

## The Choices of Youth

Many people today create their own personal moral codes and draw their own borders between right and wrong. This modern morality comes as a result of soft attitudes regarding what is or isn't acceptable. Many today strive to be non-judgmental and resolve moral dilemmas according to prevailing social norms, and to satisfy their own desires. This leads to permissiveness and thinking that "there's nothing wrong with whatever I think is okay."

A distinct lack of moral discipline is evident in the behavior of countless people, for example in obeying laws, or on questions of sobriety or sex. Sorrowfully, the enemy of souls has perplexed countless people in today's society when it comes to considering matters of conscience and weighing questions of what is right and what is wrong, or what's acceptable and what isn't.

In the most basic questions of life, we find ourselves making choices. We must decide whether we will adopt God's Word as the foundation for life, or if we will judge matters according to manmade constructs and concepts instead. God proclaimed His will in the Ten-Commandment Law. Outwardly observing and obeying God's Law positively affects a person's life. This is even true for God's children despite the fact that they are not bound under the Law. The Law clearly warns of vice and encourages moral and chaste behavior. Honoring God thus brings a blessing to the individual and to society.

A young Christian is constantly choosing. When considering various alternatives in a situation, it pays to view matters in the light of God's Word and heed the instructions of His congregation. The Holy Spirit dwells in our conscience and directs the right way and warns of danger. Living faith leads us to reject lifestyles that defile the conscience and separate us from God. Today's worldly entertainment can make inroads into even the Christian home. For example, we repeatedly end up making choices regarding Internet use and video viewing and strive to preserve faith and good conscience.

When faced with a moral decision, it pays for us to consider being a child of God as our most precious possession. Believing within the care and security of God's congregation, we receive new strength to withstand the enemy's attacks and take one more step on the way to eternal life. When bidding farewell to His disciples before dying on the cross, our Savior, himself, prayed to God on our behalf, saying: "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil" (John 17:15).