

# Tell Me, Please

## Youth Questions

answered by  
Ray L. Straub



it still is. Whether your attitude or mine gets more liberal, it does nothing whatever to change God's attitude about it.

At the risk of sounding super pious, or "goody-goody" I will suggest some Scriptural texts for your consideration. Look them up and think about them if you really want a good answer to your question. They are 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 and 18; also, 1 Corinthians 10:6-8, with particular attention given to verse 8. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 simply instructs: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."

If your neighbor has a much better lawn mower than you do, there is a certain sense of logic involved in your simply going over and taking this newer, better machine for your own use. It is a terribly limited kind of reasoning, but it is there. It does not make the act of stealing moral.

In the very same sense, someone's ability, be he religious or not, to inject a little selfish logic into an immoral practice does not purify that misdeed!

No, I certainly do not think that a person is better off entering marriage with some sexual experience! I'm con-

vinced that the opposite is true. There are plenty of people around who have become involved before marriage who stand ready to affirm my viewpoint. Sexual experience prior to marriage is almost always a hindering factor because it was wrongly motivated which resulted in adopting selfish and brash technique. Sex is properly the fulfillment of an expression of love. Before this love is present, the act is misused, later requiring that basic attitudes and techniques be unlearned and replaced by correct ones. This is most difficult and troublesome.

There is no better way to enter a harmonious sexual adjustment than for both partners to enter marriage unexperienced. They can then learn properly and together. While it may not be impossible to make a good adjustment at marriage, if one or both partners are experienced, you can count on the truth that it is much more difficult, and certainly a decided disadvantage.

We might as well recognize it—all this talk about free love is a part of the pattern of rebellion\* that becomes more and more characteristic of our age. The truism that the real values of any society are found in its ability to exercise obedience is sadly ignored. The more we rebel, the more miserable we become. A university near my home is offering a class in how to protest. It is actually instruction in how to secure and guarantee misery.

If you, or any other youth, want anything out of life that is worthwhile and fulfilling, learn how to recognize and deal with rebellion. Fight it by practicing obedience and helping others to learn the same. This advice undoubtedly sounds stuffy now, but it is a vehicle that will take you a mighty fine distance to places worth seeing!

By the way, it took courage to ask your questions. I appreciate it! I hope this answer helps.

## "MY FATHER'S BUSINESS"

(Continued from page 9)

**need to be visited, odd jobs around the church building that may need doing. Nearly every youth group is crying for someone who will fill the position of group leader or sponsor, and move with Christian enthusiasm toward the group goal. There are so many positions of responsibility, so few people willing to fill them, but so many people willing to let someone else do it. Let me suggest that every church member approach the pastor with a question of this nature:**

**"What can I do to help out in our local church program?"**

FYCer's, how do you measure up in attendance, participation, and responsibility? Accept the challenge of Christian service in your local church, and lead a fuller, more abundant, more satisfied life!

## QUESTION:

*What about this changing attitude toward sex among the unmarried people? It is noticeable in many countries besides our own, with some religious leaders even saying it is okay. There is a much freer attitude about it in the colleges and high schools. In many ways, the logic that is presented makes sense. What is your attitude? Are you more liberal, too, or are you still stuffy about it? Don't you think a person is better off when he enters marriage having had some sexual experience?*

## ANSWER:

While there is increasing talk about the freer use of sex among all types of people, married or not, there is also much argument concerning whether or not it is mostly talk. I would guess that with the increased amount of attention this subject is getting, curiosity becomes more aroused which could certainly provoke more liberal attitudes toward sexual practices and bring about a relaxation of principles.

Talk does nothing to change what is basically moral or immoral. If sex outside of marriage was ever immoral,

These, and many more, are the opportunities for Christian service through your Faithful Youth Challengers.

Look about you—see the need. What about your FYC group? What about you? Think about Jesus Christ and the avenue He opens to us for service to God. Accept the challenge! Go with God! —Calvin A. Burrell

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### QUESTION:

*What advice do you have for teenagers who think they know more than their parents do?*

### ANSWER:

Your question tends to put me on the spot! Teen-agers who suppose they know more than their parents do have probably already concluded that they know *much* more than I do.

I suggest that a youth can handle this delicate situation if he understands some of the reasons for his attitude. Parents need some pretty good insight here, too.

When one reaches his teens, he finds that his body, with its glandular development is maturing rapidly. He begins to look adult, and he finds his adult appetites coming to life. He can do more work. He eats more, and he takes a little more time to observe and attempt to gain the attention of members of the opposite sex. Unfortunately, some of these physical developments come more

quickly than his mental and emotional capacity to discipline himself properly. This, in itself, forces many a youth into awkward conflict.

