

Conflicts and Problems Teens Face!

There are many problems that each person faces in life and especially teens have their conflicts and problems that are a part of their lives. These must be faced biblically, and we must have answers and apply the Word of God.

We want to look at some of these as they might be seen through the eyes of a teen.

I. THE PROBLEM OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE.

A. Parents have a problem with acceptance of themselves and life in general.

1. Often adults are unhappy with their looks, their weight, and dislike themselves. Then adults often (as well as youth) don't like to accept what God has given them in ability -- mentally, physically, etc.
 - a. Often parents try to live their own life out through the lives of the children.
 - b. There were things the parents desired to do when young but they did not get to do them so they desire their child to do those things so they feel fulfilled through their child.
2. They may be unhappy with their job, their house, marriage and about where they live, as well as unhappy with their children. Possibly nothing seems right to them.
3. Often people are unhappy with their belongings and find difficulty accepting life as God has given it to them. They hate their lot in life.

B. Teen, you must accept yourself... just as you are! (Psa. 139:14-16)

1. Why do such a high percentage of teens take their own lives? They are not satisfied with life. They feel it would be better to be dead.
2. All of God's words are marvelous. You are made just as God desired to make you a special person, a unique person made in His image. (Gen. 2:
3. You need to receive what God has given you. It is difficult to have good attitudes toward life when we do not accept ourselves and life as God has made us.

II. THE PROBLEM OF OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY:

"... be subject to the higher powers." (Rom. 13:1; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20)

God expects us to obey authority. God commands us to obey those in authority over us. This is so often a source of conflict and problem in the teen's life. The desire to be free from all restraint, all authority seems to be a part of growing up. Submitting to authority is "right."

Parents have such conflicts as well. May it takes place on the assembly line, or in some other aspect of their employment. And it is easy for adults to have their minds on the conflicts of marriage or child rearing while they are work.

A. Conflict with the higher powers. (I Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7, 17)

1. Pastors have been put in a place of leadership and authority, do we obey them? These portions give a sense of what God desires of us toward His given authority. Such authority also is vested in the parent.

2. Potential conflict has to do with every person over you. It is easy for the teen to reject other's position of control or direction as they endeavor to direct their own life. But we are to esteem others better than ourselves. (Rom. 12:10-
3. The greatest problem parents face is the lack of their teen's submission to God-given, parental authority. God planned for parents to be able to give direction and leadership to receptive children and youth. (Psa. 127, 128; Prov. 6:

B. Conflict with their own conscience.

1. We are to "*Exercise ourselves to have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men.*" (Acts 24:16)
 - a. Life is toward God and toward people and the teen must labor to have a conscience that is right toward both.
 - b. Every teen should be concerned about having a pure conscience, (I Tim. 3:9) not a defiled or seared conscience (I Cor. 8:7; I Tim. 4:2).
2. If the teen (or adult) does not submit to the convictions of conscience as an authority in the life then he probably does not submit to other authority either. Of course conscience is only as trustworthy as the information upon which it acts.
3. We will have a dulled, hardened or calloused conscience if we are determined to reject authority over us.

C. Inner conflict about being right.

1. How can anyone be right within or toward others? Only by confessing sin to God, but also to man. (Prov. 28:13; I John 1:7, 9) We must confess the rebellion of disobedience as a grievous sin toward God and toward those whom we have disobeyed.
2. There must be repentance and restitution. Bitterness, sassing back, resistance, and rejection of God-given authority must be dealt with. God commands us to do "*all things without murmurings and disputings.*" (Phil. 2:

III. THE PROBLEM OF HAVING AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT:

Someone does something we don't like and we don't forgive them, we *coddle our feelings*, hold on to our hurts and build bitterness. We keep thinking upon and holding to our hearts how we felt when we were hurt rather than concentrating on forgiveness. We may feel we have the right to harbor a bitter spirit and to feel as we feel. The teen may reject correction, does not want to submit to it or the necessary rebuking or admonishment and so he builds hatred and unforgiveness. (I Thess. 5:12-13)

A. We are to forgive as God commands us. (Eph. 4:30-32; Col. 3:12-14)

1. Giving forgiveness is a command from God.
2. We are to put away resentments and bitterness by given constant forgiveness.
A happy home is a home where all who live there are great forgivers.

B. Forgiveness must be as God forgives. And that is complete, thorough, and unconditional. We don't talk to ourselves any longer about the offense and neither do we talk to others.

