

Peer Pressure - Good & Bad

Introduction: In more than thirty-five years as a pastor, I've done my share of counseling. Occasionally, I have to deal with a family situation in which a teenager has rebelled against the spiritual training which the parents have tried to give. Yet, in spite of a parent's best efforts and fervent prayers, the young man or woman decides to take a different path. One of the first questions I ask mom and dad is: "Do you have any idea what brought this on?" The answer is almost always the same in every case: "It all started when he (or she) began hanging out with *the wrong crowd.*" he real issue is not just the wrong crowd as much as it is the "peer pressure" that the crowd exerts on a person. It can undo in one weekend what a parent's has tried to build and protect over fourteen or fifteen years.

1. As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. (Pr. 27:17)
2. Peer pressure can be both a hindrance and a help.
3. Bible is clear about the consequences of both types.
4. Bad peer pressure = temptation, good peer pressure = encouragement.

I. Examples of Bad

- A. Gen. 3 - Eve tempted by serpent, Adam tempted by Eve - **Fall of Man**
- B. 2 Chr. 10:8 - Rehoboam listens to friends' advice - **Divided Kingdom.**
- C. Gal. 2:11-13 - Peter withdraws from Gentiles, other Jews follow him - **Segregation.**
- D. John 12:42 - Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him,: - **Fear**

II. Examples of Good

- A. Gen. 39 - Joseph denies Potiphar's wife - (goes to prison) **Exalted in Egypt.**
- B. NT epistles - Paul encourages and exhorts many congregations - **Growth.**
- C. Matt. 4 - Jesus tempted - Devil gives up, James 4:7 **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

Conclusion

1. We cannot conform to the world, what our friends want us to be, James 4:4
2. Bible is our standard for living, not the world view.
3. Proverb 13:20, He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companions of fools will be destroyed.
4. We have to have faith and rely on God to lead us in the right direction. Heb 11:24,25
5. Are we looking for acceptance from our peers, or the eternal reward from God's acceptance?