

Church of God Sunday School

THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP #13 – REBELLION



DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** Rebellion begins in the heart (Jeremiah 5:23; Matthew 15:18).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** The teen years are a time of preparation for adulthood (Lamentations 3:27; 1 Corinthians 13:11).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** What did God say about King Saul's rebellion (1 Samuel 15:1-23)?
- ❑ **Thursday:** Korah rebelled against God's leader (Numbers 16:1-34).
- ❑ **Friday:** Warnings against rebellion (Numbers 14:9; 1 Samuel 12:15; Psalm 68:6; Isaiah 30:1).
- ❑ **Saturday:** God's plan for youth includes submission (Colossians 3:20; Proverbs 1:8; Hebrews 13:17).

MEMORY VERSE: *"God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."*
—Psalm 68:6

A Generation in Rebellion

The April 8, 1966, issue of *Time* magazine shocked many of its readers with a headline that read: "Is God Dead?" During this same time period, a slogan began to be seen on bumper stickers, T-shirts, and graffiti-painted walls that said, "Question Authority!" This slogan was made popular as a way to oppose the Vietnam War. However, this challenging of government authority soon grew into questioning the authority of parents, teachers, pastors, and even God. It could be seen in rock music, drug use, sex outside of marriage, and riots. It has been said that many of the youth of the 1960s and the 1970s considered themselves a generation in rebellion. The *Rolling Stone* magazine defined the rock music of that time as "the music of rebellion." Other slogans made popular during this time were: "Do your own thing," "There are no absolutes," and "There is no God." What made these young people so angry and rebellious that they would completely reject God and His Word? Is there a lesson to be learned for today's youth?

The teen years can be difficult. They are the years between being a dependent child (parent makes all the decisions) and becoming an independent adult (you make all the decisions). This in-between time becomes a time of questioning: "How do my parents know this is right or this is wrong? How do they know they are making the right decisions? What do I truly believe?" Things that were taken for granted in childhood now become less certain. These feelings, doubts, and questions are a normal part of becoming an adult. However, the devil has become very good at using his tool of rebellion during those years. How can you know when this is working on you?



What Is Rebellion?

Rebellion is defined as "open resistance to lawful authority" (*KJV Dictionary*). During the teen years, it is common to feel you know what is best for you or desire to make your own choices and have your own way. What do you do with these feelings? Do you say things like, "You don't trust me" or "You don't understand me" or "You're not listening to me"? Rebellion begins by allowing feelings that are a part of the growing up process to develop into feelings of anger or bitterness. This could be because one resents the rules created by their parents, teachers, or other authority figures. It could be because a teen does not have a good emotional support system (people to listen and advise them through these years). Or it could be a result of not wanting to meet expectations ("Don't tell me what to do!").

It is important to understand that regardless of the reason, rebellion begins in the heart (Matthew 15:18). Perhaps you have been misunderstood, ignored, talked down to, given harsh consequences, or even ridiculed by ones in

authority. This is difficult at any age but especially during the teen years. Even the best parents and teachers can sometimes misunderstand you or misread a situation. The question is, What will you do about it? Will you let feelings of disappointment and hurt grow into bitterness, anger, and then rebellion? What can you do to prevent rebellion from taking over your life?

Bible Examples of Rebellion

Rebellion is not just a teen problem. The Bible is full of stories about people who rebelled against God or God's man and suffered the consequences. King Saul had a lack of confidence when he was first made king, but in time he became overconfident. At first he greatly desired the guidance of the Prophet Samuel, but later King Saul disobeyed, doing what he wanted to do. In 1 Samuel, Chapter 15, you can read where he disobeyed God's commands and did things his way. Then he made excuses, not seeing the seriousness of his rebellion. In the end, God completely rejected Saul, and Saul committed suicide on the battlefield. Korah and others rebelled against Moses. The ground opened up and swallowed him and his followers. When Absalom rebelled against his father and tried to steal the kingdom, his end was having his hair caught in a tree, making it easier for David's men to kill him. Look up these stories and others. Read of the dangers of allowing rebellious feelings to work in one's heart (such as: "Don't tell me what to do. I'm as good as you are. I will do it my way").