This conflict almost necessarily involves the parents. If one does not have the faculties to make adult decisions consistent with his adult stature, his parents must continue to give guidance, as they did before the physical maturity. So, in many of these complex situations a young man or lady is insisting upon being treated with the full respect due an adult, but he cannot understand that it takes more than physical development to get by. His parents remain unconvinced that he is fully capable of making all the decisions, and they will

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*If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.*

withhold their complete confidence, which is frustrating to a youth.

Many young people, for instance, feel that they know best when it is time to get home at night following a date or evening activities. While they insist they can handle a responsible decision, they often come in far too late, and involve themselves in activities during these late hours which attest only to their inability to discipline their matured physical appetites.

There is no doubt but what parents are often guilty of wanting to treat teen-agers as children. The duty to treat young men and women with the precise amount of respect due them at their particular development is one demanding the keenest wisdom and understanding.

The advanced methods for learning with the many discoveries and inventions make it probable that in many areas a teen-ager actually knows more than his parents. He is enlightened in some areas that are not understood by his father and mother. Realizing that he knows more about some phases of existence, a youth has a strong tendency to try to extend this advantage into all aspects of life. This is a sad, and aggravating mistake.

This rather critical period of adjustment is best survived by abundant and patient communication. Talk seriously and often with your parents. In this way you will come to respect what knowledge and perception they have gained through long and valuable experience. At the same time, they will come to appreciate the rather curious, interesting and valuable knowledge you have received through studies and observation. All of this talk will give you a continual chance

to measure your parents, and at the same time they will be able to size you up more accurately.

By all means remember to be courteous. You do not have to agree with a person to respect him. Respect is appreciation. Without appreciation your world will shrink and continue doing so until only you exist in it. What a lousy world that makes! The sooner you gain a sense of appreciation and awareness, the sooner you will gain the ability to be respectful.

This is one of the surest signs of maturity. Everyone will recognize it, which will relieve you of your self-assigned obligation of having to show your parents, or anyone else, how much you know and how adult you are.

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## THE PROMISE

By Jessie B. Day

**Spring means a lot of things to me.**

**It means the bursting buds on every tree;**

**It means the soft fine spears of grass, so green,**

**And new things promised, as yet unseen.**

**It gives us hope, and calm content.**

**The knowledge that these things from God are sent;**

**The certainty that comes in spite of insurrection—**

**There is a life beyond, and resurrection!**

—Sunshine

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It is always easy to covet another man's success without ever envying his labors.—*War Cry*

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An evening out with good company, doing something worthwhile, can be most rewarding. If, however, you fail to exercise enough caution, you can end up having one of the most miserable experiences of a lifetime. Be sure you know what you are doing, when you accept a date. There is great danger in accepting an invitation too quickly.

### QUESTION:

*I want to wear my hair long like many of the other fellows are doing, but I am getting a lot of static from my parents about it. In fact, they just won't let me. What is wrong with long hair, anyway? Lots of others get to wear their hair long. I'm 15. Don't you think I'm old enough to know what I'm doing without all the nixing from my parents? So they don't agree with my taste—I don't agree with theirs!*

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### ANSWER:

There is one thing you ought to get clear—crystal clear. That taste you think you have is not *taste!* You are just afraid you will be caught not conforming to some odd notions, even if that conformity makes you look like a displaced female gorilla!

You might as well see the light, friend, the task of trying to pass off long hair on a male as good taste is utterly impossible. You make the sad mistake of so many other ignorant and misguided narcissists, who attempt to apply acceptable labels to demonstrations of rebellion. It is a frustrating journey to untold misery, and only a self-awakening within you can prevent future anguish.

Take a new look at your good parents. We need more like them.

There are already far too many parents who take a horrified look at their sons effeminate hair-dos and then allow them. What an error this is! If you cannot be thankful because your parents have the courage to impose taste on their son who has none of his own, be patient. It will not be long before you know better why they are being so insistent.

God made you a man. If you survive your present rebellious mood you might even enjoy membership in your sex. You will never know what it is like to enjoy good company if a person has to study you carefully to know whether you are male or female. Consider using your head for something other than growing long hair.

### QUESTION:

*At the beginning of our Sabbath school class our teacher always allows five minutes for us to visit before beginning our class study. This gives*

*everyone a chance to get their talking out of the way. There are some though, who keep right on talking, laughing, and causing a disturbance even though the teacher asks them to be still. Could you say something about this?*

### ANSWER:

Yes, I can. You have an unfortunate situation with some of the students in their teens physically, but emotionally they are still children. Maturity means accepting responsibility. Every once in a while you find these grown but childish people who have not learned what it is to be a responsible student in a classroom.

