

77. NINE ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOUNG PEOPLE

Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:1-33.

Aim: To give Biblical answers to problems experienced by young people.

Introduction: Youth is a time when our values and future faith are being set. Some of peoples biggest mistakes are made in their youth that can badly affect the rest of their life.

Question: What issues are of most concern to young people?

- Answer:**
1. Whether you are accepted by the peer group.
 2. Trusting God with your future in full surrender to Jesus Christ.
 3. What career to choose?
 4. What church to choose?
 5. How to get on well with parents?
 6. Choosing a boyfriend or girlfriend or spouse?
 7. How to handle money wisely.
 8. How to court Biblically, and reject sex before marriage?
 9. How to cure boredom?

What does God's Word say about each of these questions?

1. PEER GROUP ACCEPTANCE.

Let these issues be your guidelines.

- a) Reject and avoid an ungodly peer group. Psalm 1:1-6.
It is much better to have no friends than to have bad friends who will lead you astray. If you want Godly friends, pray to God and find them at Church. Friends need not be exactly your own age. We should relate well to people of all ages. If you have no or few friends your own age, make friends of older, mature Christians who will be able to teach you wisdom beyond your years. Remember, Jesus Christ is the best friend who sticks closer than a brother. Try to win people to Christ, teach them the Bible in a personal Bible study and you will have more friends than you can handle.
- b) If you are naturally shy, then read the chapter on friendship.
He that hath friends must show himself friendly. Proverbs 18:24.
Be friendly and interested in others and they will be friendly and interested in you.
- c) Remember that when you leave school, you may rarely ever see most of your classmates and peer group again. They go their way, and you go your way on leaving school. So why be so concerned with earning their approval when they will probably never see you again, nor care enough about you to contact you later. Whether the peer group accepts you or not, is not important.
We ought to obey God, rather than men. Acts 5:29.
They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:43.
Many cowardly Pharisees who believed on Jesus were too scared to confess Jesus openly for fear of being rejected by their fellow Pharisees. Don't you be a coward. When the bad peer group want you to sin by smoking, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, going to the bad movies, going to an unbiblical church, committing immorality or looking at bad magazines, just have nothing to do with them. Go find some better, Christian friends.
Aim to be popular with God, as it is He that we will all have to give account of our lives to. Romans 14:12.
Key: If the bad group want you to do bad things **with** them today, they will do bad things **TO YOU** later on. If they are bad to God or others, they will be bad to you later.

2. TRUSTING GOD WITH YOUR FUTURE.

Many times when we are challenged to obey God, we think that we can't obey God because we may lose something. For example:

- I can't come to church, because I have too much study.
- I can't pray or read my Bible, because I'm too busy.
- I can't say "no" to the bad crowd, because they may reject me.

Key: Whenever we can't see the future, it is an opportunity to trust God and to obey His Word, knowing that He will work things out for **our best**.

Question: Can you trust God to do the right thing by you? Can you trust God enough to even go through some suffering now while you do right, knowing that God is using suffering to teach you some important lessons that you will need later?

It is good that a man bear the yoke in his youth. Lamentations 3:27.

God wants to build character in us and sometimes suffering is the only way to do it. Sometimes we must use the lesson to **delay immediate gratification** in order to receive something better later on. For example, if you delay sex until marriage, you'll have more trust with your spouse. Study God's promises to us about His love, goodwill and provision, then we can be confident that He will guide us properly and do the right things for us in the future.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and **all these** things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. Memorise it and believe it.

3. WHAT CAREER DO I CHOOSE?

First, we must be absolutely committed to doing God's will for our life. God wants to use us to tell people how to be saved and to teach them the Bible. This should be our priority goal in life. We should aim to be a missionary. We should ask God if He wants us to be a missionary in Australia or overseas. If God wants you to receive some career training, ask Him what that might be and where you should study. It is clearly God's will that you **MUST NOT** study a course that is humanistic and anti-God in it's course content. For example, you would not study social work at Sydney University because of its anti-Bible values.

"Learn not the way of the heathen." Jeremiah 10:2.

"Cease, my son, from hearing the instruction that causes to err from the words of knowledge." Proverbs 19:27.

If a lecturer teaches evolution, don't believe him on this subject.

