

Under Pressure

An interesting fact about an individual who is under pressure is that one might crumble under the stress of the situation and another might excel, arise to the occasion and conquer the adversity. This contrast seems to be true across the spectrum of human experiences, family life, career, or sports. When it comes to our Christianity, this rule of human nature certainly applies.

Nothing can put our spiritual well-being to the test more than social pressure. We are social beings, and for most of us, we need the company and support from “our tribe” or circle of family and friends. Unfortunately, not everyone in our circle will be faithful Christians, some will be less faithful or even unbelievers. Satan will tap into these groups and use them to put us under pressure to do and participate in activities unpleasing to God. The easiest example can be seen in attendance to the worship service. Family and friends will pressure us to join them in weekend activities that pull us away from the church and her worship to the Lord. When we give in to the pressure, we become bad examples to our unbelieving friends. How will they ever be brought to Christ by watching our own unfaithfulness? And boy, does the devil ever enjoy it!

This principle can be applied to all aspects of our spiritual lives. Instead of giving into social pressures, we must rise to the challenge and remain steadfast, setting the best of examples to those outside the body of Christ, *“that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.” (1 Thessalonians 4:12)*

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