You just have to keep asking them to quiet down, as you would little children. If this does no good, you have to ask them to sit with their parents, as you would children. If they do not obey (and they probably will not), you have to request their parents to keep them during Sabbath school, as they would little children.

While we must exercise as much patience and kindness in church as possible, I sincerely hope that your teacher will not allow these overgrown children to disrupt the valuable and short time you have in class to learn and discuss the precious and abiding Word of God. I think that Sabbath school class and the study of Scriptures must be respected, and *any* measure necessary to assure it is a basic necessity.

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The real "big shot" who is also a big person never acts like a biggy at all. He has simple manners, and is kind and patient to every other human being whom he contacts. He is just as common as an old shoe, and it is a joy to know such a man.

to go riding around, or to watch TV for 3 or 4 hours? If the rides are clean and lawful, I'd say it would be o.k. But running out into the toolies, or seeing who can make the most noise the fastest is out. As for TV, it depends on the programs. In general, there's nothing on but garbage, unfit to be seen. But some programs are really good and should be seen. If anyone is in doubt as to what to do, a

quick, sincere prayer will bring a quick, sincere answer, with what to do if an alternate activity should be sought. There are lots of clean, wholesome things to do this summer, and the clean, wholesome kids will find them. This is where the F.Y.C. group is great, so be a faithful follower of Christ all summer long, and "let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5).

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Long ago, in the early days of the settlement of the western part of the United States, a traveler came to the edge of the mighty Mississippi River in the depths of winter. He was alone in a lonely land. Night was coming on, and wild animals and wilder men made it dangerous for him to stay where he was. He must cross the river to safety on the other side, where there was a settlement.

He looked out across the surface of the great river, sheeted with ice. Being unaccustomed to the wilderness, he had no idea of its thickness. He hesitated a long time, then cautiously and with infinite care, crept out on his hands and knees, spreading his weight as much as possible. Every little while he heard a cracking sound, expecting the ice to break through at any moment and plunge him into the icy waters below.

After he had crawled slowly almost half way over the broad river, he was surprised to hear singing somewhere behind him. He could not believe his ears. Then he heard the hoofbeats of horses trotting across the ice. He looked up and saw a man singing as he drove a team of four horses with their load of logs across upon the ice. The ice which this poor traveler feared would not hold his weight, was holding this great load of logs as well as the horses pulling it.

With great relief and somewhat ashamed of himself, he got up and ran the rest of the way across the river.

So it is with many of us who step out tremblingly on the promises of God. Others stronger in faith go singing through life with the joy of the Lord in their hearts, fearing nothing, because they implicitly, fully and completely believe the Word of God. As the Scripture says, "Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25).—*Selected from New Auburn "Midweek"*

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## QUESTION:

*What can be done to make the Sabbath school class more interesting?*

## ANSWER:

Making a Sabbath school class interesting requires effort. An old bromide suggests that in order to get something out of class you must put something into it.

Study your lesson during the week. Make every attempt to try to understand what each question is trying to teach. Determine how references given in the lesson fit into the context of the chapter from which they are taken.

Write down any questions that come up during your home study. Ask them of the teacher or class when you get to that part of the lesson in Sabbath school. If you have an interesting observation to make about a point in the lesson, write that down, too, and offer it in class.

Many youth classes have no commenting or discussing at all. They probably would if they had some young person in the class who would lead out. Personal study through the

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week qualifies a person to ask questions and make comments. Others will follow the example.

If you have suggestions to make to your teacher that would help make the class more interesting, advise him. If he seems negligent about giving them a try without offering a reason, talk to your pastor.

I like your question. If these ideas make sense to you, I surely hope you'll give them a try!

## QUESTION:

*Is it contrary to church teaching to wear costume jewelry, such as bracelets, earrings, rings, necklaces, etc.? What about the use of natural makeup or nail polish? Many people in our church wear it. What does the Bible say?*

## ANSWER:

I'll give you a partial answer and ask that the subject be brought to the attention of your pastor, Sabbath school teacher, or other established leader in the local church.

This question has to do with cultural standards. This kind of standard

is well characterized as being relative, being determined largely by the culture in which a person lives. This is why those who live near you must give the more specific answers to this kind of question.

The fact that standards are relative is proven by their continual change; from generation to generation, and location to location. What was wrong years ago may be tolerated (even fully accepted) now, such as transparent hose, dresses with short sleeves and hemlines, curled hair on the ladies, etc. With these changes a person's attitude toward them classifies him as one who is liberal (accepts changes readily) or conservative (tends to resist change). Most people feel they are moderate, not resisting change much, nor accepting too readily.

