

LOUD CRY  
MAGAZINE

THE YOUNG MESSENGER

2024

October - December  
VOL. 2 NO. 1

Feature

Serving the Lord in  
Your Youth

Meditation

How Can One Make  
The Most of Their Youth

Q&A

Voice of the Youth  
Part. 3

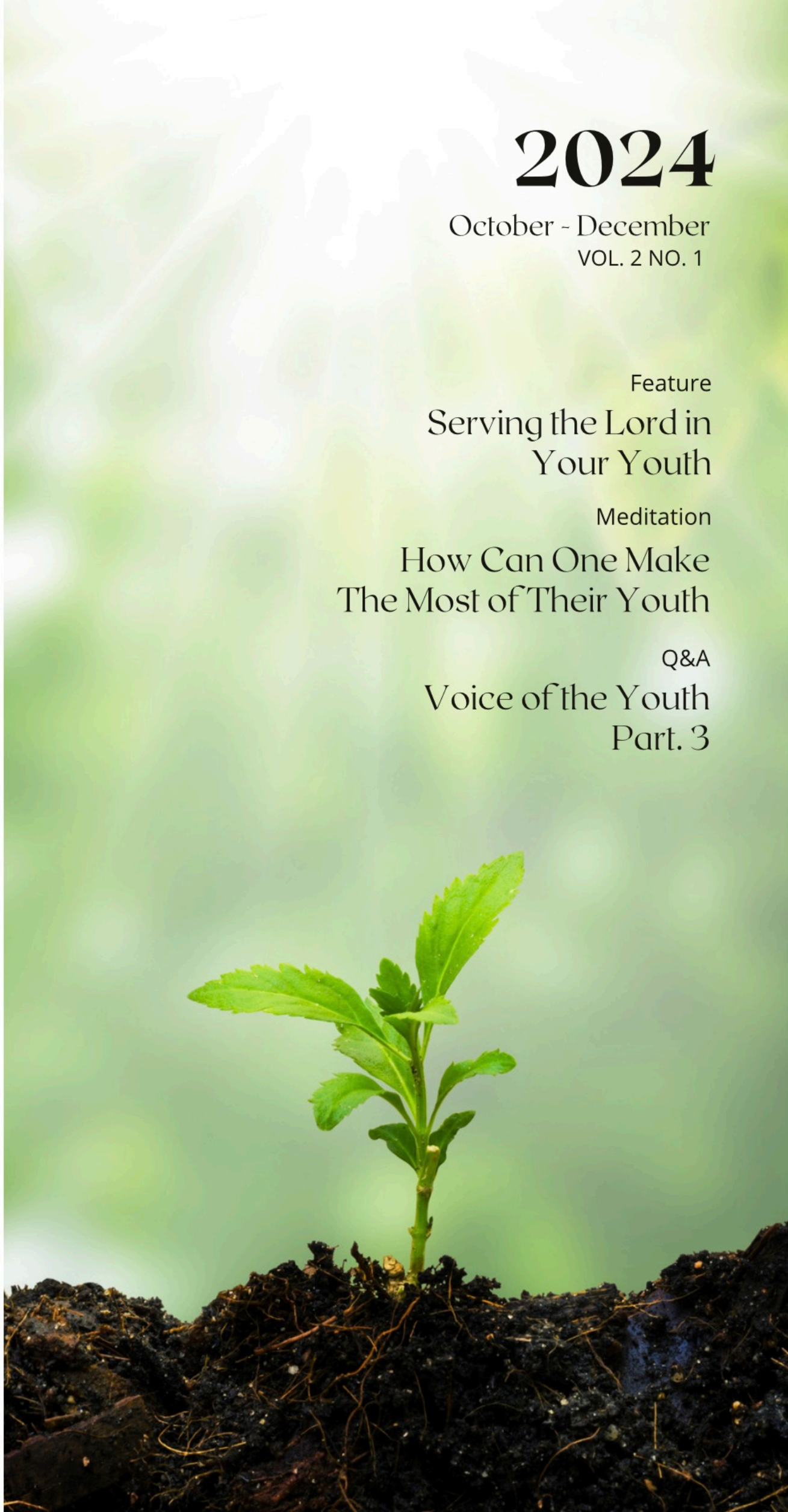


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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

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Official Magazine of International Missionary Society  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement  
Canadian Field Youth Department

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."  
Ecclesiastes 12:1

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# GREETINGS FROM THE YOUTH LEADER

Hi everyone!

My name is Jason and I am the current Youth Leader for the Canadian Field. Believe it or not, this is my 8th year working with the Youth Department at the Field Level (wow!). It's been a long time coming, and I've seen the department develop under different leadership and grow to what it is now. From the days of our YouPray Program in 2017, to our trip to Emily Provincial Park in 2024 there's so much that the department has done for the Canadian Field Youth. I'm glad to have been a part of it for this long, and I'm thrilled to continue being invited to serve in this capacity with each of you.



As your Youth Leader, my hope is that I can encourage you in your faith, act as a mentor and lead you closer to God.

Three years (the term length) may seem like a long time, but they fly by. As such, I encourage you to get involved! Soon there will be opportunities for engagement in various projects and committees! If you've never taken on a project or have been interested in starting something in the department, please let me know.

Finally, I wanted to leave a thought for you. Often we share that the youth are the "future" of the church. While I do agree, I believe that youth are also the "present" of the church. 1 Timothy 4:12 tells us that we ought to be an "example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" for the believers. With this in mind, what you do now as a young person has an impact on the church not only tomorrow, but today. And so friends, God shares the same message that he gave to Joshua in Joshua 1:9 - "Be strong and of good courage; be not dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest". Here is to an amazing term!

Yours in Jesus

Jason



Dear Young Friends,

When young I felt the need of the Saviour, and was about eleven years old when I first rejoiced in his love. Previous to that time I had conviction of sin. I can recollect when very young, of feeling the necessity of having my sins forgiven and washed away, lest I should be for ever miserable.

I had praying parents, who felt great anxiety for the welfare of their children. I remember of trying to appear perfectly indifferent before them, for fear they would think I was under conviction, while I bore an aching heart, and night and day was troubled, fearing death might come upon me while in sin. When thunder-storms would

arise, O, what dreadful suffering I passed through in my mind. Nights I would often awake and cry, not daring to close my eyes in sleep, for fear the judgment might come, or the lightning kill me, and I be lost forever.

Children, if any of you are without a hope in Christ, and you fear or tremble when any storm shall now arise, ask yourselves this question: If I fear now, how shall I stand in the great and dreadful day of God's wrath? None of the wicked can escape then. There will not be an hour, a moment lent you then to get prepared for that dreadful day.

You will then witness, not merely rain, lightning and thunder; but every island will flee away, and the mountains will not be found.

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“And there fell upon men great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent.” (Revelation 16:21). The storm of God's wrath is soon coming upon a guilty world, and can you endure the thought of coming up to such a scene without a hope in God, and feeling that his withering frown is upon you? If you want a shelter, you must seek it now, and then you will be hid when the fierce anger of the Lord shall come.

I remember of often hearing my mother pray for us; one night in particular after I had retired. I shall never forget that earnest prayer for her unconverted children. She appeared to be much distressed, as she wrestled with God for us. I never shall forget these words which kept in my mind day and night. “O! Will they wade through so many prayers, to destruction and misery.” As I looked the matter over, thoughts would rush into my mind like this: The saints, and especially my parents, desire to save me from destruction, and yet I am so unthinking and cruel as to wade through their prayers, or drive off conviction that pressed upon me, and by my heedless course, plainly show that I choose death rather than life.

Dear children, if you have praying parents, prize their prayers, heed their instructions, and remember that you will have to give an account for the privileges you now enjoy. All heaven is interested in your salvation. God has given his only beloved Son to die for your transgressions, angels are watching over you, and are trying to turn your attention to God, to seek your soul's salvation. Christians are interested for you, and labor and pray for you. Your parents, who have watched over you all your life, if

they are Christians, are deeply interested for you. They bear your case to the throne, and earnestly plead for God to spare you, to not cut you off in sin, and you be lost forever. Their aching hearts will find no rest until they see you followers of the meek and lowly Saviour. And will you steel your hearts to all their prayers offered for you? Will you not be interested in your own soul's salvation? Will you think it brave (as I once thought) to appear unconcerned and thoughtless, as though you disregarded a mother's tears and prayers? O, will you “wade through so many prayers to destruction and misery?” When all are willing to help you, will you not help yourselves?

I now have a mother's feeling of strong attachment and love for my children, and have often wished that I had my youthful days to live over again. O, how careful I would be of my parents feelings. I would love to obey them. I would open my whole soul to my anxious parents, and not do as I once did.

If I was reading my Bible, and my parents would be coming into the room, I would hide it for shame. Children, if there is any one entitled to your confidence, it is your dear parents who have spent so many anxious hours for you in your infancy, and all your life, have watched over you, and loved you as none but a parent can love.

In 1839, that faithful servant of the Lord. Wm. Miller, visited Portland Me., and gave a course of Lectures on the second coming of Christ. This had a great affect upon me. I knew that I must be lost if Christ should come, and I be found as I then was. At times I was greatly distressed as to my situation.



