

# "The Dangers of Peer Pressure"

**INTRODUCTION:** The youth of our generation faces incredible peer pressure and dangers every day in the world.

## Every day:

- 1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers
- 1,106 teenage girls get abortions
- 4,219 teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases
- 500 adolescents begin using drugs
- 1,000 adolescents begin drinking alcohol
- 135,000 kids bring guns or other weapons to school
- 3,610 teens are assaulted; 80 are raped
- 2,200 teens drop out of high school
- 6 teens commit suicide

(Taken from "Right from Wrong"  
by Josh McDowell page 18)

Every generation has had its own pressures but the current faces perhaps the toughest and most dangerous of challenges.

## Peer Pressure Nowadays

1. Pressure to drink/try alcohol
2. Pressure to experiment with drugs
3. Pressure for Pre-marital sex
4. Pressure to disobey parents
5. Pressure to disobey God

## **1 Alcohol**

These sobering statistics show how alcohol affects the world of a child. Alcohol is the #1 drug of choice among our Nation's youth.

- Research indicates that adolescents who abuse alcohol may remember 10% less of what they have learned than those who don't drink.
- In a 2003 National Survey on Drug Use & Health, persons reporting first use of alcohol before age 15 were more than 5 times as likely to report past year alcohol dependence or abuse than persons who first used alcohol at age 21 or older (16% vs. 3%).

- Almost 20% of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 42% of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders have been drunk at least once. More than 11% of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 22% of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 29% of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders report binge drinking (five drinks in a row in the last two weeks)

## Dangers of Alcohol

- Nearly 75% of all Americans drink at least occasionally
- 13 million people in America have alcohol problems
- 7 million people in this country are in some form of alcoholism
- 50% of fatal car crashes involve drunkenness
- 64% of murders are associated with alcohol
- 1 out of every 10 "social drinkers" become alcoholic
- Alcohol is the # 2 killer behind heart disease, even more than cancer
- 500,000 Americans die each year from alcoholism

What does the Bible say about Alcohol?

## Proverbs 20:1

The things we're talking about today (Alcohol, Drugs, Sex) are all things that Satan tries to tempt you into in order to defile your body. Your body is not really your own, it belongs to God

## 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

(Beer, Drugs, Sex, wouldn't do them in or at church, don't do them outside of it)

## **2 DRUGS**

Campus Drugs: A recent Columbia National Center survey finds that 28% of middle-school-students reported drugs are used, kept or sold at their schools, up 47% since '02. 62% of high-schoolers say drugs are at their schools. (PWB 8/19/05)

**Sad Scene** - A recent survey of teens in U.S. drug treatment centers found that 20% of teens have shared drugs with their parents and that in about 5% of cases, parents introduced their kids to drugs. (CT 10/13)

- Loving Drugs more than God is a form of Idolatry.
- Other than Alcohol, Marijuana is the most common and easily accessible drugs.
- Marijuana is a "gateway drug"-opens up road to other hardcore drugs.

- Drug addiction will lead you into breaking all of the 10 Commandments. (Steal, Lie, Murder, Covet, Dishonor Parents)

Drugs are an incredible temptation.

### **James 1:14,15**

Temptation for escape, power(steroids) (ILLUS-Chris Benoit Story)

### **1 Corinthians 10:13**

God can rescue the most unlikely of people and call on us at the most unlikely times to help him out.

## **3 SEX**

### **Teen Sex**

Roughly 20% of young teens (ages 13-16) are sexually active; not counting those who don't think oral sex is really sex. 12% have had oral sex. Only 15% of parents say their young teen is sexually active beyond kissing while nearly 30% of teens admit going there. About 85% of parents think they talk to their kids about sex and relationships, but only 41% of kids agree. (Beverly LaHaye Institute 1/28/05)

### **STATS**

- 1 in 4 teenagers have an STD
- A teenage female who is sexually active and doesn't practice safe sex has a 90% chance of getting pregnant within 1 year.

### **Matthew 5:27, 28**

Sex outside of marriage is Adultery.

