

How Rebellion affects Spiritual Health, by Karla Bliss

What does rebellion have to do with spiritual health? Dictionary.com says that rebellion is, "a refusal to accept orders or obey rules." Rebellion of any kind must first begin in the heart. It is in the heart long before one gets to the place of open rebellion. Sin that exists in the heart is just as or even more damaging than open rebellion.

How does rebellion affect spiritual health in the body of Christ? Let's find out. What would lead a person in the church down the path of rebellion? Are there warning signs?

There may not be warning signs from those looking on but there are warning signs to the one in rebellion.

Many church members are shocked when a member who has been faithful to their spouse for years suddenly abandons their family for someone else or when long time church members suddenly confesses that they no longer desire to be a part of the body of Christ. What happens? What goes wrong? Where did Lucifer get off course? Where did Adam, Eve, Cain, Korah, Saul, Samson and

many others go wrong?

Lucifer developed a spirit of pride, discontent and doubt. In his own misguided way he began to criticize everything God said, did or represented. He became a talebearer going from Angel to Angel telling of the

injustices of God and in the process attacked God, His character and what He represented.

Phillip Dunham in his book *Blinded by the Light* states that Eve's steps toward rebellion included first wandering from Adams side. Secondly, after realizing she was alone feeling that she could handle things on her own. Three, she questioned God. She asked, Why not? Why shouldn't I? What's wrong with it? How many Christians have begun their first steps to rebellion by asking these questions? Then finally Eve stayed, listened and talked with the serpent.

Cain questioned God, deliberately disobeyed, murmured and complained, put his own desires and thoughts above God's and practiced only partial obedience. He made a sacrifice and put it on the alter, but it wasn't the sacrifice that God required.

Are you in rebellion? Why don't you take this quiz and find out. Rebellion is serious; it led to the fall of angels in heaven and Adam and Eve's rebellion led to the death of mankind.

Rebellion Quiz

1. Are you critical of church leadership?
2. Do you place your opinions and feelings above the Bible?
3. Do you withhold tithe and offering from the church if someone offends you?

See *Spiritual Health*, continued on p. 7



Inside This Issue

Director's Spotlight 2

Family First 3

I Believe I'll Testify 4

In Case You Didn't Know 5

Financial Tips 5

Unrepentant Lives 6

Safety 1st: Internet Security 7

Prayer Requests 8

Director's Spotlight: *Affected and Infected*, by Tanya James

Several thousands of years ago, the most beautiful created being in the world decided he was not going to do what God said. Using the gifts God blessed him with, He went around gaining the sympathies of approximately half of the angels. He succeeded in deceiving them to question the fairness of God's law.

Lucifer was able to convince every angel that there was something wrong. He was able to **affect** their attitudes. As a result of the angels being **affected**, sin grew and began to **infect** some of the angels. God gave Lucifer, whose name was later changed to Satan, the chance to repent, but he firmly refused. Over and over Jesus pleaded with him, but instead, he chose to rebel against the government of God.

Because of his rebellion, there was war in heaven and he was kicked out taking with him a third of the angels who also chose to rebel. He came down to this earth where he was able to also convince Adam and Eve to question the government of God, thus causing them to also rebel and sin just like he did. Sin became a problem for the entire human race and without the blood of Jesus we would all be lost.

Rebellion started with Satan and every time we rebel, we confirm our allegiance to him and his government. God has a government and so does Satan. It is up to us to decide whose side we want to be on.

When we hear the word '**rebellion**' most of us immediately think of

teenagers. But interesting enough, those same teenagers learned or inherited the '**spirit of rebellion**' from someone they know. We adults may sometimes unconsciously teach the '**spirit of rebellion**' to our kids. We



are not always aware that children watch us and they often mimic what they see. The reason why things appear so

blatant with kids is that they haven't learned the art of 'masking' how they really feel.