But it was hard for me to give entirely up to the Lord. I knew that if I professed religion I must be a whole christian, and viewed it so great a thing to be a christian, that I feared I never should be one, if I professed religion. So I remained, suffering distress and anguish of spirit, some months.

My parents were Methodists. I generally attended meeting with them; and at a camp-meeting held in Buxton, Me., which all the family attended, I resolved to give myself unreservedly to the Lord. I commenced there to seek the Lord with all my heart, and could not be satisfied with anything short of pure religion. My mind was in great distress some weeks. At a prayer-meeting I found relief. O, how sweet was peace of mind. Every thing seemed changed.

I then felt no disposition to dress like the world, but wished to be plain in my dress, sober, and watchful, and put away all light and trifling conversation.

The minister spoke to me about being baptized. I told him that I could not be

baptized then, that I wished to see if I could endure the trials a christian would have to endure, before moving forward in such a solemn ordinance.

When twelve years old, I wished to be immersed. The minister reluctantly consented to go into the water. He chose to sprinkle the candidates. It was a very windy day. The waves ran high, and dashed upon the shore; but I felt perfectly calm. My peace was like a river; and when I arose out of the water, my strength was nearly gone, for the power of God rested upon me, and my soul was filled to overflowing with his love. Such a rich blessing I never experienced before. I felt dead to the world, and that my sins were all washed away.

The same day a sister and myself were taken into the church. I felt calm and happy, till I looked at the sister by my side, and saw gold rings on her fingers, and large gold earrings in her ears. Her bonnet was filled with artificial flowers, and was trimmed with costly ribbon, which was filled with bows

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upon her bonnet. My heart felt sad. I expected every moment that a reproof would come from the minister; but none came. He took us both into the church. My reflections were as follows: This is my sister, must I pattern after her? Must I dress like her? If it is right for her to dress so, it is right for me. I remembered what the Bible said about adorning the body. [1 Timothy 2:9, 10.] For some time I was in deep trial, and finally concluded that if it was so sinful as I had thought it to be to dress like the world, those whom I looked up to as being devoted christians, and older in experience than myself, would feel it, and would deal plainly with those who thus went contrary to God's word. But I knew that I must be plain in my dress. I believed it to be wicked to think so much of appearance, to decorate our poor mortal bodies with flowers and gold. It seemed to me that we had better be humbling ourselves in the dust; for our sins and transgressions were so great that God gave his only beloved Son to die for us.

I did not feel satisfied with what I enjoyed. I longed to be sanctified to God; but sanctification was preached in such a manner that I could not understand it, and thought that I never could attain to it, and settled down with my present enjoyment.

In 1841, Wm. Miller gave another course of Lectures in Portland. I attended them, and felt that I was not ready for Christ's coming; and when the invitation was given for those who desired prayers to come forward, I pressed through the crowd, and in taking up this cross found some relief.

I continued to plead with God for pure religion, and soon the cross of praying in a

public meeting was presented before me. I was not humble enough to obey the Lord in this duty, fearing that if I attempted to pray, I could not, or my prayer would be very broken. Despair fastened upon me, and I was held in darkness three weeks. The suffering of my mind was great. O, how precious did the hope of a christian look to me then. And how wretched the case of the sinner, without a hope in Christ.

I found no relief until I made up my mind to obey the Lord, and take up the cross before me.—I attended a prayer-meeting, and, for the first time, prayed vocally. My burdened spirit found relief at every word I spoke, until I was perfectly free and happy. Light from the Lord shone into my heart.

I was then free from pride. All that I desired to live for, was to glorify God, and him only did I wish to serve. All pride of dress was gone. The sacrifice that Christ had made to save me from sin, looked very great, and I could not dwell upon it without weeping.



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My health had been feeble for years, and often suffered great distress of body. But I could now bear it all cheerfully. I felt that my will was wholly swallowed up in the will of God.

Often I could not sleep, I was so thankful that God had blessed me, and given me a good hope through Jesus Christ. I felt a longing of soul for the image of Christ to be reflected in me. Since that time I have had no desire to mingle with the world.

Dear children, you can be wholly consecrated to God, and rejoice in a full and free salvation. You must first give yourselves unreservedly to him.—Do not think that your state is good enough, and make no effort to get nearer to God. Unless you overcome pride of dress, pride of heart, love of self[,] all anger and every evil passion, God will not own you as his, and will not receive you to himself at his appearing. You can be overcomers. Go to God daily for strength, and every day overcome. When temptations arise, do not let them get the victory over you; but you must get the victory over them; and then you will feel the sweet assurance that God loves you. Be humble, be watchful and prayerful. Look to Jesus, he is your pattern. Strive to have your lives as much like his as possible. Do not rest satisfied until you know that you love God with all your heart, and that his will is your will.

Keep his commandments holy. Do not speak your own words on the holy Sabbath, but talk of heavenly things. Talk of Jesus, his loveliness and glory, and of his undying love for you, and let your heart flow out in love and gratitude to him, who died to save you.



O, get ready to meet your Lord in peace. Those who are ready will soon receive an unfading crown of life, and will dwell forever in the kingdom of God, with Christ, with angels, and with those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.

Amen

Rochester,

*Ellen G. White*

From The Youth Instructor, December 1, 1852



# SERVING

## The LORD in Your Youth

*By Charles Mogunde*

*From General Conference  
Youth Department  
(UponHighPlaces.org)*

### **Importance of serving the Lord in your youth**

*“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth”  
(Ecclesiastes 12:1a).*

Serving the Lord during our youth is important because, it is the right period of our lives that we have both the physical and mental strength. During this period, we have good memory. It is the time when we can memorize a lot of content in our minds.



In the last 2 years, our lecturer taught us that when a child is born, the brain is tabula rasa meaning that it is empty. It starts to fill gradually as it develops. At the adolescent stage is when the mental activity is great. At this stage in life, one is able to comprehend a lot of things. This is when the character can be changed easily.

So, why the scripture does says that we should remember our Creator when we are young. The answer is that we are likely to remember and serve our creator while young.

Also, we can compare the youthful life as the first fruits of our lives. in line with that, He requires the first fruits but not leftovers. Your old age is compared to leftovers because you are a spent force. At old age most people have poor judgment and have the character of conservatism. Old people fear change at all costs. They have valid excuses for their decisions.

Youth is the brief moment in ones life. It is precious. A youth can decide to make his entire life miserable or valuable in the future. The youthful time should be spent in the best way possible which God approves.

My friends, life is terminal. Dear youth, our lives have no guarantee. You and I have

today to serve our Lord. Tomorrow is not yours.

Today we have the opportunity to form our Habit pattern. It will be difficult to form a habit pattern when old. Please, read the verse:

*“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’; before the sun, the light, the moon, and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain; in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim; and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:1-4).

The above scriptures tells that the dark days are the days when we are old. At this time, our eyesight will be dimmed. As well our mental activity will be dimmed.

Old people have Stooped posture. Yes, at one time they were mighty but now their knees have buckled. They are no longer tall and straight. The few remaining teeth do not grind, neither do they chew as before. Their

eyesight grows dim. They become hard of hearing, their face sag and find it difficult to sleep. their sleep is easily interrupted.

Dear youth, I do not want to threaten your of old age. I only want you to imagine this condition. Do you believe you can serve the Lord best?

Sickness is another factor that causes a lot of pain. While in sick bed it is not easy to remember and serve your God. At that moment you can only murmur a brief prayer for quick recovery. I urge the reader to serve the Lord while he is well. When he has a youthful vigor before the dark days come upon him or her.

#### Factors of success

There could be many factors that facilitate our success in spiritual matters and in life. But the prime factor is the total dependence upon the Lord. God is not human, He has never failed those who depend upon Him and His promises. When am tempted and falls, God reminds me that am weak and mortal. Therefore He requires me to go to Him as a kind and loving Father for forgiveness and Guidance.

God teachers us that if we use our time, strength and talents well, we shall succeed in our ways. Faithfulness and claiming His promises in faith will yield great success in our youth life.

Early reformers began their work of reform while young. Martin Luther was influential due to his intellectual ability in his college. God used him as a young man to strike the root of evils in the Pagan Rome. He was not a novice. God will as well use young people who are despised in the church organizations to complete the work



*You are never  
too young to  
serve the Lord*

of the Great Reform. By the working of the Holy Spirit, young people will arise to Declare the sins of Babylon, and the backsliding of the God's people.

Those who have utilized their youthful life in seeking the Lord, will as well be used in by God to do his Great work for the salvation of mankind.

Thank our Lord that among us we have the old who have served the Lord from the time they were young. We call them the pioneers of our faith. May we be inspired by their good deeds in entreating us to remain trusting the Lord.

## Dangers young people face in this period of life

As a youth, you easily learn evil ways. you can be swayed by fashionable styles that are currently flooding the earth. The movies we watch, and the music we hear excites our imagination as a result we try to imitate all that pleases our desires.

Compare our lives with that of Samson. He loved entertainment; consequently he was lured to temptations. Likewise, refer the story of the prodigal son.