ILLUS-Attitudes of Sex

Teens are facing an intimacy crisis that could haunt them in future relationships. Casual teen attitudes toward sex — particularly oral sex — reflect their confusion about what is normal behavior. “When teens fool around before they're ready or have a very casual attitude toward sex, they proceed toward adulthood with a lack of understanding about intimacy. What it means to be intimate is not clearly spelled out for young people by their parents and people they trust,” writes Sabrina Weill in her book *The Real Truth About Teens & Sex*. (USA Today 10/18/05)

### **1 Peter 1:14                      1 Thess. 4:4-5**

- **Teen boys**-pressured by friends and sometimes Fathers.

- **Teen girls**-Pressured by boyfriends.

### **SEXUALITY TEENS AND SEX / RESEARCH REVIEW**

Pauley, J. (1995). Sex, teens, and public schools. NBC.

- One million U.S. teenagers become pregnant each year.
- U.S. has highest rates for teenage pregnancies, abortions, and child bearing in the industrialized world.
- In 1970, 70% of U.S. teenage births were to married teenagers.
- By 1990, 70% of U.S. teenage births were to unmarried teenagers.
- The U.S. spends \$34 billion a year in welfare payments to families headed by teenage mothers.
- As mentioned in the documentary, “Nobody, not politicians, not pastors, nor parents know what to do about it.”

### **The following statistics are staggering:**

- Eighty-three percent of all babies born to teens are born to poor, low-income girls.
- One third of teen mothers gives birth to a second baby within two years.
- Two thirds of all teenage girls who become pregnant have been sexually or physically abused.
- Seven out of ten teens become sexually active while in high school.
- Four out of ten girls will become pregnant while teenagers.
- Two out of ten girls will become teenage mothers.
- Eight out of ten teen mothers drop out of school and eight out of ten of their children will grow up in poverty.

### **How are we to combat this?**

By living by the Spirit of God and not following desires or pressures for sex.

### **Galatians 5:16-17**

Boys/Girls-Your bodies are precious gifts that are meant to only be given to your Husband or Wife.

### **1 Corinthians 6:18**

Best way to combat against things we've discussed so far-FAMILY

- In a study of 14,700 teens, University of North Carolina sociologist Kathleen Harris discovered that girls with involved fathers are more likely to delay sex and less likely to use drugs or alcohol. (Children's Ministry 11-12/98)

## 4 DISOBEY PARENTS

Perhaps the most common pressure to succumb to. God recognizes the importance of children obeying their parents.

### Exodus 20:12

This was the first commandment that had a promise attached to it. "Live Long"

### Ephesians 6:1-3

### Leviticus 19:3 and Colossians 3:20

God recognizes that the family is the first and foremost influence on a child.

As kids, your view of parents changes with age.

### "Children and Their Changing Attitude Towards Their Parents."

- Age 4: "My parents can do anything"
- Age 8: "There might be one or two things they don't know."
- Age 12: "Naturally, my parents don't understand."
- Age 14: "I never realized how hopelessly old fashioned they are."
- Age 21: "You would expect them to feel that way; they are out of date."
- Age 25: "They come up with a good idea now and then."
- Age 30: "I wonder what Mom and Dad think I should do?"
- Age 40: "Let's be patient until we discuss it with our parents."
- Age 50: "What would Mom and Dad have thought about it?"
- Age 60: "I wish I could talk it over with them one more time"

### Do you want your parents to be proud of you?

### Proverbs 23:22,24,25

The parent who suffers the most with disobedient children is the Mom

### Proverbs 10:1

It is a parents job to discipline you when you mess up. They are doing it out of love.

"If they love me why are they so hard on me?"

### Proverbs 3:11,12      Proverbs 1:7

## 5 DISOBEY GOD

"Don't listen to your parents." "Don't Go to Church, there is no God."

"Let's go get drunk/stoned." "You're not a man unless you've had sex."

### Some of the things you might hear from ungodly friends.

Friends will pressure you to disobey God because they are not believers themselves.