Setting aside what we think about teenage rebellion, there are a lot of adults that are rebellious. It may not necessarily be against truth, but it can be against people in the church (*I won't support their program because I don't like them*), programs of the church (*they're not doing it the way I would do it*), and even against the Word of God (*It goes against what I agree with*), etc... Rebellion against truth is a family destroyer. It opens the door for the enemy to come into your home, divide it and, in some cases, destroy it.

When I look at myself, I have had times when God clearly asked me to do something that I was not comfortable with and I did not do it. I hoped that what He was asking would just fizzle out and go away. Even though it was not something I thought would be directly harmful to people, ultimately it is harmful to God because He had a plan that I refused to be a part of. It is possible that I may have hindered many people from receiving

their blessing, had I done what God said. I had to realize that my refusal to obey was rebellion. I had to look at my relationship with God because I played a part in disrupting the plan that God had in place!

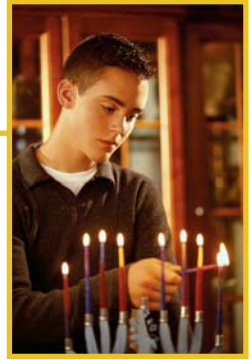
God is not pleased when we wilfully disobey Him. Although He 'winks' at our ignorance and applies His grace to our foolishness, there comes a time when the mercy runs out. When does that happen? Only God knows! I am trying to explicitly do what God asks me to do without question.

As you look over the course of your life, think of the things you have done or are still doing that is rebellious to the ways and principles of God? How does it affect the church? Your home? Your neighborhood? The cover story is very thought provoking and I strongly encourage you to look at the quiz at the end that begins on page 1 and concludes on page 7. Each question really made me take a deep, hard look at myself. I want my life to be pleasing to God. I want to do exactly what He says when He says it. I don't want to align myself in allegiance to the enemy, I want to be a part of the government of God. His Word says, "*Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*" 1 Sam 15:23 Following these behaviors will cause you to be rejected by God, not because He wants to, but because sin cannot exist in His presence.

It is my prayer that you will meditate on and contemplate your relationship with your Heavenly Father. Fight the urge to rebel and choose obedience!

Gary & Tanya James are the Ministry Directors for Renewed Hearts, Inc.

Family First, by Marsha Peters



Adolescence is a very crucial time in a teenagers life. It is a crossroads, so to speak. It's a time of major decisions, most of which will decide their future destiny. The most important major decision that a teen will face at this time is: What will I do with Jesus? Other major decisions include; Will I be heterosexual or homosexual? What career will I pursue? What kind of lifestyle do I want? What college will I attend? What kind of friends will I hang out with? These only name a few.

If ever there were a time to pay close attention to our children, and to stay connected with them, it would be during this stage of their lives. They need unconditional love and acceptance from you. They need to know that you are there for them.

Take a look at a page from the life of Dr. James Dobson. His own story of his troubled teen years will be an inspiration to you. He also gives some helpful advice to those who have reached or are headed to this stage of growth.

What if your teen's attitude goes from bad to worse in a matter of months? Rebellion is often hormonally driven and occurs in the best of families. When hostility begins to appear, how do you keep your sons and daughters from blowing up and doing something stupid? The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health surveyed 11,572 teenagers to determine which factors were most helpful in preventing



harmful behavior, such as violence, suicide, substance abuse, early sexual behavior and teen pregnancy. Here's what the researchers found: The presence of parents is beneficial at four key times of the day — early morning, after school, dinner time and bedtime.

When that regular contact is combined with other shared activities between parents and kids, the most positive outcome is achieved. The researchers also observed that adolescents who felt a sense of connection with their parents (feelings of warmth, love and caring) were least likely to engage in harmful behavior.

You might be asking: "How can I be with my teenagers morning, noon and night? I have too much work to do." You simply have to decide what is most important to you at this time. It won't matter as much a few years down the road, but your availability right now could make the difference for your child between surviving or plunging off the cliff.