What is acceptable or not must be determined by local brethren because these are the standards that influence an image of the church in its community. Once the image has been established, it is rather important that a local member respect it. There is constant danger that where the church has established an image in the community, and a single person chooses to ignore it, that individual might be considered as one who disavows the teachings of his church. One ought to be very careful not to give that kind of witness. Please consult your pastor and listen with open heart to what he has to advise concerning these standards.

To see what the Bible has to say, you might consider Isaiah 3:16-26; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 1 Peter 3:1-9. Study these references at length until you feel you understand as accurately as possible what the Scriptures teach in these passages.

## DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

(Continued from page 10)

she wanted to know. "I'm dreadfully tired."

"No, it won't!" his tone was brisk and businesslike. "Hurry now."

With the members of his family gathered, Fred quit pacing the floor and stood before them.

"I've got an apology to make," he admitted, "and your forgiveness to beg." He paused, not accustomed to being cast in such a role. "I lied about Randy Bates being engaged. I'm not sure why. I prophesied he wouldn't make good, and yet he has far surpassed anyone's expectations and has done an excellent job. I guess I'm just an old fool who didn't want to be proven wrong."

"Oh, Dad, how could you?" wailed Francie.

"Fred!" exclaimed Mrs. Pierce.

"Don't think too badly of me, Francie," he pleaded, "I've tried to make amends as best I can and I hope you'll forgive me."

Seeing such a forlorn look in her father's eyes, Francie ran to him and threw her arms around him, "Of course, Dad." Oh, how can I ever face Randy again? she thought.

"I phoned Randy," confessed Fred, "and asked him to come over. That must be him now," he added, as the doorbell rang. "I somehow don't feel too well, Francie. Would you sort of explain things to him? I think I'll go to bed now."

Mrs. Pierce went to her husband and assisted him toward the stairs. Francie watched them go with beating heart. Then, as the bell sounded again, insistently, she hurried to answer it with a joy within which she hadn't felt for a long time.

# The Church

By Harris Kinzler

We find that the church was first established after Christ had ascended into heaven. The name of the first Church was the Church of God, and by what information we have in the Bible it was composed of Christians. The name Christian was probably first applied to Christ's followers by the Pharisees and Scribes in reproach or contempt, because they were followers of Christ, just as other people were called Galileans or Nazarenes.

When I think of the name *Christian*, and how we apply it to ourselves, I am made to wonder if we live up to the standards that the first church had—or do we disgrace it?

We find in Ephesians 1:22, 23 that the church is the body of Christ; and Ephesians 5:24 tells us that the church is subject unto Him. We Christians form the Church, so we are subject to and must be obedient to Christ.

Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 28:20 to teach and observe all things whatsoever He commanded them. In order for us to be Christ's body and be true Christians we also must

teach and observe what Jesus taught. We must pattern our lives after some image, the image being Christ. 1 Peter 2:21 tells us Christ was our example; therefore let us be followers of Christ in truth and righteousness.

In order for us to be like Jesus, Jesus told us to pray always (Luke 18:1 and 21:36). The more you pray, the closer you are to Him. David's prayer was Psalm 119:18: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." We must know about Jesus so we can follow Him. Paul said, "Study to shew thyself approved

*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).*

unto God."

"The word of God is perfect, converting the soul." If you have given your heart to Christ and are following His example, you will be confessing Him daily to others.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your

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be in no position to make use of your services—unless significant changes in attitude and purpose are made quickly. At present our church pays only the slightest heed to the needs we have in foreign fields. We retain a good foreign work because the loyalty and faithfulness of our workers in foreign fields are much stronger toward us than ours are to them.

We spend barely 1% of our church dollar on foreign work. Recently, an appeal was made to double this amount by requesting that 1% be added to support our foreign missions work (making it 2¢ of every \$1.00 spent). The proposal was rejected—not because of any attitude on the part of a few who had to make the immediate decision, but because they reflected the thinking of too large a segment of our church.

Am I suggesting that you give up the notion of being a foreign missionary? To the contrary, you and many young people like you must become missionaries for the cause of missions at home. Become active boosters of our foreign missions work in your own local churches. There are many ways in which this can be done.

1. Read as much as you can about

foreign missionary work, including accounts of the activities of actual missionaries. Learn what it is all about so that when you speak to others they will be impressed by how much you know about it.

2. At youth meetings, have periodic themes that deal with foreign missions. Beyond this, suggest that your pastor use foreign missions as a theme for the regular church services. Encourage special offerings in connection with these services, so that the folks attending will have opportunity to actually do something to express their new burden for the foreign work.