Symptoms and Warning Signs

God has promised that we do not have to be "ignorant of [Satan's] devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). There are some warning signs you can be on the watch for. Here are just a few:

Peer Pressure: when everyone else is doing it, it can be very difficult to take a stand and be different.

Cannot Talk to Parents: some teens find it very difficult to talk to their parents about their problems and concerns. In many families, both parents work, making it harder to find the time and energy needed for their teens. Some parents do not know how to be good listeners, finding it easier to say, "Just do it because I told you to."

Spiritual Laziness: do you skip Bible reading and prayer on a regular basis? A weak Christian is vulnerable to all the devil's tools, but especially to the tool of rebellion.

A Weak Relationship With God: young people who do not develop a strong personal faith, but instead rely on the faith of their parents, are also more likely to become rebellious. Do you say things like, "I do this because my parents make me or the church teaches it"?

Difficult Life Situations: when serious problems, such as divorce, neglect, or abuse, are part of a teen's life, the feelings of depression, anger, and frustration can quickly lead to a life of rebellion.

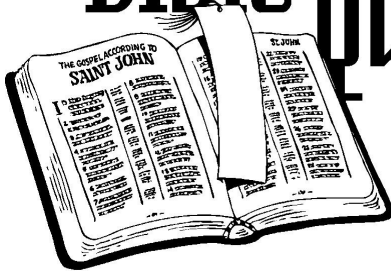
What to Do About Rebellion



Begin to make a habit of praying about every feeling of hurt, anger, and disappointment. When you are misunderstood or feeling depressed, ask God for help. To allow these feelings to become a regular part of your thought life is a recipe for disaster. Take them captive by giving them to God (2 Corinthians 10:5). Develop a deeper relationship with God. Faith is not prepackaged nor can it be handed down to you by your parents. You must develop your own faith. You must understand God's Word for yourself. Questions and doubts will work for your good if they are handled in the right way. You will become an adult with deeply-held convictions and morals, and you will be less affected by popular opinions.

Lamentations 3:27 says, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." The teen years are a time for developing submission and self-discipline, character traits you will need the rest of your life. Do not try to handle these years (with all the feelings, doubts, and questions) by yourself. You need the prayers and guidance of godly people (parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, or pastor). Talk to them; let them know what you are struggling with; ask them to pray with you. Submitting to the authority of leaders (Hebrews 13:17; Colossians 3:20) and to God (James 4:7) will, in time, bring greater understanding of what is right, what is wrong, and what decisions you should make for your future.

Bible Quiz



1. What do you think the slogan "Question Authority" meant?

2. What are some of the questions mentioned in the lesson that teens are dealing with?

3. What is the definition of "rebellion"?

4. What kind of feelings might possibly lead to rebellion?

5. Where does rebellion begin?

6. How did King Saul rebel?

7. How did Korah rebel?

8. What did God promise we do not have to be ignorant of?

9. What are some warning signs listed in the lesson?

10. How can you take captive thoughts that might lead to rebellion?

11. Why is it important to learn submission during your teen years?

What Is Rebellion Connected With?

Fill in the Blanks

UNBELIEF – "Likewise when the LORD sent you from Kadeshbarnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye _____ against the commandment of the LORD your God, and ye _____ him not, nor hearkened to his voice" (Deuteronomy 9:23).

STUBBORNNESS – "For I know thy rebellion, and thy _____ neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been _____ against the LORD; and how much more after my death?" (Deuteronomy 31:27).

CORRUPTION – "Thy princes are _____, and companions of thieves: every one loveth _____, and followeth after _____: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them" (Isaiah 1:23).

DISOBEDIENCE – "But if ye will not _____ the voice of the LORD, but _____ against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers" (1 Samuel 12:15).

REJECTION OF GOD'S WORDS – "Because they _____ against the words of God, and _____ [rejected] the counsel of the most High" (Psalm 107:11).

REJECTION OF GOD – "I have _____ out my hands all the day unto a _____ people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts" (Isaiah 65:2).