My father and mother were faced with the same difficult choice when I was 16 years old. Dad was an evangelist who was gone most of the time, while my mother was home with me. During the adolescent years, I began to get testy with my mother. I never went into total rebellion, but I was definitely flirting with the possibility. I'll never forget the night my mom called my dad on the phone. I

was listening as she said, "I need you." To my surprise, my dad immediately cancelled a four-year slate of meetings, sold our home and moved 700 miles south to take a pastorate so he could be with me until I finished high school.

It was an enormous sacrifice for him to make. He never fully recovered professionally from it. But he and Mom felt my welfare was more important than their immediate responsibilities. Dad was home with me during those two volatile years when I could have gotten into serious trouble. When I speak with reverence about my parents today, as I often do, one of the reasons is because they gave priority to me when I was sliding close to the brink.

You may not be called upon to make such a radical change in your lifestyle. But if you are, the investment in your teen's life is worth it. We can't put a price tag on our child's life."

www.focusonthefamily.org

"God cannot take rebels into His kingdom; therefore He makes obedience to His commands a special requirement."

Child Guidance, p. 256

I Believe I'll Testify, by Derek Peters

The word 'rebellion', usually carries a negative connotation and is synonymous with other words like revolution, revolt, riot, mutiny, or insurrection.

The dictionary defines rebellion as '*an act or show of defiance towards an authority or established convention.*'

In this sinful world, active rebellion is continuous: children disrespect and rebel against their parents; students resist instruction and disrespect their teachers; motorist rebel against established speed limits on the nation's roads and highways; the laws of health, plus the moral law and ethical standards are all treated with scorn and disdain. So many people indeed, professed Christians, believe that civil standards and God's law do not apply in most situations if moral or ethical restraints restrict their life style.

The Bible declares very pointedly that "*rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.*" *1 Samuel 15:23*. The biblical punishment for the practice of witchcraft was death. The punishment for rebelling against God's law is, ultimately, death, too. God is warning all of us, through His word, that He takes a very dim view of sinful rebellion in any shape or form.

Ironically, there is also a "positive form of rebellion." It is called taking a stand for the cause of truth. I like to call it "righteous rebellion".

Does anyone remember the three Hebrew boys - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Captured and transported to exile in the land of Babylon, these faithful young men, along with Daniel found themselves under constant assault in regards to their beliefs and loyalty to God. "Strong were the temptations surrounding them in that corrupt and luxurious court, but they remained uncontaminated." (*Prophets and Kings, pg. 482*).

These young men "righteously rebelled" against anything that went against their conscience; against anything that would endanger their loyalty and relationship with God; against anything that would dishonor the principles and ideals of the God of heaven. It takes character and a firm resolve to be able to stand alone and apart from the crowd.



Because of their faithfulness and loyalty in their smaller test, they were equipped and ready to face their greatest test. Unflinchingly they told Nebuchadnezzar, that they would not bow down to his image, that their homage and allegiance belonged to the God of heaven, and that their God would deliver them not only as a testimony to His power, but also as a powerful testimony to the sure results of their obedience to Him. Can you say, Amen!

God's call to each one of His children today is: Dare to be a Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego. Rebel righteously against spiritual,

moral and social wrongs; refuse to bow down at the altar of the world; raise His standard high so His name will be glorified!

Inspiration

Author Unknown

*I asked God for strength,
That I might achieve,
I was made weak
To humbly obey.*

*I asked for health,
That I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity
That I might do better things.*

*I asked God for riches,
That I might be happy,
I was given poverty,
That I might be wise.*

*I asked for power,
That I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness,
That I might feel the need of God.*

*I asked for all things,
That I might enjoy life,
I was given life,
That I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I asked for-
But everything I had hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself,
My unspoken prayers were
Answered.*

*I am among all men
Most richly blessed.*

In Case You Didn't Know..., by Todde Bliss

As we grow in our mother's womb, our mental capacities begin to grow. It will lie dormant for years until one day it is jarred awake by some mysterious force that's deep within us all.