3. As you have opportunity to talk to ministers and leaders of the church, bring up the matter of missionary work and suggest that it be given more support—financial and in every other way. It needs to be “talked up.”

4. Contact the National Youth De-

partment to find out ways in which you may get into contact with young people in foreign lands to correspond with them, if you have not already done so. Your letters of encouragement to them will be the beginning of your career in foreign missions work.

As a church we simply must awake to the burdens we should help bear in distant lands. If those of us who are more established in the church cannot presently see the need, we will have to hope that the coming generation will catch the vision and exercise responsibility toward it. If we do not act soon, it will be difficult to give answer to a Righteous Judge. Pray much. I will be remembering you, praying that God will give you and many other young people much success in arousing a new understanding of the compelling needs in our foreign fields.

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## THERE IS BUT ONE

By Carolyn Clements, an SVA student

Man cannot study his Master's face,  
But that fact does not the truth erase;  
For when a disbelieving soul so speaks,  
“What proof have you that God still keeps?”  
I calmly take him by the hand

And lead him gently through the sand,  
And say, “Dear Friend, what more need thee  
Than sand and shells and wind and sea?”

Who else could make the sand so white,  
The shells that talk and glisten bright,  
The wind that swells the blue-green bright,  
And rolls them in toward ocean caves?  
I could not, Friend, and neither thee;  
There is but One owns the recipe.

### QUESTION:

*I do not know for sure what I would like to be when I am ready to enter a vocation. Does our church have women missionaries? Is it all right for a woman to be a missionary?*

### ANSWER:

The standard role of any minister in response to questions like this is to say, “Wonderful! The Lord needs missionaries, and I'm sure you will make a good one!” My answer is going to be more involved. I hope that other young people will read this and feel moved to do something in response to it.

It is Scripturally permissible for a woman to be a missionary. I doubt there is much to discuss about that. The New Testament refers to several women who were active in the work of the Church.

“Does our church have missionaries?” I presume by this question you refer to people of our country who are serving on foreign soil. The answer is “No.”

Worse yet, according to present trends, by the time you will be ready to go, you will not be a missionary in our church because the church will

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### QUESTION:

*How long should teen-agers be expected to give in to their parents? Shouldn't an older teen-ager have some independence in his home?*

### ANSWER:

When he calls the home "his," I presume he is speaking about the one that his parents have provided and share with him. I would guess that this teen-ager is actually wanting some freedom, rather than independence. To be independent suggests that one supports himself and assumes full responsibility for his existence and well-being. This is more obligation than most youthful freedom-seekers bargain for.

If there is going to be any order in a home, someone must have the authority to declare a final decision. Parents are more qualified to assume this responsibility than teen-agers. There is one worthy and underlying reason for giving parents the say-so. They know more and are more often correct. We survive and learn to get along well when we learn to do what is right.

Freedoms are secured as one matures. Maturity is largely demonstrating ability to assume responsibility.

Freedom and responsibility always go hand in hand.

A teen-ager should expect to give in to his parents as long as he shares a home with them. No one has independence while he remains part of a family unit. He will be given added freedom, though, as he proves that he has enough maturity to be responsible for it.

### QUESTION:

*Do you think that Christian young people should listen to today's modern music?*

### ANSWER:

No, I don't. In fact, I don't think *anyone* ought to listen to the greatest share of the pop music assaulting the ears nowadays. It is too bad that social pressures keep young people who are unable to break chains of conformity bound to these musical cesspools. While some may not like my stating so, I'm convinced that most young people, who claim they like the noisy, thumpy, monotonous strains by hairy humans with effeminate voices, are being both artificial and naive.

These shaggy-haired, herky-jerky

"musicians" come closest to proving the Darwinian theory that man evolved from the ape of any evidence offered to date! The very names of many of these musical groups would cause respectable youth, especially Christians, to reject them; names such as Monkees, Moby Grape, Jefferson Airplane, Lovin' Spoonful, and the Grateful Dead who feature a 200-pound, bearded singer, called Pig Pen.

The lyrics of some songs are so suggestive and morally questionable

that an owner of some radio and television stations has requested that a written copy of the lyrics must be sent with the records before the songs will be aired. It may hurt his business, but he has taken his stand. The Christian can take a stronger stand and reject the products of these weird combos entirely.

It was encouraging to receive your question. It is reassuring to hear from a Christian youth who demonstrates that much concern.

## I HATE TO STAND AGAINST THE CROWD

Well, there was a man once who hated to stand against the crowd. But he did. His name was Micaiah. He appeared in history for one brief moment and disappeared, never to be heard of again. Let's see what he did. And let's see what happened. Meet the man, who, with all the odds against him, knew he was on the winning side. It's quite a story.

