

Ezekiel 10-11 – 24 May 2015

Introduction – How to avoid peer pressure

A few years ago psychologist Ruth W. Berenda and her associates carried out an interesting experiment with teenagers designed to show how a person handled group pressure. The plan was simple. They brought groups of ten adolescents into a room for a test. Subsequently, each group of ten was instructed to raise their hands when the teacher pointed to the longest line on three separate charts. What one person in the group did not know was that nine of the others in the room had been instructed ahead of time to vote for the second-longest line.

Regardless of the instructions they heard, once they were all together in the group, the nine were not to vote for the longest line, but rather vote for the next to the longest line. The experiment began with nine teen-agers voting for the wrong line. The stooge would typically glance around, frown in confusion, and slip his hand up with the group. The instructions were repeated and the next card was raised. Time after time, the self-conscious stooge would sit there saying a short line is longer than a long line, simply because he lacked the courage to challenge the group. This remarkable conformity occurred in about 75% of the cases, and was true of small children and high-school students as well. Berenda concluded that, "Some people had rather be president than right," which is certainly an accurate assessment.

Peer pressure does not just affect kids and teens.

Peer pressure has its way:

1. When we chuckle at bad jokes.
2. When we're encouraged to talk bad or gossip about someone that wronged us...and we do.
3. Anytime we give in to the way people adjure us to live that is contrary to God's will in our lives.

Today we're going to talk about how to live in sanctification and not by peer pressure.

Chapter 10

(1-7) The 1st way to live in sanctification and not by peer pressure is to accept that being marked and sanctified for Him is God's protection for you.

1-3 –

Same man that did the “marking” in chapter 9 is now told to get the coals of destruction from between the cherubim.

Same pattern as in the Tribulation (Rev 7-8)

Idolatry – Eze 8, Rev 2:14, 20, Rev 9:20

Marking – Eze 9, Rev 7

Burning coals of judgment – Eze 10, Rev 8

4-7 –

The man got the coals to spread over the city

The coals represent God's holy judgment.

We know this will destroy the city just as in Rev 8

What would God's coals applied to you produce?

Read Isa 9

another example of sanctification being protection

Read Jos 7:13 – Ai

8-17 –

Faces in vs 14 are turned toward the south instead of the east as in chapter 1. Cherub face (generally) instead of the ox face.

18-19 –

Glory of the Lord now departs from the threshold of the house to the East Gate...on its way out of the temple.

Not to return to the Post-exilic Temple, nor the Tribulations Temple...but to the Millennium Temple as seen in Eze 43

20-22 –

These are the same images because it's the reality of what heaven is like.

Chapter 11

(1-8) The 2nd way to live in sanctification and not by per pressure is to be willing to say God's truth whether it's for your earthly profit or your loss b/c it's for your spiritual gain.

1-3 –

God was upset with the leaders back in Judah b/c they were teaching wrong.

The end was near

God was their strength/defense not the city

4-6 –

These false leaders/teachers were causing the deceived people to fall prey. Why did they teach thus?

To profit – Eze 13:19, II Pet 2:1-3, 13-15

7-8 –

The thing you feared will get you...b/c you let your fear drive you to try to fix it in the flesh, then just outright deny it.

Don't fear the earthly loss of power or position or pleasure; fear God who can throw your body and soul into hell.

Heb 11:24-27

And how do we know how to walk in a pure sanctified life?

John 17:17

9-10 –

“In the border” – Nebu never entered the land but judged them from Riblah.

11-12 –

(11-12) The 3rd way to live in sanctification and not by peer pressure is to not value cultural and national norms above Godly ethics.

Their sin – Didn't stay as a sanctified people but fell to peer-pressure. They followed culture and country.

This didn't believe that God's ethics, God's ways are perfect.

God will be sanctified one way or the other so that all will know that He is the Lord.

When hard choices came of whom they would serve in a given situation, they should have said as David (Psm 109:26-27)

(13-22) The 4th way to live in sanctification and not by peer pressure is to not grow weary of being different b/c your dedication will be rewarded in the end.

13-16 –

The first promise in Ezekiel of God continuing to be with the people during their diaspora.

With or without the temple, they can find sanctuary in God.

With or without walled defended cities, they can find sanctuary in God.

With or without friends to take the journey with them, they can always find sanctuary in God.

17 –

No nation has ever retained its identity for more than 5 generations after losing its homeland.

No one had any idea it would take 1900 yrs for this regathering to occur.

The regathering began in 1948 and continues today.

It will culminate the following ways.

18-21 –

18 – idols are gone, basically agnostic today.

19 – New heart not yet – Read Rom 11:25,
Luke 21:24

22-23 –

The Glory of the Lord finally departs by way of the Mount of Olives.

Interesting that this is the way Jesus will return.

To the Mount of Olives – Zec 14:4

They shall look upon Him whom they've pierced and mourn as one that mourns for his only son.
Zec 12:10 and Rev 1:7

24-25 –

What would keep Zeke from sharing these things?

Peer Pressure!

Why would Zeke want to share these things?

He valued God greater than the esteem of man!

Conclusion – To live in sanctification, to avoid peer pressure

1) Accept being different as God's protection

2) Be willing to say the truth

3) Accept God's ways as perfect

4) Remember your dedication will be rewarded in the end

Closing Story –

*Several years ago a man thought he'd heard the voice of God calling him to leave his occupation and work in construction.

*Since he was already set in life with a family of his own, most of his extended family thought he was crazy and chastised him for his decision.

*Many, many years went by with hard rebuke and soft alluring to return to his normal life, but the man stood firm in his life's new commitment.

*Listen, has *Noah* bowed to the peer pressure of his enemies or his friends, God would have chosen another and you and I wouldn't have ever been born.

1) Noah knew that being different would be his protection in the ark.

2) Noah was willing to say the truth, being known as a preacher of righteousness in I Pet 2:5

3) Noah accepted God's ways as perfect. Heb 11:7 says that he was moved with fear of God in building the ark.

4) Noah's dedication was rewarded in the biggest way possible.

May God teach us today to live a sanctified life unhindered by peer pressure and abounding in his great love and mercy toward all those that would seek to pressure us in the wrong ways. God bless you.