

Under Pressure - cont.

substance with riotous living” (Luke 15:11 -12).

- Saul of Tarsus (later known as Paul) – he gave into the pressure of consent; going along with others who were doing wrong (Acts 7:58 - 8:1). Young people need to learn to say “No!” and mean it, when others tell them to do what is wrong (Proverbs 1:10ff; Romans 1:32).

“But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul” (Acts 7:57-58).

Don't Be Pressured!

No, it is not a foregone conclusion that all young people have to give into peer pressure and do what is wrong. A young person can, and must, overcome the devil. The Apostle John wrote that young people can overcome the evil one - the devil (1 John 2:13-14).

So, how can a young person resist

Under Pressure - cont.

the pressure to do wrong? Put God first always. Young person, remember your Creator in the days of your youth and you will find the strength each day to resist the pressure to do wrong (Psalm 144:12,15; Ecclesiastes 12:1). Young man, young woman, you can do it!

- Chris Reeves -

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Youth Under Pressure

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity”

- 1 Timothy 4:12 -

But flee youthful lusts, and follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”

- 2 Timothy 2:22 -

Young people are often pressured to do that which is sinful ... why? Sometimes it is a lack of knowledge or experience and sometimes it is a lack of confidence or trust. It could also be that young people are pressured to do sinful things because they have not been raised by their parents to resist.

The Devil uses the same pressures in all generations to get young people to sin. Let's examine some young people in the Bible, the pressures they faced, and let's see how we can resist these same pressures today.

Youth Under Pressure

- Rehoboam – he gave into the pressure of listening to the worldly advice of his young friends (1 Kings

12:6-11). Young people need to learn to make friends with faithful people and those who walk by God's word (Psalm 101:6-7; 119:63).

“But he forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men that were grown up with him, that stood before him” (1 Kings 12:8)

- Amnon – he gave into the pressure of sex that was suggested by his friend (2 Samuel 13:3-14). Young people need to learn to run away from sexual sins and wait until they are in a God-ordained marriage (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:18).

“But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtle man” (2 Samuel 13:3)

- The Unnamed Rebel – these young people gave into the pressure of revolt and to go against all that is good (Proverbs 30:11-14). Young people need to learn to respect their parents, be self-less, be humble, and be non-violent toward others (2 Timothy 3:2; 1 Peter 5:5).

There is a generation that curse their father,

and bless not their mother” (Proverbs 30:11)

- Rich Young Ruler – he gave into the pressure of money and was not willing to give any of it up for Jesus (Matthew 19:22). Young people need to learn that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

“But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions” (Matthew 19:19:22)

- Prodigal Son – he gave into the pressure of freedom (Luke 15:11-13). Young people need to learn that when you grow up and leave home, you should never use your new-found freedom to wrong, but to do right (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16).

“And he said, A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of thy substance that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country; and there he wasted his