The wicked King Ahab wanted to march against an enemy and he called all his "yes" men and asked them if he would be successful. And as "yes" men always do, of course they said "yes."

Now there was one man who was very unpopular among the godless ones. An unimportant prophet named Micaiah. "But," cried Ahab, "I don't want to ask him. He never says what I want him to." But he was finally persuaded to call for Micaiah.

Well, Micaiah was on a spot. He had a choice to make. And he made it. "As the Lord lives, I will speak what the Lord speaks to me."

And he did. He prophesied Ahab's doom. And what did he get for his trouble? He was put in prison on bread and water.

It turned out, of course, that he had been right. Ahab was doomed. The battle was lost and he was killed. And what happened to Micaiah? The Bible doesn't tell us. He just disappeared into nothingness. Never to be heard from again. But he had stood up against a king and 400 prophets... and dared to speak the truth for God. The people may have forgotten him. But you may be sure God had not.

You hate to stand against the crowd: Listen, when you are on God's side, you're a winner. You may not be carried around on shoulders and cheered, but you can't lose.

You have God's truth. Even if you're alone with it, the only one with it, like Micaiah—don't be afraid to tell it.

—By Ethel Barrett (Selected)

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**QUESTION:**

*We have some people coming to our church who don't go along with proper church standards. I say this because the lady wears make-up and other such things that we don't allow. Why isn't something done about this?*

**ANSWER:**

Sometimes in our youth and enthusiasm for the Church and what it stands for we tend to become a bit impatient when others do not readily accept our mannerisms, tastes, and habits.

It takes time for people who are newly introduced to our church to understand why we have certain attitudes toward dress and the use of cosmetics. If these people are earnestly seeking what is right, and if our standards are right, the seekers and standards will get together in time.

Your question reflects a rather disapproving attitude on your part toward these people. You are not the only one who tends to react this way toward those who do not conform to our traditional standards, but such an attitude is both harmful to you and the Church. You apparently feel that unless these people look and be-

have like you, or like you think they ought, that they need to be "straightened out." It is better to try to understand people than to judge their moral worth, and your self-righteous attitude is preventing that.

Be sure to do what you think is right. On the other hand, do not make acceptance of your standard by others a qualification to earning your fellowship, respect, and loving acceptance. Be Christ-like. If Jesus were to love only those whose actions and appearance He approved of, we would all be doomed. I'm thankful He had the compassion to show concern to an erring sinner.

**QUESTION:**

*This boy and I have been going together for over a year, and we are beginning to talk about marriage. I am bothered, though, when I see him sneak a look at other girls, and I can't convince myself that he would always be faithful to me. Do you suppose that we should continue seeing each other?*

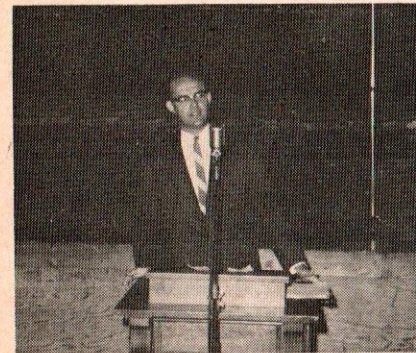
**ANSWER:**

If your friend gives you the impression that the girls he sees are more attractive to him, and that he

would probably prefer to be with them, you have cause to be apprehensive. On the other hand, you must realize that just going with you does not eliminate the entire female sex from your boyfriend's eyesight. Some girls want to draw attention, and they succeed.

Marriage is based on mutual faith in each other, or it will suffer from false accusation and suspicion constantly. There is nothing that will convince you that your mate will always be faithful to you if you stand ready to suspect him and look for proof of his unfaithfulness.

Whatever the circumstances are involving his "sneak" looks at other girls, you ought not to marry until you



have confidence in each other, and you are quite sure that the confidence will remain. If he has tendencies to be unfaithful, the marriage would do you an injustice. At the same time, if you are overly suspicious and refuse to place confidence in him, you should spare him the agony of being married to one who provides no faith to live up to.

Your suspicions will either get more intense or they will disappear. If faith replaces them and other circumstances are favorable, there is no reason why you should not become more serious in your relationship. On the other hand, as suspicions grow stronger, you would do well to let the romance fade away.

*Shown at left is Elder Ray Straub, offering valuable counsel "in person" to our young people at camp meeting.*

Many of you are aware of the misfortune which befell one of our Wisconsin FYCers, Ruthella Ling, in July, when she was injured by an airplane propeller.

Reports are that Ruthella is progressing very well. She is trusting God for the healing of her body.