Consider becoming self-employed, because greater freedom comes to serve God when you are your own boss. Aim to earn enough money to meet your own needs. Whatever God gives extra, give it to God's work to start fundamental, soul winning churches here and overseas. No matter what career you follow, you should consider **BIBLE COLLEGE TRAINING** either part-time or full-time so that you can properly understand and teach the Bible. Do not attend a non soul winning Bible College, or a para-church Bible College, or one that is not under your Pastor's authority, or one that teaches from a Modern Bible Version. Bible Colleges are the most dangerous places for you to get proud, backslide, hate your Pastor, leave your church, destroy you faith, and to apostatise. **BEWARE!!!!** Every Hebrew King had to write out a copy of the Bible in order to learn how to rule well. Deuteronomy 17:18-20. If the Bible is good enough for a King to learn, it's good enough for us to learn. Your life's goal should be to win or help win as many people to Christ as possible, to teach the Bible and to start many churches all over the world. This is the only thing that will last as having eternal value that we can invest our lives in.

4. WHAT CHURCH DO I CHOOSE?

A church must be an "ecclesia" meaning "called out of the world." If a church tries to be like the world to win the world, it is not a Biblical church. A true church must hold to the six principles of the doctrine of Christ in Hebrews 6:1,2 which are:

- a) **Repentance** from **dead works** - the prerequisite to salvation is that a sinner must forsake ALL hope in any works of his own as being able to earn salvation, such as baptism, good works, church attendance, etc. Ephesians 2:8-10.
- b) **Faith** towards God - salvation is by grace (God's undeserved favour), through faith in Christ (believing and claiming God's promises in the Bible), not of ourselves, but is a GIFT of God. It must be received, not earned. The act of receiving Christ as Saviour is the act of faith.
- c) **Baptisms** - of the Holy Spirit at salvation (1 Corinthians 12:13). and in water after salvation. Acts 10:47,48.
- d) **Laying on of Hands** - setting apart of men for a ministry. Acts 13:1-3.
- e) **Resurrection of the dead** - Second Coming teaching must be premillennial, literal and visible return of Christ to the earth, along with the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust.
- f) **Eternal Judgment** - the unsaved upon dying go to a literal hell fire where they remain in torment (Luke 16:19-31) until the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign on the earth (Revelation 20:1-7). They are then resurrected, judged according to their works, and cast into a literal, never-ending, tormenting Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10-15) prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41,46).

II John 9,10,11 states that if anyone has not the doctrine of Christ, he has not God. Some churches do not hold to these teachings. We should not attend a church that breaks one of these six doctrines.

Some churches hold the following wrong doctrines:

- a) Some think that **baptism** makes a **baby a child of God**. See the extract from the Anglican Prayer Book Catechism. "...in my baptism; wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven." John 1:12 refutes this heresy.
- b) Some **baptise babies**. Nowhere in the Bible do we see a baby being immersed.
- c) Some **sprinkle babies** and call it baptism, yet baptism in Greek clearly means "to immerse".
- d) **Confirmation** at age 7 or 14 by a minister laying hands on a person's head. Where is confirmation mentioned in the Bible? It arose because the false doctrine of infant baptism led to the false doctrine of confirmation.
- e) Some churches are **Amillennial** meaning that they don't teach prophecy or the second coming of Christ, not believing that Christ will return to earth to rule for 1,000 years of peace (Revelation 20). 25% of the Bible is prophecy of Christ's premillennial second coming before the 1,000 years. To reject this is to reject 25% of the Bible. How can you fellowship with a group that rejects 25% of the Bible?
- f) Some churches have ministers who wear **BLACK ROBES**. Where is this in the Bible? It is a carry over from the Roman Catholic Church, **which received it from paganism**.
- g) The **High** Anglican Church is 95% Roman Catholic.
- h) Some churches think it is all right to **ordain women** as Pastors. Yet Paul forbids this in I Timothy 2:12. "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."
The male Pastor has authority in the church, not a lady.
- i) Many churches do not maintain **high standards** of behaviour. They allow a wide range of false beliefs and wrong doctrines in order to keep a large crowd attending. They are

afraid to preach too hard against sin, error and false doctrine in case people leave their church, yet God wants us to be a holy church that is separated from error.