IV. YIELDING OUR PERSONAL RIGHTS: (Luke 9:23; Matt. 16:23-24)

Do we feel that we have rights of our own? We must give all our rights to God. Christ had no demands, and did not perform even one miracle for a personal need. He lived as one who had no rights of His own. (See Philippians 2:5-11.) We must be able to say with John the Baptist, *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* (John 3:30)

A. We have no rights, but what God has given us.

1. We have only one right, and that is to do His will. To please Him, to yield to God. We have a great privilege and that is to submit to His plan for our lives. (Rom. 6:16-17; Luke 9:23; Eph. 5:17, 6:6; Col. 4:12)
2. We have conflicts because we think that we have our own rights, that we can have our own way and do as we please.

B. We must surrender our lives, bodies, our all into His hands.

1. We have nothing, but what it has been given to us.
2. *The meek He will teach His way.* The meek He will lead and that can only take place as we put away pride. (James 4:5-10; I Peter. 5:5-6) We are to be subject unto one another and are clothed with humility.

V. THE PROBLEM OF PURITY: (I Tim. 4:12)

Purity in thought life, in words, deeds and actions is so very important for all ages, but youth especially need to seek to walk in purity. Temptations toward sensuality abound for the average teen. The Christian teens faces an evil world and must daily put up with sinful, wicked language of every sort. Many a unsaved youth spends most of his or her time thinking about the sexual. They build sexual desires and thus being consumed they fall into every kind of sinful action, thought, and reaction.

A. Youth are to abstain from fleshly lusts. (I Pet. 2:11)

1. Youth, work at being an example of the believer in every aspect of your life. (I Tim. 4:12)
2. Seek after purity in reading materials. Take a stand against that which is wicked, dishonoring to God, and defiling to your life. (I Thess. 4:7; Psa. 101:3)

B. Youth must seek purity in their thought life.

Elsewhere I dealt with the power of the thought life and will not go into detail here. Purity in thought will bring about purity in all the other areas of life. If a person is impure in their thought life it will be revealed in their life style.

VI. THE PROBLEM OF PURPOSE IN LIFE ITSELF:

The teen could well ask themselves (and do) : *“Why am I alive? What is the purpose of life anyway. What can I do? What is worthwhile in life anyway?”*

It would be good if every teenager asked himself as to why God gave him life and what should he do with life. And then seek God’s will and purpose for his life.

A. Purpose -- (Read Duet 6:4-18.)

1. To bring glory to God -- (Eph. 1:12) “...*that we should be to the praise of His glory.*”
2. To do His will -- (Col. 4:12) To stand perfect and complete in the will of God ought to be the goal of every Christian teenager.
3. To “*set our affections (our love) on things above...*” (Col. 3:1-4) And to “*seek first the kingdom of God.*” (Matt. 6:33)

B. The Challenge: (Gal. 6:7-9) We sow and we will reap just as sure as night comes in the absence of the sunshine.

1. We are sowing **thoughts**. What will the harvest be for thoughts produce actions and reactions?
2. We are sowing **actions**. What will our harvest be later in life?
3. We are sowing **attitudes**. Just as one would sow in the seed bed of a garden so we are indeed sowing attitudes every day and there will be a harvest.
4. We are sowing **habits**. What kind of habits will keep us, or bind us? What are the habits we are building that will help us to live godly in Christ Jesus?
5. Are you sowing love to Christ? Love to the Word of God? Love for the local assembly of the saints? Christ died for the Church you know.
6. In Galatians 6:7-9 we have:
 - a. The warning -- vs. 7
 - b. The facts -- vs. 8
 - c. The encouragement -- vs. 9

VII. THE PROBLEM OF BEING A BALANCED PERSON: (Luke 2; Joshua 1:8)

Christ is set forth in Scripture as being a well-rounded person. He grew physically, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, or thus in every aspect of His life. Now, since He is the Son of God without sin, we can't understand this statement. We forget that He was indeed as much human as any person with the exception of a sin nature. We forget that He had to experience everything just as we enter into all of life's experience with the exception of sin on His part.

As Christ increased in stature -- mentally, physically, spiritually, etc., we are to grow as a well-rounded person. The command given to Joshua was that he was to meditate in the Word of God day and night and by this he would prosper. By the Word of God he would have wisdom, insight, direction, and find all he needed to lead the Israelite nation into the promised land.

Most youth, I fear, are out of balance. They don't often understand just how far out of balance they are -- they are usually consumed by one single factor of life that is all important to them.. If they are into sports, then sports is everything. If they are highly academic, then that is everything to the neglect of other aspects of life. They need to build their relational life as well as academically, physically, emotionally and especially spiritual. There is a time in life for everything that is wholesome and God honoring.