

Teen Topics Living in the World (Part 3)

Certain things in our world are given a lot of promotion and attention, especially toward teenagers, which can tempt us to compromise our morals. Let's take a look at these issues.

Feeling the Pressure

Sometimes the idea of "growing up" or "truly fitting in" is linked with certain activities. Drinking alcohol, having sex, and using drugs often seem to be included. Drinking is sometimes viewed as the key to a good party. Sex outside of marriage has become normal. Drug use may be used as an escape from the problems of life or a way to show that you are "cool." The idea that "it's the thing to do" or "everyone seems to be doing it" can influence us to give into the flesh in an attempt to gain acceptance or even popularity. However, consider Moses' attitude when faced with such decisions:

> What was Moses' attitude toward temptation (Heb. 11:25-27)? He chose God over the temporal pleasures of sin.

Seeing Temptation for What It Is

When faced with these big pressures, the reality of choosing who we are living for really hits home! When our focus is on God, we see these temptations for what they are. We see the reality of what drinking, casual sex and drugs create: broken families, ruined careers and destroyed lives. God is not against us enjoying life, but sin always leads to death and destruction, and there is nothing enjoyable about that!

> Note where true satisfaction comes from (Mark 8:34-37):
Denying ourselves and being serious about following Christ.

Following the Lord keeps us from the guilt and dangers of sin. Also, especially in these areas, it allows us to show the world what a life truly blessed by the Lord looks like!

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