- j) Many churches tolerate the false **charismatic doctrines** of tongues, slaying in the spirit, false healings and false prophecies, etc.
- k) Many churches promote **modern versions** of the Bible which take verses out of God's Word. This doesn't seem to worry them, yet Christ states in Luke 8:12, "Then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word...". The NIV removes about 2% of the New Testament. Most don't notice or care.
- l) Many churches confuse the gospel of salvation by saying that people don't have to call on Christ for salvation. See John 4:10; Romans 10:13; Isaiah 55:6,7; Jeremiah 29:12,13.
- m) Some churches are **Modernist**, meaning that they deny the miracles in the Bible. Some Bible Colleges have lecturers who deny the Bible's miracles and think that the Bible is not the 100% inspired Word of God. They say that the Bible has mistakes, and thus place themselves as a higher authority than the Bible. Some Baptist and Uniting Churches are plagued with these errors.
- n) Some churches, wishing to win young people, play **rock music** in their churches and **have dances**. Love not the world. Avoid worldly churches.
- o) Many churches are **not fervently soul winning**. If you got saved in an Independent Baptist Church, be loyal enough to stay where you got saved. Don't go off to another church that doesn't hold these values, hoping to find a girlfriend or boyfriend, or greener grass on the other side of the fence. Be content to stay where you are and work through any problems that you may have. Many people think they are running away from their problems, yet they are carrying their problems with them and unpacking them at their next stopover.

Question: What is wrong with Charismatic Churches?

1. Tongues - which are not for today. See the chapter explaining this.
2. False healing - they say "Come and be healed." If you don't get healed it's your fault because you haven't got enough faith. Yet dead Lazarus had no faith to be healed when dead. False advertising is lying.
3. Slaying people in the spirit - This is not in the Bible.
4. Word of prophecy - where some person comes and tells you a message supposedly from God to you. It's very hard to argue with God. This is his way of putting himself in an elevated position so that you find it hard to argue with God. He has privileged information that normal mortals don't have. Many of these "prophecies" prove to be wrong.
5. Modern versions of the Bible - because of their thousands of omissions.
6. Weak on standards and separation from evil. They'll join up with Roman Catholics any day of the week, as long as the priest speaks in tongues.

5. HOW TO GET ON WELL WITH PARENTS.

We have a problem today called the generation gap. Why? How did this develop?

Answer: It developed through the public school system, where children rebel against their parent's values and follow peer pressure to adopt their peers values in order to remain popular. Young people so much want to be accepted by their friends, or not to appear foolish in front of their peers that they will do almost anything to gain peer acceptance. When parents protest, they are called old fashioned and teens rebel even more.

Solution:

1. Teens must decide to **please God first** and not worry if their peers like them or not.
2. Young people must **trust God** to provide Godly friends

3. Young people must at all costs **reject** and **avoid** ungodly and bad friends from influencing them. See Psalm 1:1-6.
4. Young people must obtain their **ideas** and values from the **Bible** as they study it daily.
5. Children, **Obey** your parents in the Lord: for this is **right**. Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20.

Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be **well** with thee, and thou mayest **live long** on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3.

Three reasons are given why children should obey their parents:

1. This is **right**.
2. That it may be **well** with thee.
3. That thou may **live long** on the earth.

Young people, if you can submit to your parents and have a happy relationship with them, it is very likely that you will easily be able to submit to your spouse and have a happy marriage relationship.

Young men, if you want a good wife, watch how a young lady treats her father, because she'll treat you the same way.

Young ladies, if you want a good husband, watch how a young man treats his mother, because he'll treat you the same way.

Remember, young people, God's unchangeable law:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man **soweth**, that shall he also **reap**." Gal. 6:7.

If you rebel against your parents now, your children or someone close to you will rebel against you later and break your heart. You may sin and get forgiveness from God, but you face two other problems:

- 1) **People** may not forgive you or trust you after you're sinned.
- 2) You may still have trouble with **bad consequences** years later for your sins, such as those people in jail, those who are addicted to drugs.

The world teaches rebellion, and the Bible teaches obedience. When we obey God, parents and pastors, we are safe, because we are protected within their wall of authority. When a person rebels, he goes outside the wall of protection. He may feel freedom for a while, but the downside is that he is now in great danger to the many enemies that await him to destroy him such as drugs, AIDS, crime, or false ideas that ruin people's lives. So, how can you get on well with your parents?