We are sure that letters and cards will help greatly to brighten her days of recovery. Her address is:

Miss Ruthella Ling  
St. Mary's Hospital  
Room 2 - 297  
Rochester, Minn. 55901



# Tell Me, Please

## Youth Questions

answered by  
Ray L. Straub



feel you must refuse a position on the basis of limitations, and it is an honest refusal, you have justification. When you become selective in accepting positions just because you prefer not to serve, you've cheapened the extent of dedication to your heavenly calling, and satisfaction has been turned over to your enemy.

Beware of making a mockery of your determination to put God first. Some people "put God first," but they let P.T.A., social organizations, extra income projects, television, quiet times with their family, etc., take precedence over their responsibility in advancing the cause of Christ. No one can respect that kind of an employee; why should we presume God should be satisfied with him?

Your happiness in Christ is not dependent upon your evaluation of how much the Church is doing. Far too many people have their joy in Christ drained from them because a lack of confidence in the church's progress

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has thrown bitterness into their fountains. The church is what you are. If you are a good and willing worker, the Church will go places. Your criticism of your church is like a criticism of your family—it directly reflects back on you.

You would do well to consider that while the Church probably ought to be doing more, it is presently seeing some of its strongest and most progressive times in years. It could do even better if it had a greater degree of your dedication.

Finally, stop worrying about your own success, or your own happiness in serving our Master. Be concerned about others. Do all you can to add to the spiritual well-being of your fellow members. Encourage everyone you can, because they need your support. Be a "live wire" in your church, ready always to participate with enthusiasm. Comment in class. Testify when given opportunity. If you have musical ability, use it. Share progressive ideas with leaders. Offer to work with the youth and children. Seek out and become acquainted with visitors. Be cheerful to everyone. When your life becomes lost in happiness of others, you will have a surprising and abundant answer to your very worthwhile question.

### QUESTION:

*Why is it so important that I attend all of our youth meetings? I'm willing to go to some, but at other times I would prefer to go elsewhere. I really don't see why the Church places so much emphasis on church attendance.*

### ANSWER:

Your parents and leaders of the church are sincerely interested in

what is good for you. Attending church is one of the most excellent activities for anyone.

Young people have long lives ahead of them. The sooner they learn good influences to follow, and are convinced that these are worthwhile the quicker their lives will take on deeper meaning.

For a young person, satisfaction is not easily found. While it hardly seems believable at times, more satisfaction can be gained out of attending church—particularly youth meetings, than most other activities.

The church, in its necessary work and goals needs consistent support. It needs your support. Your presence there helps a great deal—more than you can imagine. Your absence causes some injury, often more than a person realizes.

Support your church work as much as you can. It will not be long until you realize fully that you have invested wisely in a most worthwhile cause.

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### TO BE TRULY GREAT IS TO—

Strive for self-improvement, and yet to be charitable toward those who are satisfied to remain mediocre.

To continue one's education all through life, yet to not scorn those who are unlearned.

To be reaching ever for a greater degree of culture and refinement; yet to be tolerant of those who have neither culture nor refinement.

To do one's best to be a success in one's chosen profession; yet to look not with contempt upon one who fails.

To be great, not scorning the lowly. In fact only with true greatness comes true charity for all who have not attained the heights one has gained.

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*The church (ministers) seem to have definite ideas on what is right and wrong. Why don't they preach on it more? Is it because there is so little agreement amongst the ministers? Why are you so reluctant to take a definite stand in this column?*

## ANSWER:

Most questions I receive are concerned with the question of what is permissible and which activities should be shunned. Yours is the most "loaded."

It is my opinion that the ministers preach on these matters quite a lot. Some dwell on them more than others, but a large segment of any minister's audience will learn rather rapidly over a short period of time where their pastor stands.

Each minister has his own approach on how to deal with these issues. In my opinion, more can be gained through dialogue with young people; that is, in a type of meeting where direct questions can be asked and answered. In this way, specific reasons can be given for specific attitudes.

Any lack of preaching on this sub-

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answered by

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ject would not be due to disagreement amongst ministers. In fact, disagreement tends to cause more expression, not less.

The nature of standards is such that there will always be some disagreement concerning them. Lack of uniform thinking was always manifest during the Apostle Paul's ministry. Standards change from time to time and from place to place. It would be a terribly static church that did not have some varying viewpoints concerning its standards. The amount of disagreement cannot be considered nearly vast enough to be serious. Few churches experience more harmony amongst the ministers than ours, particularly in view of the freedom they have in the Church to express themselves on these matters.

It is because standards relate to the communities in which we live that I do not give specific recommenda-

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tions in this column. What is permissible in one area can easily be offensive in another. An inquirer needs to discuss specific taboos with their pastor or minister nearest them. If you move into our community it will not be long before you have some idea where I stand.