*"This younger son had become weary of the restraint of his father's house. He thought that his liberty was restricted. His father's love and care for him were misinterpreted, and he determined to follow the dictates of his own inclination.*

*The youth acknowledges no obligation to his father, and expresses no gratitude; yet he claims the privilege of a child in sharing his father's goods. The inheritance that would fall to him at his father's death he desires to receive now. He is bent on present enjoyment, and cares not for the future.*

*Having obtained his patrimony, he goes into 'a far country,' away from his father's home. With money in plenty, and liberty to do as he likes, he flatters himself that the desire of his heart is reached. There is no one to say, Do not do this, for it will be an injury to yourself; or, Do this, because it is right. Evil companions help him to plunge ever deeper into sin, and he wastes his 'substance with riotous living.'*

*The Bible tells of men who 'professing themselves to be wise' 'became fools' (Rom. 1:22); and this is the history of the young man of the parable. The wealth which he has selfishly claimed from his father he squanders upon harlots. The treasure of his young*

*manhood is wasted. The precious years of life, the strength of intellect, the bright visions of youth, the spiritual aspirations-- all are consumed in the fires of lust.*

*A great famine arises, he begins to be in want, and he joins him-self to a citizen of the country, who sends him into the field to feed swine. To a Jew this was the most menial and degrading of employments. The youth who has boasted of his liberty, now finds himself a slave. He is in the worst of bondage--'holden with the cords of his sins.' (Prov. 5:22.) The glitter and tinsel that enticed him have disappeared and he feels the burden of his chain. Sitting upon the ground in that desolate and famine-stricken land, with no companions but the swine, he is fain to fill himself with the husks on which the beasts are fed. Of the gay companions who flocked about him in his prosperous days and ate and drank at his expense, there is not one left to befriend him. Where now is his riotous joy? Stilling his conscience, benumbing his sensibilities, he thought himself happy; but now, with money spent, with hunger unsatisfied, with pride humbled, with his moral nature dwarfed, with his will weak and untrustworthy, with his finer feelings seemingly dead, he is the most wretched of mortals." - Christ's Objects Lessons pp. 198-200*

Dear youth do not squander the precious years, the powers of mind and heart and soul. The man, who separates from God that he may serve himself, is the slave of mammon.

*"If you have chosen such a life, you know that you are spending money for that which is not bread, and labor for that which satisfied not. There come to you hours when you realize your degradation. Alone in the far country you feel your misery, and in despair you cry, 'O*

wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?' (Romans 7:24). It is the statement of a universal truth which is contained in the prophet's words, 'Cursed be the man that trusted in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departed from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.' (Jeremiah 17:5, 6).

When he danced and feasted with his wild companions, little did he think of the shadow that had fallen on his home. And now as with weary and painful steps he pursues the homeward way, he knows not that one is watching for his return. But while he is yet 'a great way off' the father discerns his form. Love is of quick sight. Not even the degradation of the years of sin can conceal the son from the father's eyes. He 'had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck' in a long, clinging, tender embrace.

The father will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son's misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle, and wraps it around the son's wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance, saying, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be

called thy son.' The father holds him close to his side, and brings him home. No opportunity is given him to ask a servant's place. He is a son, who shall be honored with the best the house affords, and whom the waiting men and women shall respect and serve.

The father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." - Christ's Objects Lessons, pp. 202-203

### **Let us return**

Life without God is a vacuum. It is a Hollow life. It satisfies nothing. We will try to stray from His love but while away from Him we shall suffer and lead a miserable life. Let's return to Him Like the prodigal son and claim His promise "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7).

Amen





Youth – It’s such a beautiful word that excites us. This word always comes with dreams, passion, energy, vision, etc. The word for “youth” In Japanese is “*Seishun*,” which literally means “Green Spring.” That’s a good description of youth. It is a green spring. New lives are coming out. There is much growth. There is an excitement for a new beginning. But what makes it the most special is probably its shortness. The fact that spring does not last forever makes it more precious; similarly, the shortness of our youthful state makes it much more precious.

Youth has the potential to be and do anything. Much of our lives depend on what we do during this time. Its influence follows them for the rest of their lives. Furthermore, the chance of this potential never comes back once it passes by. We can be young only once in our lives. Therefore, it is a very critical time in our lives.

Because of all these factors – potential, energy, influence on our lives, shortness, and unrepeatability – many young people ask: How can I make the most of my youth? How can I spend this time so that I do not regret it in the future?



This question branches into many others: What is the purpose of my life? What makes me feel satisfied? Am I important to others? Who am I?

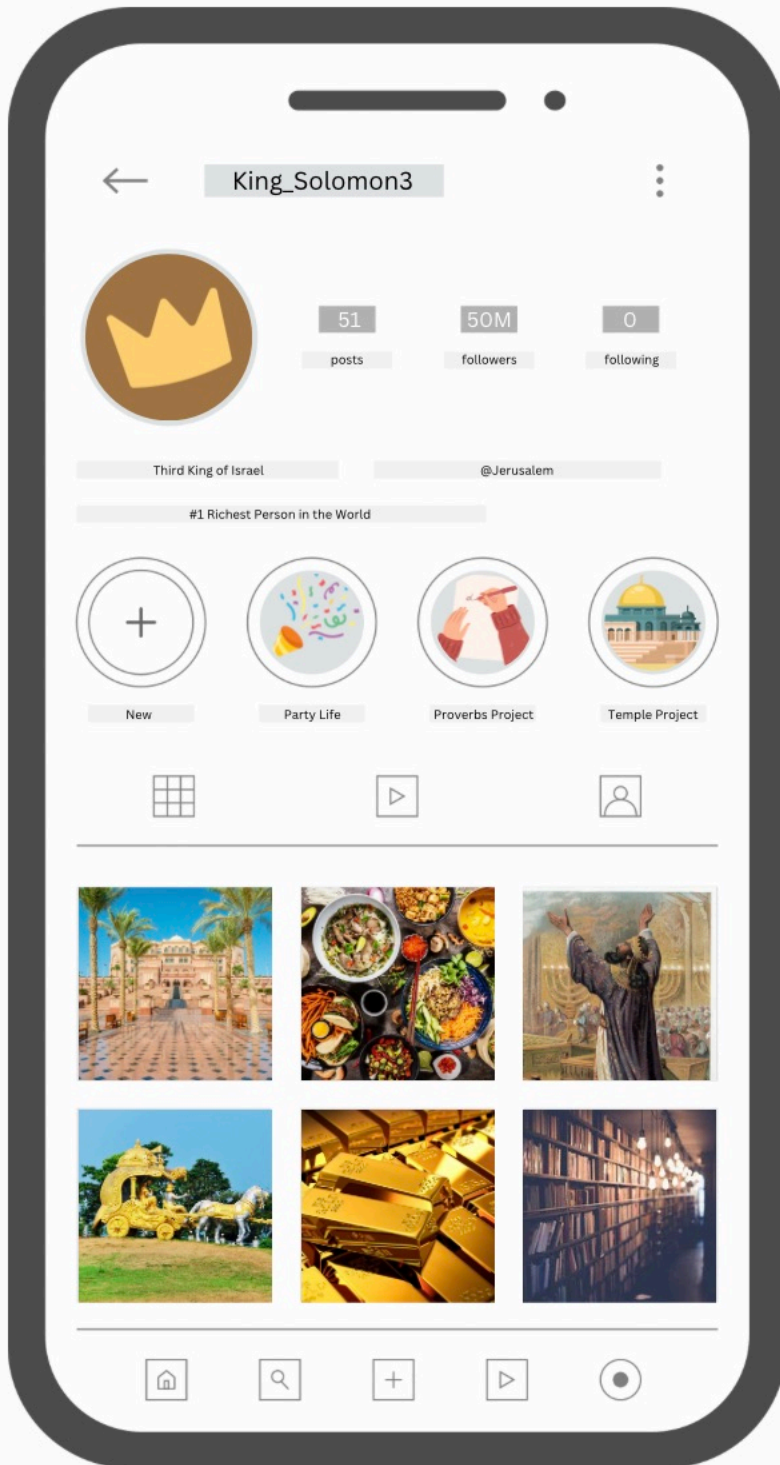
Knowing our questions, Satan and the world suggest an answer to us. YOLO! – You Only Live Once. Well, it is not a wrong statement. Yes, we only live once, so we need to live it according to the word of God. However, what the world suggests through this word is not to live right. They suggest that since we live only once, we should do whatever we feel like doing. And they show us pride, food, parties, fame, money, art, music, sports, social life, entertainment, success, etc.

One of the places where we can see this motto the most might be on social media. Have you ever seen other people's pictures in which they seem to live the best lives? They go on vacations to beautiful places, drive fantastic cars, work in fancy offices, study hard, buy expensive items, etc.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with going on a vacation. There is nothing wrong with food, money, music, success, etc. Studying hard or working hard are good things. There is absolutely nothing wrong with sharing our lives with others and keeping in touch with them through social media. However, all these are good only when we do it in Jesus. Many people believe their youth and lives are only valuable when they can live like these “successful people” on social media.