- a) **Obey** them. When parents see that you obey them, they see that they can **trust** you, so they begin to relax the rules and give you more freedom, knowing that you are maturing in wisdom and are less likely to do silly things and ruin your life.
- b) **Respect** them. They are probably 30 years older than you which means that they have 30 years more experience than you. Because they love you and have given birth to you, have given you everything you have, and done everything for you, and fed, clothed and schooled you, you should respect, love and honour them in return.
- c) **Love** them, because they love you. It is right that we should love those who love us. Be thankful.
- d) **Communicate politely** with them. Many parents protest because their children spend so much time with their friends that they never talk in depth with their parents. This causes parents to insist that their children stay at home. You must sit down and have a good talk with your mum and dad daily or weekly, just so that they know what you are doing.

- e) **Help them around the house**. This prepares you to manage your own house later. They have a big job cooking, ironing, paying bills and looking after you. So ask them what you can do to help.
- f) **Thank** them for what they've done for you such as cooking meals, ironing, etc. This helps you to develop a thankful attitude all through your life, especially to your future spouse. Then your children will be thankful and appreciative to you later.
- g) **See God speaking through their advice**. God gave you your parents to mould your character. God can use any faults that you think your parents have to teach you lessons for life. For example, if your father is easily angry, you learn not to be angry. God can reveal His will to you through your parent's advice.

6. CHOOSING A BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND OR SPOUSE.

Make a list of what you want in a spouse. They must be:

1. Saved.
2. Committed and dedicated to winning people to Christ and teaching the Bible.
3. Sound in doctrine and loyal to a fundamental, Biblical church.
4. Love and respect their parents.
5. Dress modestly.
6. Respect their pastor.
7. Not soon angry. "Make no friendship with an angry man, lest thou learn his ways and get a snare to thy soul." Proverbs 22:24.
8. Patient.
9. Wise, loving the Bible, loving God and wanting to serve God.
10. Hard worker, not lazy, and not silly.

Do not let **physical attraction** blind you to the lack of other important qualities. Remember, you marry their brains as well as their bodies. When you are married, their problems become your problems. So marry a Godly person who will help lift your problems, not add to your problems. If you fight and argue a lot before you marry, you are sure to fight and argue a lot more after you are married. So marry someone that you don't fight and argue with.

Build the **spiritual** side of your relationship first as you both serve God together and study Bible issues together. Then develop **mental communication** and understanding as you get to know each other without interference of the physical side racing ahead.

Lastly, after you are married the **physical, sexual** side can have freedom to develop. Warning: if you allow the physical side to develop during courtship, it tends to hinder the growth of the spiritual and communication aspects, which so often leads to breaking up or divorce later.

7. HOW TO HANDLE MONEY WISELY

Money can be a good servant, or a very bad master. Money can bring great freedom to spread the Gospel, or money can be a great tyrant that enslaves you and hinders your work for the Lord. The love of money is the root of all evil. 1 Timothy 6:10.

Money is a gift from God, whereby **God tests our stewardship**, entrusting it to us to use to win people to Christ here and overseas.

Here are some key lessons to learn about money:

- a) Honour God with it by **giving God 10% of your income** and He will bless you in many different ways. Malachi 3:7-10; Luke 6:38; Leviticus 27:30,32.
- b) God entrusts some people with large sums of money for the purpose of spreading the Gospel all over the world. Should God entrust you with large sums of money, always remember that God has given it to you to use for **His purposes**. "It is he that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deuteronomy 8:18.

You will have to give account to God in heaven as to how you have used this money to win people to Christ and build churches all over the world. If God can trust you with small amounts of money, He may trust you with large sums of money later. Luke 16:9-13.

- c) After giving 10% of your income to God, regularly and weekly, **save another 10% for later**, like the ant that saves food for later. Proverbs 30:25.
- d) Be willing to **get a job** and work hard, but never work on Sunday, except for a very good reason. Aim to attend two church services on Sunday. Don't let working for money keep you out of church. Ask God for a job that does not require working on Sunday. Exodus 20:8-11.
- e) Don't put a great percentage of your money into **depreciating assets** like cars.
- f) Aim to be **independent financially** and self-supporting so that you can retire from secular work early and serve the Lord as a full-time occupation.

8. HOW TO COURT BIBLICALLY, and WHY REJECT SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

The movies and peers have greatly influenced the pursuit of immorality and having a physical relationship during courtship. We have to reject this as CONTRARY to God's ways in the Bible. God says: "It is **GOOD** for a man **NOT TO TOUCH** a woman. But to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife...." 1 Corinthians 7:1,2.

Treat the younger women as sisters, with **ALL PURITY**. 1 Timothy 5:2.

