

COMBATING PEER PRESSURE

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"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." II Cor. 6:17.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom. 12:2.

Our public school system is today a force to destroy our nation, its rules, and much that made America so great. Liberal teacher and studies all tend to brain wash decent kids against God, decent morals, prayer and patriotism. Every remotely religious truth is being blacklisted and decent morals questioned. I notice however, that even we adults face older peer pressure, and go along with much of what is popular. A woman's apparel is not based on what is right and pleasing to God but what is cool, revealing, and mannish. Many men are likewise pushed to go along with others at work and in society in general. All such giving in to whatever things are popular, without thought to what will result, is great loss to those who have not learned to be different and above the actions of lost friends around us. I love the record of Daniel, who repeatedly took the right stand when pressure around him sought to crush him. God orders the Christian not to give in but to stand fast for the right. Today I want you to face some facts about the danger of giving in to peer pressure. Here are some great things to remember. **(1) The Majority Is Not Always Right:** *"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil."* Exodus 23:2a. The most popular is not always the best. The force of today's

pressure so often results in evil and wrong doing. Be careful you don't follow the crowd who urges you with loud voices. The decisions of right are not advanced by a disobedient crowd, but the few faithful to the will of God. A good rule is "Don't follow the crowd." God will lift your life far above false precepts if you listen to His voice and follow His instructions. **(2). Expect To Be Tested:** *"Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad with exceeding joy."* I Peter 4:12&13. If you have been recently saved, the devil's crowd will tease your decision and seek to get you back. We adults live in a world that increasingly is turning from God and the right. The fact that they tug upon you is sweet proof that you are doing right. Expect testing and rise above it. You and God are a majority. **(3). Stand Under Pressure:** *"Finally my brethren, be strong, in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* Eph. 6:10&11. A great example of this was Daniel, who refused to bow to the golden image, as he stood before the fiery furnace. Our lives are full of threatening dangers and pressures to conform to the world. We are not to fear but stand in the faith, ready for the battle, but knowing with God we will win. Don't be a whiner, a quitter, and run from problems and trials. God will see you through. **(4). Stand Alone If Necessary:** *"But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."* Daniel 3:18: Daniel stood before the furnace of fire and took a stand trusting God for the outcome. God honored him and his friends, and the fire hurt them not. Sometimes you will be faced with a difficult decision. God wants you to trust Him as you stand for the right, with Godly

determination. Again, I say you and God are a majority. Whatever the test do your best. **(5). Obey The Word:** *"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of lambs."* I Sam. 15:22. Obedience is the key to walking with God. To disobey Him is serious *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."* I Sam. 15:23a. The entire Bible in thousands of accounts teaches the value of obedience. Without it you will never experience the best God has for you. Always measure your actions and decisions by the Word of God. He will lead you in every test to the right decision in every area of your daily life. The divine will of God will always be revealed in the Word He has given us. He will never contradict His revealed will for you. Search the scriptures for every guidance you need, and the answer to every question. You are in God's hands as you follow His written records in the Word of God. **(6). Prepare Your Weapons:** *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Heb. 4:12. Many times the Bible likens God's power to a sword or shield. Whatever we face in this sin cursed world takes planning to face and bring to a right conclusion. His weapons are great and the enemy is doomed as we trust our commander. Pursue whatever will make you stronger to face the test. For instance, a man who wants to keep a pure mind will have to prepare his daily fortifications to withstand the evil temptations around him. A young man will have to command his hands and lips to be on guard against immorality. Prepare honest thoughts and discipline yourself not to look at evil TV programs, and turn your ears away from evil music. Start the day by pledging your body

parts for Godly victory in the battles of the day. **(7). Power Up With Prayer:** *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* Phil. 4:6. Don't let problems drop you into the valley of despair, but beseech the power of God to meet your need. Prayer time is like physical exercise to your body. The more time you spend with God, the more you can tank up with His power. In His presence you will sense His leading to the best answer to every challenge. Take time to ask His guidance as you pray and pause and think things through. It is like sitting down for a chat with God and asking His advice. He will be pleased and will show you the answer that you are seeking. Trust Him to lead you in that which is best. **(8). Trust God To Deliver:** *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Phil. 4:13. It matters not what the test you face, for God is able to deliver you. As Daniel said, *"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king."* Dan. 3:17. Such confidence and faith will always bring reward from God. He has always been pleased when His followers followed and obeyed Him. All the problems we encounter in life would never fit into this sermon. In 83 years I have never been let down by God when I walked in obedience to His Word. He has always been there in every incident when I needed help. Both for leading and strength to do right. He has always met our needs and continues to do so in our final years on earth. I know He will always do the same for you, for He will not break His promises. There will always be temptations and traps around us while we live in this life. Through it all, He promises to stick closer than a brother. So let the world push. Our God is stronger than all peer pressure. God the creator of all things knows just how to lead us through every trial and decision. . Praise God!