One man lived the best YOLO that any human could imagine. He was known to be the wealthiest king ever in history. Since he had power and money, there was nothing that he could have done better to let himself enjoy. His name was Solomon. We can see his “Instagram feed” in Ecclesiastes 2:4-10.

“I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of



water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem:

also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.”

He had everything. He had the most delicious food prepared by the best cook. He was the host and central figure of many parties. He was the most famous person in the world then, as kings, queens, and celebrities from around the world came to see him. He was one of those people who would have had the most “Instagram followers” in the world. He was the wealthiest king in history, so his room overflowed with money and the most excellent products. He enjoyed the best arts and music from the most talented people. He was gifted and smart himself, too. With the wisdom he received from God, he was one of the most intelligent people in history. He was a king, so he had the power to tell everyone what to do without any concern. There was a whole team that prepared different types of entertainment for him every day. No one else’s “Instagram feed” could be more spectacular than his.

However, after trying all these things to make himself feel satisfied, the only thing he could say was the following:

“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?... I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.... Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.... ” (Ecclesiastes 1:2,3; 2:1, 17, 20).





Vanity of vanities,  
all is vanity.

What is vanity? The Hebrew word for Vanity is “hevel” and it means “vapor” or “breath.” It means emptiness. Even though Solomon tried everything anything man could imagine to make himself satisfied and happy, we can see that he only felt dissatisfaction and emptiness in the end.

“Solomon sat upon a throne of ivory, the steps of which were of solid gold, flanked by six golden lions. His eyes rested upon highly cultivated and beautiful gardens just before him. Those grounds were visions of loveliness, arranged to resemble, as far as possible, the garden of Eden. Choice trees and shrubs, and flowers of every variety, had been brought from foreign lands to beautify them. Birds of every variety of brilliant plumage flitted from tree to tree, making the air vocal with sweet songs. Youthful attendants, gorgeously dressed and decorated, waited to obey his slightest wish. Scenes of revelry, music, sports, and games were arranged for his diversion at an extravagant expenditure of money.

But all this did not bring happiness to the king. He sat upon his magnificent throne, his frowning countenance dark with despair. Dissipation had left its impress upon his once fair and intellectual face. He was sadly changed from the youthful Solomon. His brow was furrowed with care and unhappiness, and he bore in every feature the unmistakable marks of sensual indulgence. His lips were prepared to break forth into reproaches at the slightest deviation from his wishes.

His shattered nerves and wasted frame showed the result of violating Nature's laws. He confessed to a wasted life, an unsuccessful chase after happiness. His is the mournful wail, “All is vanity and vexation of spirit.” - *The Health Reformer, June 1878.*

The words “vanity,” “Vanities,” and “Vain” appear 42 times in Ecclesiastes. Considering that Ecclesiastes is a relatively short book in the Bible with only 12 chapters, we can see how Solomon emphasized that the only thing he could gain after all these YOLOs

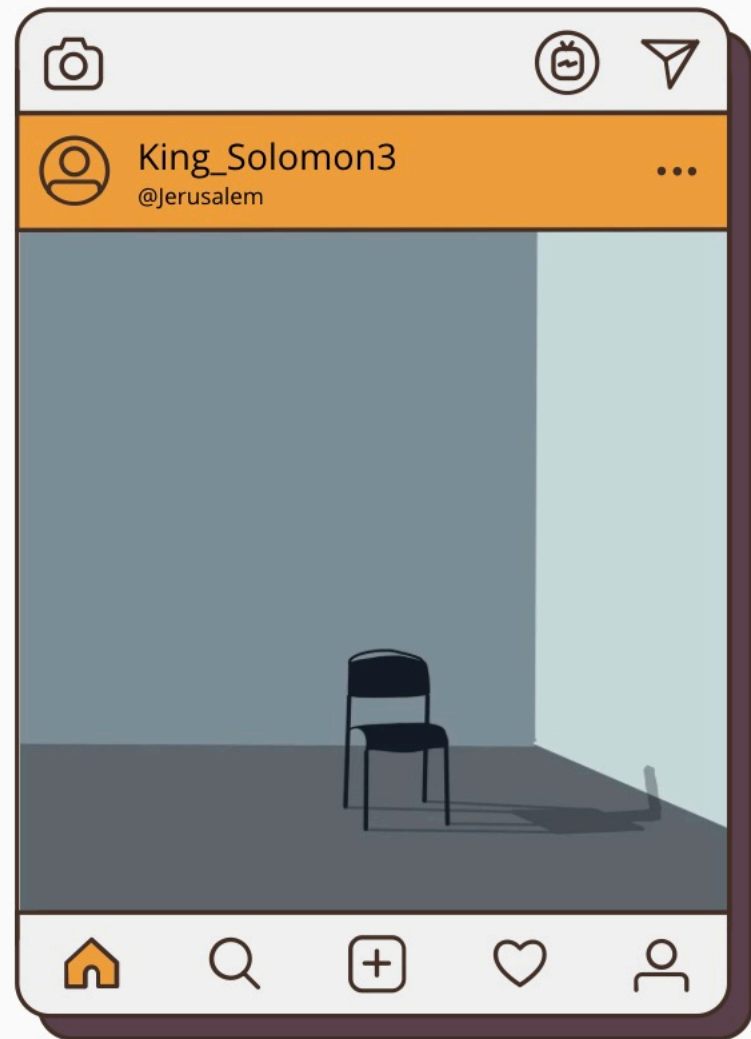
was emptiness.

Many influential and wealthy people in history tried to satisfy their hearts. They had an emptiness in their hearts, an unsatisfied thirst. They wanted to fill it with different activities, sometimes even by causing war to gain more power. However, they could only find vanity and emptiness when they reached their goals and conquered the world. They went down to their graves with dissatisfaction and unhappiness even though they seemed to have everything.

Fortunately, Solomon finally realized what he missed after all this. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13). What does it mean? Since creation, man was designed to find happiness in God. God made the universe and nature that runs and moves by His law. Naturally, the principle that runs through our body, mind, and spirit is also His law. Therefore, we can be truly happy only when we keep His commandments. That's how we are created. That's why His commandments are "the whole duty of man."

This was the "conclusion of the whole matter." He tried the "whole matter" to please himself. He did everything. The "conclusion" he found after spending all his life on enjoyment was that we could be truly satisfied only when we live according to God's words.

Coming back to his creator, Solomon was now happy. He was satisfied. But there was one thing that he regretted. "Only if... Only if I could realize it earlier..." If he had learned this lesson earlier, he could have enjoyed this true satisfaction for a more extended period. Also, he could have used



his youthful energy and potential for more work for God. How much honour and glory God should have received if Solomon could use his talents for Him. But he missed the chance, and now his life was already coming to an end.

Wishing the following generations would not repeat his mistake, he wrote the advice as follows:

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Remember "now" - when you are still young, "in the days of your youth." Before "the years draw nigh," and you become old like me. Before "evil days come," when you live a life like me and end up finding no pleasure in it. Do not make the same

mistake. Do not find pleasure in what the world suggests and regret it as your lives come near the end, as I did.

Remember your "creator." You are His creation. Therefore, it is a science and the law of nature that you can find true happiness in Him. That's how we are created. That's how we are made. Perfect happiness is found in the sinless world that God created. We try to find happiness in a sinful world but won't get any. God gave us free will. We have to choose if we will find true joy in our creator or if we will seek after the world.

My dear friends. How can we make the most of our youth? Works? Careers? Of course, whatever God puts into our hands, we should do it with all our might. However, if we forget we do all these things for His glory, we fall into vanity. What makes us feel happy? Knowledge? Success? Money? Fame? Cars? Houses? Solomon tried everything. And he tells us: None of them work. I tried everything already, so do not waste your efforts and time. If you want to try, yes, you can go ahead. "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." (Ecclesiastes 11:9). Solomon continues to tell us: But my young friend, I did already. I followed my pleasure, heart, and sinful nature. And it was vanity. Would not it be wiser if you took my life as a lesson and avoided the same mistake?

There was a man. He was not rich in this world's goods. He gave up His high position. He did not have a house or property. His family did not understand Him. His friends

left Him during His worst time. He accepted the position of a servant on earth. He was condemned as a criminal and died at the age of 34. However, He was satisfied. In the eyes of this World, He was not successful, but He saved the whole human race. His name was Jesus.

Dedicate yourself to God. Remember your creator and keep His commandments. When God guides you by sending His voice through the words, providence, family, and the church, follow it. Pray and ask what you can do for Him. God will show you what He expects you to do in His business. There is a great war between good and evil. There is a role for you to play in it.

My dear friends. How can we make the most of our youth? "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Amen

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# VOICE OF ) YOUTH BOX <sup>PART</sup> 3

"Voice of Youth Box" is a unique online space where you can share your voice.

It can be questions about faith, requests for advice about your concern, suggestions about the youth department plan, or any voice you would like to make! It is all anonymous, so feel free to share your deep thoughts.

Do you have anything to share? Please scan the QR code.

In this article, we would like to share our answers to some suggestions/questions sent through this box.