"This is the will of God... that ye should abstain from fornication... that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because the Lord is the avenger of all such ... For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness...." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.

Fornicating is defrauding or robbing the girl's future husband of a pure bride (v.6). If you steal a girl's moral purity, God will take revenge on you for it with undesirable consequences. How?

God has many ways of disciplining humans.

If you don't like these moral standards, you are despising God. (v.8).

Keys to Biblical Courtship:

1. Pray for God to lead you to the girl of His choosing.
2. Go out in groups to minimise temptation.
3. Pray before each time you see her so that you will conduct yourself in a Christ-honouring manner.
4. Don't touch the girl, or you are likely to start the physical slide into fornication.
5. Develop good spiritual and mental communication.
6. Get home early.
7. Serve the Lord together, trying to win people to Christ and to teach the Bible together.
8. Be cheerful and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Why Reject Sex Before Marriage?

Within marriage, sex increases the commitment that binds two people together. Sex outside marriage has the opposite effect, becoming a wedge, a stumbling block, a hindrance to the development of mature love, very often breaking up the friendship altogether. Why does this happen?

1. Sex before marriage prevents other aspects of the relationship from developing.

Anybody can learn to kiss, but not everybody can learn to communicate meaningfully. Physical attraction is insufficient glue to build or maintain a lasting relationship. The qualities that hold a relationship together are **trust, honesty, respect, openness, deep friendship, and spiritual intimacy** which take time and effort to develop. When you focus on the sexual/physical side, you short circuit building these qualities and you end up with a poor foundation, without the spiritual communication developing first.

2. Sex injects fear and guilt into the relationship.

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will **judge**." Hebrews 13:4.

Guilt comes because premarital sex violates our God-given conscience. Fear comes because the male gets the **privilege of sex** without the **responsibility of commitment in marriage**. The female fears that he may leave her. She pesters him to get married. Since it may cost \$10,000 to get married (reception, ring, honeymoon, hire cars, dresses, hire suits etc), the male says that he **cannot afford** to get married right now so that she must wait till some indefinite time in the future. This is a subtle form of rejection. She worries and fears that he may never get around to marriage. She feels insecure, so she pesters him more to get married. He finally gets so sick of her nagging him that when he meets another likeable lady he finds an easy reason to leave lady number one. Then the family court enters the picture and there may be a splitting of his and her assets into 1/3 for him, 1/3 for her, and 1/3 for the solicitor. If there are any children, he must pay \$200 per week maintenance for his ex-partner to support the children and rent. This is how pre-marital sex can lead to financial hardship. Very often when couples live together without marrying they break up around age thirty and the girl finds that she has "missed the boat" and is unlikely to get married.

3. Sex lays a foundation of distrust and lack of respect.

She thinks that if he has sex with me outside of marriage, he may later on leave me to have sex with someone else if the opportunity presents itself. Mature love is based on the security of **exclusivity and permanence** of the relationship. If two people stay morally pure before marriage, each person feels a greater degree of security, trust and respect.

4. Sex causes you to compare one person with previous partners.

5. Sex deceives you into thinking that you are in love.

It is such an emotional thing that it can convince you that you are in love while overlooking other important factors that later on, when logic prevails, may make you dislike the person. Sex love can cause you to overlook his laziness, violence, drug addiction, lying, unfaithfulness, etc, all of which are a recipe for a disastrous relationship.

6. The facts are against you:

- a) Pre-marital sex tends to break up couples before marriage takes place.
- b) Those who have pre-marital sex are more likely to have their marriages end in divorce. For example, practising Christians' divorce rate is 1 in 1500, yet the community divorce rate is 700 in 1500. This is 700 times worse.
- c) Persons who had pre-marital sex are more likely to have extramarital affairs as well.
- d) Having pre-marital sex may fool you into marrying a person who is not right for you. Sex can blind you to a person's faults.

9. HOW TO CURE BOREDOM

- a) Get busy serving God. Teach a Sunday school class, run a Bible study, learn how to share the Gospel better and attend a doctrinally sound Bible College.
- b) Study the Bible and pray daily.
- c) Help your parents around the home and talk to them.
- d) Ring people to invite them to church.
- e) Pick people up and bring them to church.
- f) Work out the Bible, so that you really understand it well.
- g) Go out to share the Gospel weekly.

You think up a few more. Aim to prepare yourself for the Lord's work.