

Jesus' response to peer pressure

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Introduction: We need to understand and resist the power of Satan.

- A. We should recognize how effective the evil one is. **(Eph 2:2-3)**
 - 1. If you do not submit then you are guaranteed trouble in this life.
 - 2. One thing we must not do is be overconfident! **(1 Cor 10:12)**
- B. Do you understand your need to belong and be accepted by others?
 - 1. This is a God given need that can be used for good.
 - 2. Some think that they are “above” these desires. They may have given in to pride, selfishness and a host of other heart diseases too.
 - 3. When we walk by faith we learn to direct our need for acceptance to God while developing a sense of family (fellowship) with faithful Christians. **(Gal 1:10; 1 Cor 12:22-26)**

I. The nature of Satan's peer pressure

- A. He uses this if we like it or not. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
 - 1. **pres-sure** *n. c.* A compelling or constraining influence, such as a moral force, on the mind or will: *pressure to conform; peer-group pressure.* *e.* An oppressive condition of physical, mental, social, or economic distress.
 - 2. We are pressured to conform whither we like it or not. This is not true of God!
We must choose daily to be transformed.
- B. Satan will be relentless and cruel.
 - 1. The most powerful weapon Satan has is the tongue. **(Jas 3:5)**
 - 2. Many fear the “punishment” that comes when you do not line up.
 - a. How many are made fun of?
 - b. How many have heard “gossip” when another leaves the room?
 - c. As a child I took part in some unmerciful actions. (Ex. Overweight)
 - d. There are certain social subtleties where you can let others know. (Ex. Boston movement.)
 - 3. There are also rewards.
 - a. We have a need of praise. **(2 Cor 10:12, 18)**
 - b. We have a need of association. **(Gal 3:17-18)**
 - c. We need acceptance by others. **(2 Cor 2:7-8, 11)**

II. Satan's use of peer pressure against Jesus

- A. Satan's first attempt came in the temptation in the wilderness. **(Mt 4:8-10)**
 - 1. Make no mistake, Satan can deliver these things!
 - 2. Churches have given in to this desire by using Satan's devices to “grow.”
- B. Satan used the shallow praise of others towards Jesus. **(Jn 2:23-25)**
 - 1. Jesus knew the fickle nature of carnal men.
 - 2. This was later demonstrated to the shock of the apostles! **(Jn 6:66-67)**
 - 3. Jesus knew that repentance must be in the heart of men before praise is holy and acceptable before God. Worldly men often offer praise! **(Mt 19:16-17, 21-22)**
- C. Gossip was used against Jesus and John the Baptist. **(Lk 7:34-35)**
 - 1. Sometimes raw labels and charges were made. **(Lk 11:14-15)**
 - 2. One of the uses of gossip is to limit the influence of your “competitor.”

- D. Questions were raised why Jesus and His disciples did not do what others did.
 - 1. The traditions of the elders were widely practiced. (**Mt 15:1-2**)
 - 2. The common practice of fasting was ignored. (**Mk 2:18**)
 - a. Should men have ever observed this? (**Mt 6:16-18**)
 - b. Yes we do many things from peer pressure!
 - 3. Peter was questioned about the temple tax. (**Mt 17:24-27**)
 - a. Jesus knew his disciples were constantly tempted in this way.
 - b. Satan was relentless in the use of pressure to “line up.”
- E. Satan tried to use the fear of rejection against Jesus. (**Mt 22:15-22**)
- F. Jesus and the apostles used peer pressure to expose hearts. (Ex. Study with JW)
 - 1. Who was John the Baptist? (**Mt 21:24-27**)
 - a. A good test of your heart is how you answer questions!
 - b. Sadly some Christians “reason” this way.
 - 2. Paul used the party loyalties of the Jews against them. (**Acts 23:6-10**)

III. The danger of Christians using Satan’s tools

- A. When we use world pressure we have in our hearts become carnal.
 - 1. Satan has always had his churches that profess Christ but push worldly standards. (**Col 2:18-19**)
 - 2. This is why apostasy will occur again and again. (**2 Tim 4:3-4**)
- B. Our tongues and actions will reveal our hearts. (**Lk 6:45**)
 - 1. Are you a critic that wants to help or one who looks down on others?
 - 2. Do you have certain ones who associate with and exclude others? The world uses cliques as a way of punishing and getting others to “line-up.”
 - 3. Are you in the “fellowship” of the proud, miserable, mighty, knowledgeable...?
- C. Areas where we are tempted to pressure.
 - 1. Clothing and riches. (**Jas 2:1-4**)
 - 2. Race. (**Gal 2:11-13**)
 - 3. Social graces and speech.
 - 4. Teaching style and presentation. (**1 Cor 2:4; 2 Cor 10:10**)
 - 5. In differences of opinion. (**Rom 15:1-2; 14:3**)
- D. When Christians do this it will breed an atmosphere of distrust and push others away.
 - 1. In time we will be segregated by family, class or some other worldly mark.
 - 2. Diotrefes used this kind of pressure. (**3 Jn 9-10**)

IV. How to defeat peer pressure

- A. Choose to be transformed. (**Rom 12:2**)
 - 1. Do we really have a love for Bible Study?
 - 2. A good warning sign is how we treat the Bible classes and worship.
- B. Let God be the source of the praise you seek. (**Heb 11:6; 2 Cor 5:9-10**)
- C. Understand the things that really matter! (**1 Cor 1:26-29**)

Conclusion: Let us seek to be like our Lord.

- 1. How was he able to resist peer pressure? (**Jn 14:30-31**)
- 2. Who do you look to for acceptance?