It can start at any age in life but it is really noticeable during the teenage years. This is when the chemical imbalances occurs, where one minute you want to be with your parents, and try not to disappoint them, and the next minute you want (total autonomy) to be with your friends trying really hard to fit in so you can be part of the clique. A lot of irrational thinking and behavior takes place here. Sometimes they think they are smarter and better than their parents, relatives and elders.



This is a very difficult stage to go through but if you heed to wise counsel from your parents relatives and elders and hold fast to the Word, you will come out like gold tried in the fire! Whatever decisions that you make you will have to live with that outcome whether it is good or bad.

So think before you make that step, and remember, you're not here on this earth to impress your friends.

It's all about getting into the heavenly kingdom...In Case You didn't Know... This battle started in heaven with Lucifer, the most perfect of all angels, God's troubadour, choir director, God's messenger and the light bearer, until (Michael) Jesus came into the picture. Well Lucifer thought he was being demoted!

This is where the beginning of the end started for him. The hatred for Jesus was so great that it consumed him and his every thought, was revenge. So he plotted against the Most High, and convinced almost all of the angels to follow him, but in the end he was only able to get a third of the heavenly host.

The angels listened to the wrong message, got into the wrong clique, and now they are eternally lost!

Don't ever think that you're better than someone

else because the moment that you do, you have fallen. Remember you're not the only one going through life's journey. It's time you choose which side you want to stand on.



Financial Tips: 5 big bills you can cut fast

There are five areas where you can cut your bills fast: Energy & gas; Food & groceries; Banking & credit; Taxes; and Car insurance.

This month we will provide tips to saving on energy and gas.

Low cost fixes: weather-stripping; caulking doors or sealing windows can keep out cold and heat.

Installing a programmable thermostat. These handy gadgets let you turn up the heat or air conditioning just before you get home rather than paying to

keep your empty dwelling comfy all day, typically saving \$180 per year, according to the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Switch to energy-efficient light bulbs. Yes, they do cost more than traditional bulbs, but they wind up saving money because they use two-thirds less energy and can last 10 times longer.

Be efficient. Clean and change furnace air filters and wrap your water heater. These moves help your appliances run more efficiently and cheaply. Seal ducts on air and heating

systems to improve efficiency by as much as 20 percent, according to the Alliance to Save Energy.

Lower the water heater temperature to 130° Fahrenheit. That's hot enough to kill germs and safely wash dishes. Do laundry in cold water.

Adopt good driving habits. Stop speeding! If you drive 70 mph instead of 55 mph, you're lowering your vehicle's fuel efficiency by as much as 17 percent, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).

Source: www.bankrate.com

Unrepentant Lives, by Emogene Harris

There's an art to forgiveness that few learn or even consider. Forgiveness doesn't require that the question "will you forgive me" be requested. It can be granted without the offenders' permission.

The crime committed brings with it burdens of guilt and fear of retaliation. The victim and the predator are locked in the same prison. The only way out is through the door of forgiveness. The asking or giving forgiveness sets you free.

We have the story of Joseph, a dreamer. The favored child of his father, he was hated and sold into slavery by his brothers. Joseph was brought by Potiphar, falsely accused by his wife, imprisoned and forgotten by the cupbearer for 2 years.

We all know the story of Pharaoh's dream and the cupbearer's remembrance of Joseph. It is here that Joseph takes his historic turn for the better. (read Gen. 41:1-46).

Joseph was 17 when he was taken from his home and he is now 30. Without any formal training we find that God has blessed Joseph to be a shrewd business man.

During the years of plenty Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain. When the years of plenty came to an end there was a famine as God promised and Egypt was the only land with food. Joseph now opens the storehouses and sells the grain back to the Egyptians and



to foreigners who came to buy. When the Egyptian's money runs out, Joseph buys their livestock in exchange for food. When the Egyptians had sold all their livestock to Pharaoh, Joseph sold them grain in exchange for their land. When the Egyptians had no more land, the people sold themselves to Pharaoh. Now all the money, livestock, land and the citizens of Egypt now belong to Pharaoh. Because of Joseph, Pharaoh was indeed a very rich ruler.