## QUESTION:

*What is a good argument against evolution?*

## ANSWER:

1. It is not logical to believe that the cosmos came out of chaos. Any masterpiece in planning and organization results from intelligence. It takes a precise amount of measuring, beating, and baking to make a good cake. It takes precise chords to compose good music, and it takes a correct alignment of words to write a good thesis or book. Understanding this, how can one believe that anything as beautifully organized as this universe came about through accident?

2. There is no known explanation for beginnings. The mind can only go so far until its incapacities leave it dangling. Experiencing this, it leaves us with only one believable explanation—way back God existed "in the beginning." I admit, readily, that this is no proof that God exists. However, *believing* He existed in the beginning, it is logical that He created the earth and set the universe in motion.

3. There is neither agreement nor proof supporting the evolution of the species. No valid proof exists that there has ever been a change from one species to another. Changes have come about only within the species.

4. The best argument against evolu-

tion is to get to know the Creator personally.

## QUESTION:

*How old should persons be before they begin kissing?*

## ANSWER:

Most of us have kissed someone or other almost all of our lives! Seriously, though, I understand that this involves boy-girl relationships, and it is a good question. The value of any item is determined somewhat by its supply. This is particularly true in the matter of gems, antiques, stamps, coins, etc. No one gets too concerned about an item that can be picked up anywhere at any time. Kissing is something like this. For it to have value, to be meaningful, it should be used sparingly.

Dating should be getting somewhat serious before there is much of this kissing business. It should be an expression of affection for a partner, not a mere conquest to boast about to others.

Kissing can be dangerous exercise. It should be restricted to those people and occasions that will keep it from going farther, if those indulging are unmarried.

How old should a person be? Actually age does not dictate the appropriate use of a kiss. It would seem that anyone younger than late high school age is rushing things. The questioner sounds anxious. I hope he is not. There is no value gained in having a great experience and reputation as a kisser!

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**When a person gets salvation, He will say, "Who am I?" instead of "Look who I am!"**

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*As you know, there are many activities—ball games and social affairs—that are held on Friday night. In order to get full value from my school activities, why shouldn't I be permitted to attend these functions?*

## ANSWER:

Because you will get far more values out of your religion by being true to it. Missing these functions on Friday night will, admittedly, cause you to miss opportunities to join your classmates in social events, deny you the privilege of being a cheerleader, member of the band (perhaps), and other extra-curricular activities. It is a sacrifice. It is one you need to make.

You are a Sabbathkeeper. It is a life of obedience to God that you want to convey, more than to participate freely in school activity. If you are a Sabbathkeeper, you observe the Sabbath. It is simple in its analysis, even though difficult to live by completely.

Many of our young people had to give up Friday night activities while attending a public school, and they were well-accepted by their class-

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



mates. You do not need these activities to have a full school life, in most cases.

If this problem causes you consistent difficulty—or any problems at all, you should consider enrolling in Spring Vale Academy.

## QUESTION:

*I plan to be married soon. What are some of the issues you think should be settled before marriage? What do you think of church weddings? Are you in favor of big weddings?*

## ANSWER:

Before marriage, you should decide your religious affiliation, if you need to. Further, you should decide with determination that you will support that religion.

You should have agreement on the approximate number of children

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you wish to have. It need not be precise, but if you want several and your "intended" wants none, you had better look for someone else! Further, you should have some idea as to when you think it appropriate to have the first baby.

You should have some notion of which vocation each of you has in mind. Some women prefer working out to remaining home with housework, while some men are determined that their wives will remain home. Some newly-wed husbands expected that their wives would get a job to supply a good financial start, and the brides had no such intention. Some young men are content to have a comfortable income in modest surroundings, but their wives have the urge to climb the social and economic ladder. Any such differences should be exposed and reconciled be-

fore the trip to the altar.

I have a strong preference for church weddings. In the case of a pre-marital pregnancy, I consider it appropriate to slip off to a justice of the peace, although I do not consider that a small ceremony performed by a minister is lacking in good taste. I question the wisdom of a large wedding where it is a second marriage for either or both partners.

For young people entering the first marriage, I am all for big church weddings, provided that such a venture does not bring financial ruin to someone. A large wedding is a great lot of work and tries the patience. It leaves a bride exhausted on her wedding day quite often, but for all that, it is worth it. The memories you take from such an occasion enhance marriage in a way that no other occasion can. I support big weddings—up to a reasonable degree.

## DOERS OF THE WORD

**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

**Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:**

**For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. . .**

**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

**For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:**

**For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**

**But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

**From the first chapter of the Epistle of James**