### Question: The Fruit of the Spirit

**1. There are 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit, but why does Galatians 5:22 say, "But the \*fruit\* of the Spirit is..." when it's supposed to be \*are\* because it's plural?**

That was a very good catch! Yes, it is described as singular, and that's not a translation error.

Even in the original language (Greek), it is described as singular.

Even in this simple grammar difference, the Bible is teaching us a spiritual lesson. The fruit of the spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." And they cannot exist independently. Love cannot exist without joy. Joy cannot exist without peace. There is no way we can have just the fruit of the longsuffering but not gentleness. All these 9 parts come together as "one fruit."

So maybe we can put it this way: there is one fruit with 9 slices!

### Question: Alternative History

**2. If Adam and Eve did not sin, would we still be here?**

It's interesting to imagine the "what if" of history. However, we never know the answer. Maybe yes: God told them to multiply so that we might have been born anyway, but without sin. Maybe not: History would have gone totally differently, and we might not have been born. There is no way for us to find out. This is the question we can ask God when we go to heaven.

There is a piece of testimony that show God's original plan for humanity. In other words, how things would have gone if they did not sin. Though it does not answer your question, it might show you a little glimpse of alternative history.

"God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God's purpose to re-populate heaven with the human family, if they would show themselves obedient to His every word. Adam was to be tested, to see whether he would be obedient, as the loyal angels, or disobedient. If he stood the test, his instruction to his children would have been only of loyalty. His mind and thoughts would have been as the mind and thoughts of God. He would have been taught by God as His husbandry and building. His character would have been moulded in accordance with the character of God" - *Letter 91, 1900.*

## Question: Angels

### 3. Are Angels perfect? Are they immortal?

The answer would depend on what you mean by “perfect.” If you ask if angels are divine beings like God and there is no way they can commit sin, the answer is no. They have free will to choose. God did not make angels as robots or machines. God has permitted free will. And some angels, unfortunately, chose sin.

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels” (Revelation 12:7).

“The spirit of dissatisfaction thus kindled was doing its baleful work. While there was no open outbreak, division of feeling imperceptibly grew up among the angels. There were some who looked with favor upon Lucifer's insinuations against the government of God. Although they had heretofore been in perfect harmony with the order which God had established, they were now discontented and unhappy because they could not penetrate His unsearchable counsels; they were dissatisfied with His purpose in exalting Christ. These stood ready to second Lucifer's demand for equal authority with the Son of God. But angels who were loyal and true maintained the wisdom and justice of the divine decree and endeavored to reconcile this disaffected being to the will of God. Christ was the Son of God; He had been one with Him before the angels were called into existence. He had ever stood at the right hand of the Father; His supremacy, so full of blessing to



all who came under its benignant control, had not heretofore been questioned. The harmony of heaven had never been interrupted; wherefore should there now be discord? The loyal angels could see only terrible consequences from this dissension, and with earnest entreaty they counseled the disaffected ones to renounce their purpose and prove themselves loyal to God by fidelity to His government.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 38

But if you mean “perfect” with the condition we will reach in response to the invitation to be perfect as the Father, the answer is yes. Unfallen angels refused to sin. They are perfect in terms of not committing any sins by their choice. They are perfect in keeping God's law with their free will.

We can understand this better by knowing what “perfect” means for us as humans. One of the main issues of the

Great Controversy is that humans can never be perfect.

“The Saviour's life of obedience maintained the claims of the law; it proved that the law could be kept in humanity, and showed the excellence of character that obedience would develop. All who obey as he did, are likewise declaring that the law is “holy, and just, and good.” On the other hand, all who break God's commandments are sustaining Satan's claim that the law is unjust, and cannot be obeyed.” - *The Watchman, August 11, 1908*

Satan has claimed that it is impossible for a human to keep the law of God (to be perfect). However, Jesus kept the law of God by faith as a human, just like us, and thus was perfect. Then he promised to give us the power to be perfect.

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

Therefore, true Christians would choose to stand on God's side in the great controversy and be perfect. They will be perfect and will receive eternal life. Our perfection and immortality do not come from ourselves but as a gift from God.

In this context, we can understand how angels are “perfect.” As we saw in Revelation and ‘Patriarchs and Prophets,’ there had been a great controversy in heaven between Michael (Jesus) and the dragon (Satan). At that time, the issue that Lucifer brought up was still about the law of God, but mostly regarding angels. Satan deceived many angels that they did not need the law of God. Some stood on his side, but some overcame the temptation and stood on God's side. By choosing to keep the law of God, unfallen angels were perfect. As they maintain their

connection with God, they continue receiving eternal life. Their perfection and immortality do not come from themselves but as a gift from God.

It does not mean they are created in a way that they can't sin. There was temptation until the last moment in Jesus' life. But since he was perfect by God's power, temptation had no power over him. The same thing will happen to us. When we become perfect and sealed, the temptation will have no power over us, not because we don't have free will but because of God's power. It is the same for unfallen angels. They won a victory over temptation by God's power in the great controversy that happened in heaven. In this sense, they are perfect and immortal.

## Question: Appearance

### 4. Is it a sin if I get surgery to enhance my appearance? (e.g., Botox, lip fillers, liposuction, breast augmentation)

Cosmetic surgery that is done to enhance the appearance is against God's will. Though we don't have bible verses or testimonies that directly talk about cosmetic surgery, as it did not exist back then, we can see through the lenses of principles of health reform. This time, we will discuss this matter from four points: Christian's beauty standard, Stewardships, Hurting body for beauty, and Internal beauty is what matters.

#### A. Christian's Beauty Standard

The Bible emphasizes natural beauty as follows:

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalm 139:14).

“And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these” (Matthew 6:28-29).

“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

God created us. And his creation should be our standard of beauty. God is the God of beauty. And simplicity and naturalness are his “beauty standards.” However, people tend to follow the artificial beauty standard set by the world, society, and advertisements made by some fashion brands. Let not these be the standard of

beauty for us. Which beauty stand would we follow? The standard set by the everlasting God of beauty or everchanging human beings?

“Their neglect of this important subject exposes them to a fearful accountability. Not only are they suffering themselves the penalty of nature's violated law, but their example is leading others in the same course of transgression. But if men and women would act in reference to their highest temporal good, untrammelled by fashion, living naturally, we should see fewer pale faces, hear less complaint of suffering, and attend less death-beds and funerals.

Because the majority choose to walk in a path which God has positively forbidden, shall all feel compelled to tread the same path? The question is not, What will the world do? but, What shall we as individuals do? Will we accept light and knowledge, and live simply and naturally, feeling that we are under obligation to society, to our children, and to God, to preserve health and a good constitution, serene tempers, and unimpaired judgment? We have a duty to live for the interest of others. In order to benefit others, many think they must conform to custom, or they will lose the influence they might have upon the world. But when they do this, their influence to reform and elevate is lost, and their example leads away from reform. They are on a level with transgressors, therefore, cannot elevate them while their own example sanctions the customs and enslaving fashions of this age. The only hope of benefiting society is in showing them a better way by proper instruction sustained by a correct course on our part....” - *The Health Reformer*, October 1, 1871







this, they are frequently unhappy, gloomy, morose, jealous, and fretful. As a weather vane is turned by the wind, those who consent to live fashionable lives are controlled by every changing fashion, however inconsistent with health and with real beauty. Very many sacrifice comfort and true elegance, to be in the train of fashion. The most enfeebling and deforming fashions are now enslaving those who bow at her shrine” - *The Health Reformer*, October 1, 1871

### B. Stewardships

We need to be faithful stewards of the money the Lord provides. All our finances are entrusted in our hands as our talents. God will judge us for how we use it. Did we use it to provide our family with their needs and to be a blessing to others? Or did we use it to satisfy ourselves with a temporal thing?

