Lesson 5: **Peer Pressure**

Principle for the week:

**Either the crowd is going to influence you,**

**or you’re going to influence the crowd.**

Who are you trying to impress? We all have friends and peers; we all have classmates, teammates, and co-workers, and we all want to fit in with others. But what are you willing to do, in order to be accepted by your friends and peers? What kind of language are you willing to use or even allow to be used around you? Where are you willing to go? And what things are you willing to do?

What you need to understand is that you can't please everybody. Even if you try, you’re not going to impress everyone. So you need to figure out who you’re trying to impress. What many teenagers don't stop to consider is, if the things that they're doing, the places they're going, and the kind of language that they're speaking to fit in with the crowd, is actually setting them against God. James 4:4 says *“…know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

The truth is that if you’re looking for acceptance, then you’re going to be more vulnerable to peer pressure. But if you realize your identity is in Christ; understand how loved you are; and know you have all the acceptance you need in Him; then as a result, you will want to live a life that pleases God and fits in with Him. Jesus says in Matthew 10:32-33, “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*”

You wouldn't want Jesus to deny you in front of your Father in Heaven, so why would you deny him in front of your friends and peers? It all boils down to the question, who are you trying to impress?

Matthew 10:32-33, *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”*

James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. “*

**Challenges:** Fill out these questions from the lesson. Each challenge you complete is worth 100 points for your team.

1. What does peer pressure boil down too? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What will make us the enemy of God? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Why shouldn't we deny Jesus in front of our friends and peers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. If we try hard enough, we can please everyone. [ True / False ]
5. What’s going to make you more vulnerable to peer pressure? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Additional challenges (100 points each)**

* Memorize James 4:4 and quote it to your leader.
* Memorize Matthew 10:32-33 and quote it to your leader.
* What’s going to make you less vulnerable to peer pressure?

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* Is there such a thing as positive peer pressure? [ Yes / No ] Explain:

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