They don't know God themselves, therefore they will never give you Godly advice.

### Proverbs 14:7

One of the keys to understanding our relationship to God is in understanding that God wants us to obey Him not for His sake, but for ours. God loves us so much that He wants us to avoid the pitfalls and disappointments of this life. He knows that when we take on the attitude of Christ, we will be happy and satisfied. Our obedience to Him is to our great benefit in our lives today and forever.

It takes effort to be obedient to God. It doesn't "just happen".

### Respected Bible scholar D. A. Carson said this:

*"People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord."*

### Amos 5:14

The actions of a person disobedient to God demonstrate a will that is not surrendered to God.

- That great saint and missionary pioneer, **Hudson Taylor** said, *"The real secret of an unsatisfied life lies too often in an un-surrendered will."*  
*Halfhearted obedience satisfies neither us, nor God.*

It takes a person who is willing to let go of their arrogance to surrender their will and realize that God is in charge.

**Roger Staubach** who led the Dallas Cowboys to the World Championship in '71 admitted that his position as a quarterback who didn't call his own signals was a source of trial for him. Coach Landry sent in every play. He told Roger when to pass, when to run and only in emergency situations could he change the play (and he had

better be right!). Even though Roger considered coach Landry to have a “genius mind” when it came to football strategy, pride said that he should be able to run his own team.

Roger later said, “I faced up to the issue of obedience. Once I learned to obey there was harmony, fulfillment, and victory.”

All of the things we’ve talked about (Alcohol, Drugs, Sex, Disobedience) are Satan's ways to draw you away from God and bring hardships upon your family. But you may be asking “Why should I bother? What’s in it for me?”

God has made us a promise.

**Isaiah 1:19,20**

I urge you today to choose the path of righteousness that leads to God and Heaven. Don't be a friend of the world. You cannot love the world and God at the same time.

**James 4:4**

While in the world some unbelievers constantly play “Simon says”. Well the world is Simon and many are doing exactly what the world says. The world says have same sex relationships, so they do! The world says get drunk and do drugs and they do! The world says rebel against your parents, and yes you know they do! But once God sets you apart from the world there is a new game that should be learned called “Jesus says.” It’s sad, but many Christians are still playing “Simon says” instead of doing what Jesus says. At the end of time many will find themselves lifting their eyes from hell standing right next to Simon.

So how are we able to resist following the peer pressures of the world?

**Conclusion: Romans 12:1-2**

**Facts About Teens & Peer Pressure**

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1. Most common in Adolescents
2. Peer pressure comes in all stages of life
3. Peer pressure can be negative or positive
4. Can Influence choice of appearance
5. Can change growth
6. Main reason leading to bad things (sex, drugs, alcohol, etc.)
7. 30% of teens are offered drugs while in high school
8. 74.3% of HS students have tried alcohol
9. 3.1 million teens smoke in the United States

10. Half of teens are pressured into sex
11. Can lead to lack of self esteem
12. Can become an addiction
13. Marijuana use has raised 275% between 1992 and 1997
14. 9.5% of high school students have tried cocaine
15. the average starting age for drinking among teens nowadays is 13 years old
16. 32.2% of teens have drank before 13
17. 30.2% of students are offered drugs
18. 3.1 million teens smoke tobacco
19. There are 4 million reports of STD's by teens every year.
20. 23 Percent of teenage girls are pressured into having sex
21. 25 percent of teen girls are pressured into drugs and alcohol
22. 41 percent of teen girls are pressured to be mean to others
23. 44 percent of girls are pressured to lie, steal or cheat
24. 67 percent of teen girls pressured into dressing a certain way
25. Approximately 9 percent of 14-year-olds, 18 percent of 15- to 17-year-olds, and 22 percent of 18- to 19-year-olds experience a pregnancy each year
  - \* 20% of them have tried a cigarette
  - \* 66% have tried alcohol
  - \* 25% reported having been involved in a binge drinking episode
26. More than one-third of teens have had sexual intercourse
27. Peer pressure feels lousy to the teen who is pressured