

# Peer pressure on individual choices: By Erica Jermanus

Many Christians struggle with peer pressure in their lives. Christians struggle to fit in with society because they were never meant to. We as Christians were made to stand out from the crowd. We were made to be set apart from the world. When we hang around the wrong people, we start to give in to peer pressure. We start to act like and behave like the people we are most surrounded by. Either the people in your circle are influencing you for good or for evil. We start to do the things that others are doing because it looks fun or good in the moment.

We start to pick up on people's bad habits and toxic sin cycles because we are hanging around them all the time. We think because they are doing certain sins, it makes it okay for us to do those same sins too because it is comfortable with our nature. We partake in the same sins of others, such as going to the bars and clubs and getting drunk and high. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Christians also get into relationships and fornicate or have sex outside of marriage. This is a sin that can lead to death if we do not confess and repent.

Many Christians get pressured into sin, because a boyfriend or girlfriend tempted them into it. That is not a reason to stay in a relationship when a person is tempting you against your own free will, especially when it is sexual sin. Christians should keep their purity vows and wait till marriage to have sex. 1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 says, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."

Christians also should not be going to bars and clubs and drinking and smoking because it is part of the old sinful nature. When we first come to Christ, we put to death the old deeds of the body and put on the new nature of Christ in His likeness. We desire to walk in the Spirit more and less in the flesh. We are not perfect, but we continue to make progress towards Christ and His perfection. We will want to do the things that are pleasing to Christ. When we break Jesus Christ's heart by sinning against Him, we ask Him for forgiveness and turn away from that sin. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to

forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