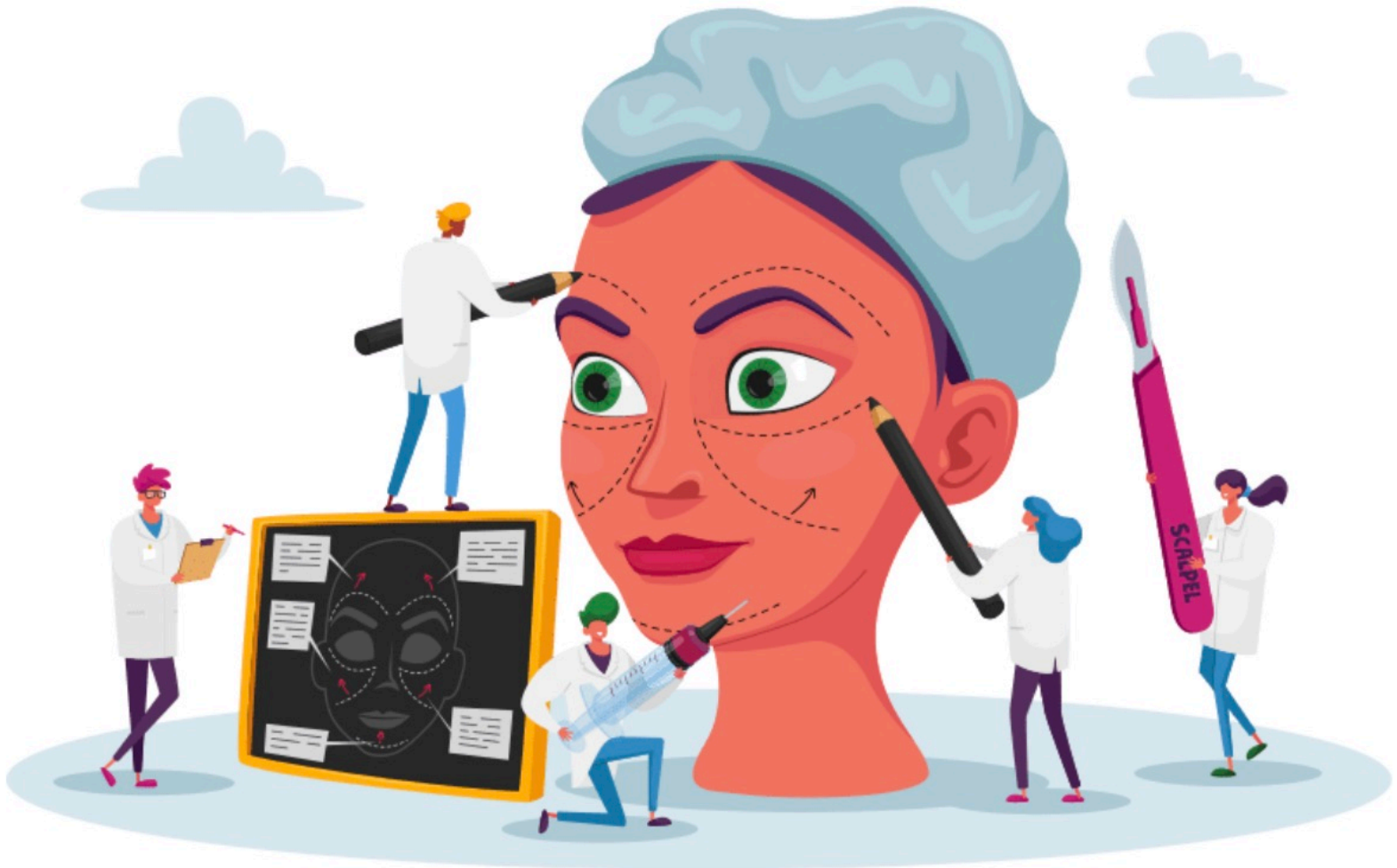
“We cannot afford to live fashionably, for in doing thus, we sacrifice the natural to the artificial. Our artificial habits deprive us of many privileges and much enjoyment, and unfit us for useful life. Fashion subjects us to a hard, thankless life. A vast amount of money is sacrificed to keep pace with changing fashion, merely to create a sensation. The votaries of fashion who live to attract the admiration of friends and strangers, are not happy—far from it. Their happiness consists in being praised and flattered, and if they are disappointed in

### C. Hurting body for beauty

It is not accordingly to God’s plan for us to stress our bodies unnecessarily.

“Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:28).

“We are also under obligation to ourselves, to pursue a course which will not bring unnecessary suffering upon ourselves, and make our lives wretched, we groaning under the weight of disease. If we injure unnecessarily our constitution, we dishonor God, for we transgress the laws of our being. We are under obligation to our neighbors to take a course before them which will give them correct views of the right way to pursue to insure health. If we manifest an indifference upon this great subject of reform, and neglect to obtain the knowledge within our reach, and do not put that knowledge to a practical use, we will be



accountable before God for the light he has given us, which we would not accept and act upon.” - *The Health Reformer*, October 1, 1871

The Bible forbids hurting our skin for the purpose of fashion, such as Tattoos (Leviticus 19:28). If so, how much worse would cosmetic procedures be, which are much more invasive and stressful to our bodies?

#### **D. Internal Beauty is what Matters**

After all, the only beauty standard that God cares about is not our external appearance. The Bible tells us as follows:

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is

in the sight of God of great price” (1 Peter 3:3, 4).

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” (1 Timothy 2:9, 10).

“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30).

Unfortunately, humans often forget what matters most and turn their eyes upon external appearances that would disappear and perish eventually. This nature turns our

yes away from internal beauty, directly connected to our spirituality and character-building. The Words of God give us a warning about this matter for us:

“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings” (Ezekiel 28:17).

“Pleasure-seeking and frivolity blunt the sensibilities of the professed followers of Christ, and make it impossible for them to place a high estimate upon eternal things. Good and evil, by them, are placed upon a level. The high, elevated attainments in godliness, which God designed his people should reach, are not gained. These lovers of pleasure seem to be pleased with earthly and sensual things, to the neglect of the higher life. The enjoyments of this life, which God has abundantly provided for them in the varied works of nature, which have an elevating influence upon the heart and life, are not attractive to those who are conformed to the fashions of the world. They rush on unmindful of the glories of nature, seen in the works of God's hands, and seek for happiness in fashionable life, and in unnatural excitement which is in direct opposition to the laws of God established in our being. The Marshall Statesman says:...

Curls and cosmetics are all in requisition to enhance the beauty of ‘the human face divine;’ but what is the result? Youth's roses only flee the faster—old age will creep on apace; rouge cannot hide its wrinkles, nor can it make any face beautiful. We are decided believers in the old adage, ‘handsome is that handsome does.’ No face has true beauty in it that does not mirror the

deeds of a noble soul. There is not a thought, word, or deed, that does not leave its autograph written on the human countenance; and we care not whether kind nature has given her child an ugly face or a handsome one, if the heart that beats underneath all is warm and loving. And if the soul that looks out from the eyes be true and pure, the face will be beautiful always, for it has found the true fountain of youth; and though time may fold the hair in silver, and furrow the brow, yet there will ever be a beauty lighting it up that years cannot dim, for the heart and soul never grow old.” - *The Health Reformer, October 1, 1871*

So, for these reasons, it is clear that cosmetic surgeries are against God's will. The words of God reveal that it is meaningless and in vain. It is against the law of nature, which was set by God, and it also deprives our interest in the eternal matter in an earthly fashion.

Please note that we are talking exclusively about cosmetic surgeries due to beauty seeking. We are not talking about plastic surgeries for medical purposes, as it is totally different case. There is nothing wrong with plastic surgeries that are part of healing. For example, we can think about plastic surgery post-trauma due to an accident. It might be some defects that cause discomfort or negative effects on quality of life. Many different cases require plastic surgery to improve health. These are accordingly to the spirit of health reform.

5. Hello, I have read your response to my question about hair accessories in your youth magazine. I appreciate your earnest efforts, I never imagined reading my random question in an official article. However, what I actually wanted to know is not about the essential hair accessories (aka hair tie). What I meant were hair accessories that are not really considered necessary like this:



I'm glad you liked our new method of delivering answers. Also, thank you very much for your further questions!

One of the most central keywords of dress reform is "modesty." And we need to remember that the idea of modesty is influenced by culture and history. For example, a certain colour might be considered "showy" in one culture while it is considered normal in another. Therefore, even the same hair accessories might be showy in one country and not in another. Of course, there are universal common senses, such as jewelry being against modesty.

Also, we should think about the price. One of the important aspects of dress reform is our stewardship toward God. We should not get expensive hair accessories, as that money could be used for others.

Keeping these in mind, I would like to talk about these hair accessories in the Canadian culture I am surrounded by. These hair accessories look modest. But it might not be modest if those were bigger, in eye-catching colours, or with certain showy decorations. And we do not have any criteria to tell what is modest or not. The reason why we don't have such criteria is that (1) modesty depends on cultural and historical context, as stated already, and (2) we should not make or add detailed "principles" or "laws" that are not given by God already, as that's a spirit of Pharisees.

Now in regard to the necessity of hair accessories, one example we can think about is a male necktie. In some cultures, neckties are considered acceptable accessories for Christians though it is not a "necessary" part of our appearance. Neckties might be just an addition, but they contribute to our appearance of honouring God. As long as neckties are modest and affordable, it is a proper accessory for Christians. In my cultural context, these hair accessories seem to fall within the similar concept of neckties.

So you might ask, how do I know what is modest in my context? I recommend you look at how other experienced sisters in

your church dress. You can also ask them questions directly. They can give you some guidelines. Then you need to think critically "Is it a modest dress for God?"

The most important spirit of dress reform is to honour God through our dress. So please keep the question in your mind. "Am I dressed to show myself off? Will these hair accessories bring attention to me? Or will my dress be an honour and glory for God?"

