

Handling Peer Pressure

TEXT: Daniel 3:1-18

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:35-39

KEY VERSE: Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. — Psalm 1:1

Three young Hebrew men who served God—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were asked to bow down and worship a golden image. Like true men of faith, they refused. There were, however, some Chaldeans who observed the Hebrews' refusal. They quickly reported the incident to the king. Now the heat was on! It was literally bow or burn. They had to choose between bowing to an idol or being true to the God of Israel.

1. Who are one's peers? Who were the peers of the three Hebrew children? See Daniel 2:48,49 and 3:2,3.

2. What is meant by the phrase harmful peer pressure? Give an example of harmful peer pressure from your own experience.

3. How can harmful peer pressure be resisted?

4. Is there such a thing as positive peer pressure? Explain. Give an example of positive peer pressure from your own experience.

5. What guidelines can you use to determine whether the peer pressure you experience is positive or harmful?

6. How can resisting harmful peer pressure help a Christian? How do you think it helped the three Hebrew children in Daniel 1?

7. Why didn't God deliver the three Hebrew children from going into the furnace?

8. How is peer pressure experienced among church associates?

9. How can one effectively accept positive peer pressure among friends?

10. Read Daniel 3:30. The end result of resisting harmful peer pressure was a promotion for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Is the end result always a promotion? Explain.