciples surrounded themselves with godly people (*Matthew 9:10* and *Luke 10:1*), Paul took along godly men (*Acts 13:2* and *15:40*), King David hung around Jonathan (*1 Samuel 18:1*), and Elisha went with Elijah (*2 Kings 2:2*)
- Jesus wants us to reach out to people who don’t love Him, but do it with friends who will keep you accountable.
- *Psalms 142:7* says, “The righteous will gather about me.”

2. ...By God

KJV - For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield

“For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.” – Psalm 5:12

- God promises that He will surround you like a shield.
- What sorts of things would God protect you from, as your shield? For one, He’d protect you from following a crowd into sin.
- *Psalm 139:5* says that God will hem you in and keep you from wandering.

BE AWARE

1. Know the Times

KJV- And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do

“...Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..” – 1 Chronicles 12:32

- A group of people in ancient Israel, the men of Issachar are described as men who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”
- God wants us to understand the times. This means being aware of the dangers that are facing you.
- What are some of the dangers facing teenagers in our world today?
- Jesus told His disciples to be innocent but also as wise as snakes (*Matthew 10:16*).
- The more you’re aware of the times, the more you’ll be able to resist peer pressure.

2. Know the Enemy

KJV- Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices

“...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” – 2 Corinthians 2:11

- Paul said that he was not unaware of the devil’s schemes.
- God doesn’t want you to be scared of the devil, but He does want you to be aware of what he’s doing.
- In *1 Peter 5:8*, Peter said, “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour,” so we need to be alert and aware.
- It will be easier to survive against peer pressure if you keep your eyes open and pay attention to how the devil might try to draw you away from God.

BE DIFFERENT

1. Not of the World

“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” – John 17:16

- Jesus said that His disciples were not of the world, just as He wasn't.
- When you decide to follow Jesus, you have to resign yourself to the fact that you'll have to be different.
- What does it mean that we aren't “of the world?”
- Peter called us *“aliens and strangers in the world”* in *1 Peter 2:11*.
- *Hebrews 11:13* called Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, and other righteous men and women *“aliens and strangers.”*
- When you give in to the idea that you aren't of the world, that you're different, you'll be able to resist peer pressure a lot easier.

BE PLANTED

1. Just Say No

“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.” – Proverbs 1:10

- The task of resisting peer pressure is not nearly as hard as you may think – Just decide to not give in. You can do it!
- In *2 Timothy 1:7*, Paul told Timothy that God gave us a spirit of power, not of timidity.
- In *1 Chronicles 11:12-14*, Eleazar, son of Dodai, defeated a whole army that came against him, just because he planted his feet and refused to move.
- Decide right now that when peer pressure tries to draw you into sin, you will resist.

Close

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” – Proverbs 4:18

- The path for you is bright and easy to find, as long as you do things God's way.
- You can stand up against peer pressure and survive the temptation to be like everyone else. The path is easy to find!
- As long as you stay on the “path of the righteous” you should be able to survive peer pressure.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. – 2 Timothy 1:7

*“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and **self-control**”*