For further studies, please read the following writings by sister White:

- The Dress Reform
- Guiding Principles in Dress Reform

## Question: Sin

### 6. Is euthanasia a sin as well? Is it suicide?

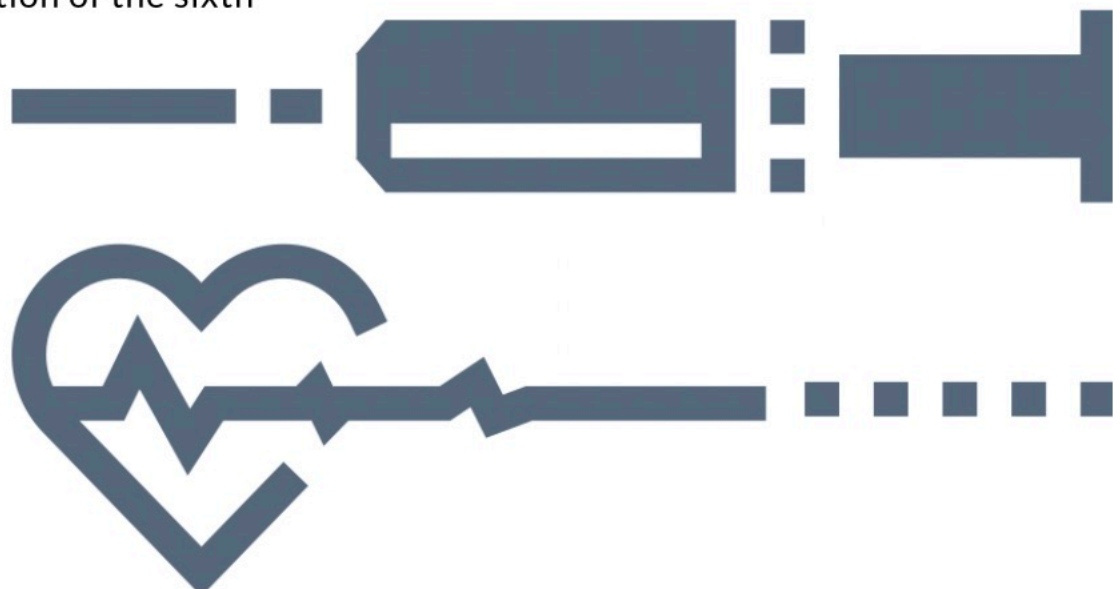
There are two kinds of euthanasia, active and passive. Active euthanasia refers to injecting certain drugs into a person to death upon request. In this case, the purpose of euthanasia is to kill oneself. The only difference with other forms of suicide is that euthanasia is done with chemicals. Therefore, it is indeed a suicide and, thus, a sin. Specifically, it is a violation of the sixth Commandment:

"Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). This is regarded as a sin even in the eyes of many worldly governments, which have lower moral standards. Thus, it is illegal in many countries.

On the other hand, passive euthanasia refers to withholding artificial life support such as a ventilator or feeding tube. For example, someone might be of brain death, and their family might decide to let them sleep peacefully. In this case, they return the patients to their natural condition, and deaths follow as the natural result. Of course, there are countless unique situations. I am talking about the case in which death is certain.

We can see a contrast between the first and second here. The first is causing death that was not part of the natural agenda, thus is killing. Remember that "kill" is death caused by human hands. On the other hand, in the second case, death was already happening. We were prolonging time artificially, and now returning to the natural agenda. The first death is artificial, and the second is natural. Therefore, the second case is not a sin.

If you would like to learn more about suicide as a sin, please refer to the Voice of Youth article in The Young Messenger Vol. 1 No. 2.



7. Where should the limit of relationships be to avoid sinning? (Example: would lip kissing be too much, sharing the same bed?)

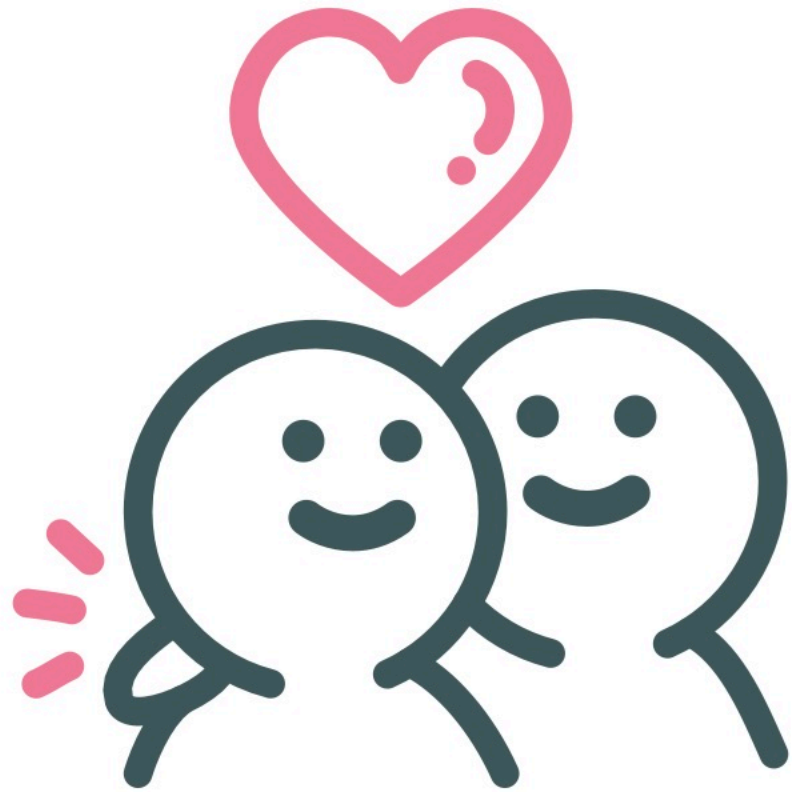
What are the do's and don'ts in a relationship? Like hugging, kissing? Until where should the line be drawn?

I cannot specify which physical touch is a definite limit to avoid temptation toward the sin of fornication. Could it be holding hands? Could it arm around the shoulder? For example, while holding hands is regarded as a relatively less intimate physical touch, some might feel tempted by just holding hands.

In other words, everyone has different points when they start being tempted. The standard is very clear: whenever you feel tempted, that's the limit. The Bible says, "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). It means that at whatever physical touch you feel tempted, that's something to bid forbidden, even if others do not it as a problem. "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provisions for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof" (Romans 13:14).

I have some examples to explain the same physical touch can be perceived differently by different people. In Korea, it is normal for boys and girls to touch each other's bodies, like shoulder or back, during tag games. But I found it very different when I went to the United States, as they said lower arms are the only part of the body you can touch between different gender for such games.

Another example is the way of greeting. In Italy, greeting each other with kisses on the cheek is very normal—man or woman, young



or old. It might feel quite intimidating for those who are not used to it. I met quite a few Canadians who found this greeting to be "too much." However, my Italian wife found Canadian greetings much more intimate, a slight hug. She stated that this kind of hug has too much contact with the body surface. However, many Canadians don't feel anything wrong with light hugs as greetings.

When we think about how lip kissing with the same or different genders was a mere greeting in the Bible's time, we can see how intimacy can be easily influenced by culture and time we live.

What these examples mean is that even the same physical touch could be intimate or tempting for some people, but it might not be so for others. I met some pastors who believe kissing should not be done until the wedding, while other ministers believe some light kisses are okay if they are engaged, and so on.

However, let me emphasize again. No matter what it is, if it's tempting in your heart, what must not be carried out.

Hence, to answer your question, we should individually understand ourselves better. Then how can we know ourselves? Firstly, ask God through the prayer and the Bible.

Secondly, I recommend you ask your parents for advice because their perception naturally influence us the most. Even if you might think they are so different from our generation, we were still raised and grew up under their way of thinking, which built our consciousness and subconscious

Naturally, the perception of physical contact during courtship is greatly influenced by culture. What these examples mean is that even the same physical touch could be intimate or tempting for people from certain cultures, but it might not be so for others. I met some pastors who believe kissing should not be done until the wedding, while other ministers believe some

light kisses are okay if they are engaged, and so on. Therefore, I recommend you ask your parents for advice because their culture and perception naturally influence us the most. Even if you might think they are so different from our generation, we were still raised and grew up under their way of thinking, which built our consciousness an subconscious.

It is also sister White's advice to always seek parents' advice on matters of courtship:

"If you are blessed with God-fearing parents, seek counsel of them. Open to them your hopes and plans, learn the lessons which their life experiences have taught, and you will be saved many a heartache. Above all, make Christ your counselor. Study His Word with prayer...

One of the greatest errors connected with this subject is that the young and inexperienced must not have their affections disturbed, that there must be no interference in their love experience. If

there ever was a subject that needed

to be viewed from every standpoint, it is this. The aid of the experience of others, and a calm, careful weighing of the matter on both sides, is positively essential. It is a subject that is treated altogether too lightly by the great majority of people. Take God and your God-fearing parents into your counsel, young friends. Pray over the matter. Weigh every sentiment, and watch every development of character in the one with



whom you think to link your life destiny. The step you are about to take is one of the most important in your life, and should not be taken hastily. While you may love, do not love blindly.” – *Messages to Young People*, p. 435, 449

However, some universal core principles can be shared through different cultures in our time. I advise you not to do lip kissing or deep physical touch, as it can easily tempt you to go further. Also, do not stay in a closed space with just two of you. Sharing the same bed is definitely a no. As the old saying says, never play with the fire. You might think it is not a big deal, but the impulse can easily fire up and lead you to sin. Sin is like a swamp or sinking sand. One slight step can swallow all of you in a few seconds, even without you noticing it.

I know it is hard to hold your desire to have physical contact when you are in a relationship. But I advise you to step back and think about it with a cooled-down mind. Remember, our body is the temple of God. God has prepared someone to be your husband/wife. Will your body be purely and totally his/hers?

I am not saying that holding hands ruin your purity. But my point is that the mindset of respecting your own dignity, in other words, your body as God’s temple, and respecting your future husband/wife will help you think critically about the limit of physical contact you should have.

Another point that sister White directly warned against is not staying late together:

“Satan's angels are keeping watch with those who devote a large share of the night to courting. Could they have their eyes opened, they would see an angel making a record of their words and acts. The laws of

health and modesty are violated. It would be more appropriate to let some of the hours of courtship before marriage run through the married life. But as a general thing, marriage ends all the devotion manifested during the days of courtship!

These hours of midnight dissipation, in this age of depravity, frequently lead to the ruin of both parties thus engaged. Satan exults, and God is dishonored when men and women dishonor themselves. The good name of honor is sacrificed under the spell of this infatuation, and the marriage of such persons cannot be solemnized under the approval of God. They are married because passion moved them, and when the novelty of the affair is over, they will begin to realize what they have done. In six months after the vows are spoken, their sentiments toward each other have undergone a change. Each has learned in married life more of the character of the companion chosen. Each discovers imperfections that, during the blindness and folly of their former association, were not apparent. The promises at the altar do not bind them together. In consequence of hasty marriages, even among the professed people of God, there are separations, divorces, and great confusion in the church.” – *Messages to Young People*, p. 457

For further study, I recommend the following readings by sister White:

- *Messages to Young People*, Section 15 – Courtship and Marriage
- *Letters to Young Lovers*

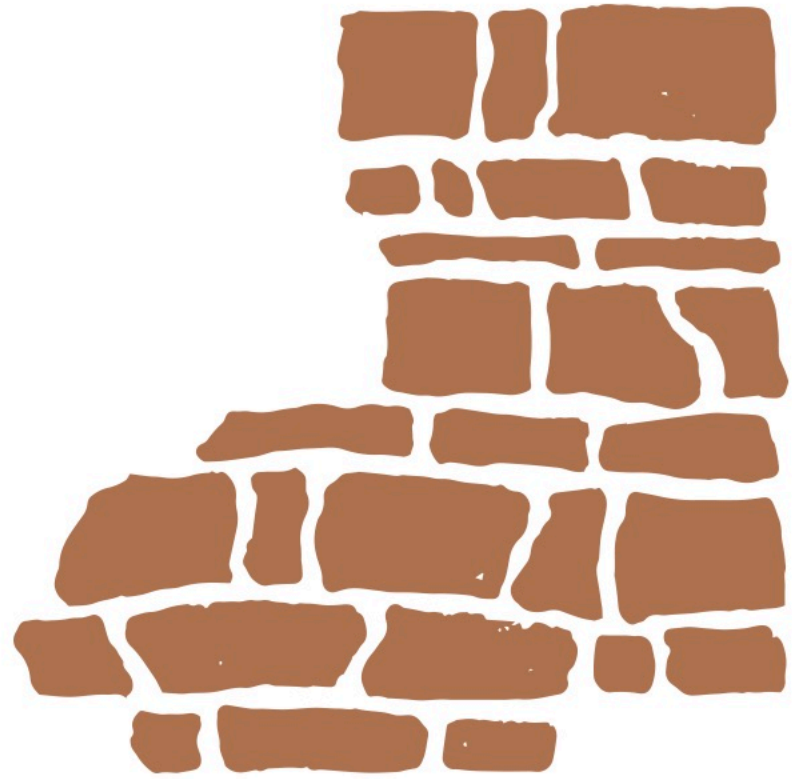


8. God doesn't permit lying, but why did God allow Rahab to lie to save the spies, and why is she rewarded for her "sin"? Was it justified?

Rahab's lie was not accordingly to God's law. Then why did God not make her guilty but save her and even make her an ancestor of Jesus? It is very unlikely that Rahab ever learned the words of God. Back then, news and information could be spread only from mouth to mouth.

From Joshua 2:9-11, we can see what news she heard. "And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."

So news she could hear was mostly about miracles and wars that Israelites experienced. It is very unlikely that she could learn the law of God and His people's lifestyle. But based on the light she received, she was convinced that their God was the only God. And she acted accordingly to her conviction. She helped spies and requested to be part of Israel. She did not know much about their laws but was willing to learn and obey whatever God would tell her to do. Paul tells us that we are judged accordingly to the light we receive. "For when the



Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another" (Romans 2:14,15).

One of our Adventist pioneers, Ellet Joseph Waggoner, who brought the message of 1888, answers this question as follows:

"One or two notable instances recorded in Scripture will illustrate this. The apostle records that 'by faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.' (Hebrews 11:31). This case has been a cause of stumbling to some who have not given careful thought to it. It is well known that Rahab lied to the men sent by the king of Jericho to seize the spies (see Joshua 2:2-6), and they imagine that in saving her God placed a premium on lying, and that it is right sometimes to lie. Neither is true. Rahab was saved, not because of her lie, but

because of her faith. She, in common with all the people of Jericho, had heard how the Lord dried up the waters of the Red Sea, and how he had led the Israelites; but she alone, of all the inhabitants of Jericho, believed that the hand of the Lord was in the matter, and that he had given the land of Canaan to the Israelites. She had simple faith, but was totally ignorant of God's law. In the code of heathen morality, lying was accounted a virtue, and she knew nothing better. But her faith made it possible for her to be saved, and brought her into a place where she could learn righteousness. As a natural consequence her faith in God would increase when she learned more of him. In her case we have a clear instance of the revelation of the righteousness of God from faith to faith." - *Living by Faith*, p. 15

"Faith is trust—submission. Rahab was willing to submit to the requirements of God, and to live as one of His people, while her fellow-countrymen were not. In here case we see the evidence that God saves people, not because they are good, but because they are willing to be made good. Jesus is sent to bless us, in turning us away from our iniquities. That poor heathen woman of disreputable life, who could utter a lie with a composed countenance, and with no consciousness of guilt, had a most meagre idea of the difference between right and wrong; yet God acknowledged her as one of His people, because she did not turn away from light, but walked in it as it came to her. She believed to the saving of her soul. Her faith lifted her out of her sinful surroundings, and set her in the way of knowledge." - *The Everlasting Covenant*, p. 391



**Do you have any further/other questions?  
Please feel free to ask through Voice of  
Youth Box!**



<https://forms.gle/g2fkfCV5VQCJaYN48>

CANADIAN REFORM YOUTH

# LOUD CRY NEWS

WHAT HAPPENED, IS HAPPENING AND WILL HAPPEN



## YOUTH CAMPING “EXODUS”

From July 28th to 31st, youths went on a camping trip at Emily Provincial Park, Ontario, with the theme “Exodus.” They participated in various activities, games, and meditations that taught them spiritual lessons. Highlight and Vlog videos are available on Canadian Field's official YouTube channel.

Photo Credit: Yohana Monsalve (Up), Makoto Matsumoto (Right)



# LOUD CRY ORCHESTRA

Our Canadian youths formed Loud Cry Orchestra Season 2024 last December. Every member continued practicing for several months. The orchestra members came together, created music videos, and finally performed live at the Canadian Field Youth Conference in beautiful harmony despite the challenges of the distance. Music Videos, Live Performance Videos and Practice Vlogs are available on Canadian Field Official Youtube.

Photo Credit: Danny Whyte Var (Top), Franklin Cardona (Bottom Left), Few scenes from Music Videos (Bottom Right)





# BAPTISM

8 Souls, including many young people, were newly baptized during the Canadian Field Conference 2024. May God's rich blessings to be added to their newly started spiritual journey!

Photo Credit: Helen Marttinen



## YOUTH LEADERS FOR THE NEW TERM

During Canadian Field Reorganization last July, our new youth leaders for 2024-2027 were elected:

- Brother Jason Climaco  
(Canadian Field Youth Department Leader)
- Brother Herson Garcia  
(Canadian Field Youth Department Assistant)

## INVITATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES:

Italian & German Youth Conference

- Date: December 26, 2024 - January 2, 2025
- Location: Valcanale, Italy

International Youth Conference

- Date: September 3-10, 2025
- Location: Leptokarya, Greece

Please check out the link below

for more information on both events and for registration:

<https://avventismo.com/eventi>



## JOIN OUR GROUP!



We have group chats on Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. To join, please send your contact information to us at our email address!  
[canadianreformyouth@gmail.com](mailto:canadianreformyouth@gmail.com)

## LOUD CRY SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you interested in seeing more posts and news about upcoming events? Follow the official social media accounts of Loud Cry Youth.

Facebook: [CanadianReformYouth](#)

Instagram: [LoudCry.Youth](#)





REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH,  
WHILE THE EVIL DAYS COME NOT, NOR THE YEARS DRAW NIGH,  
WHEN THOU SHALT SAY, I HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THEM

ECCLESIASTES 12:1



THE YOUNG MESSENGER

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