The famine that started in Egypt spreads though out the entire world. Joseph's brothers are forced to come to Egypt to buy grain. 13 years have now passed since the brothers sold their brother and lied to their father. Guilt now raised it's ugly head. The brothers are not repentant of their deed but now fear being exposed.

The brothers brought before Zaphnath-paaneah (Joseph's Egyptian name) did not recognize him. After Joseph's test of their love for his father and brother, Benjamin, he reveals himself as their brother and lets them know that he has forgiven them. Gen. 45:5-7. Joseph welcomes them to Egypt, sees that they get the best land and provisions, and sends for his father and all the family to move to Egypt. The brothers gladly accept all that he has to offer, yet no apology was given .

Joseph is able to forgive his brothers because he sees the big picture. Joseph is able to see that what his brothers meant for bad, God had turned around for their good. His sojourn to Egypt,

his enslavement to Potiphar, the moral test of his obedience to God's Law, and his imprisonment. This was career training for the position God had prepared for him.

Not only was he 2nd in command to the Pharaoh, he was the instrument to be used for the saving of the line of Judah from which the "Christ" the Savior of mankind was to be born. Joseph could forgive because of Romans 8:28. Even after his father's death Joseph responded to his brothers by telling them that he had forgiven them, and assured them that he meant them no harm. His brothers never sought forgiveness from Joseph.

How many times are you to forgive your brothers? 7x7x7? You need to ask for forgiveness once, just once. When we sin, we need only to go to God our Father and say "I'm sorry". 2 little words, 7 letters. Forgiveness is ours. 2 words. Forgive me,- not much to say. We like the 10 brothers have sinned. Our sin may not be the selling of our brother or lying to our father, but we have sinned.

Like the 10 brothers we have a chance to say I'm sorry, forgive me. Will I, will you, say it?



Quote of Month

"As you deal kindly and tenderly with your children, they and you will receive the blessing of the Lord."

Child Guidance, p.246

Safety First: Internet Security

There are some very important things that you need to keep in mind when you're on your computer at home or at school.

1. First, remember never to give out personal information such as your name, home address, school name, or telephone number in a chat room or on bulletin boards. Also, never send a picture of yourself to someone you chat with on the computer without your parent's permission.
2. Never write to someone who has made you feel uncomfortable or scared.

3. Do not meet someone or have them visit you without the permission of your parents.
4. Tell your parents right away if you read anything on the Internet that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Remember that people online may not be who they say they are. Someone who says that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could really be an older man.

Compiled by the FBI

Holiday Feature



Labor Day

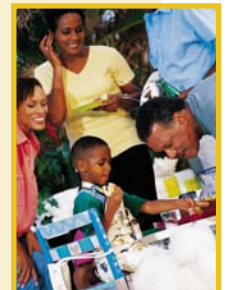
Labor Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the first Monday in September.

The holiday originated in 1882 as the Central Labor Union (of New York City) sought to create "a day off for the working citizens". Congress made Labor Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1894.

The form for the celebration of Labor Day was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday - a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families.

Today, Labor Day is often regarded as a day of rest and parades. Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water sports, and public art events. Families with school-age children take it as the last chance to travel before the end of summer.

Some teenagers and young adults view it as the last weekend for parties before returning to school. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the season for the National Football League and NCAA College Football.



www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_Day

Spiritual Health, cont'd.

Continued from p. 1

4. Do you inwardly have a problem with authority? (church, Bible, leadership)
5. Have you made yourself the mark of holiness? Do you judge others by your lifestyle or belief system?
6. Do you divide the church by speaking negatively about the body of Christ?
7. Are you more interested in receiving honor and recognition from man than from God?
8. Do you participate in financial secrecy with home or church financial mismanagement?
9. Do you feel that you are the only one with the truth or that you have more spiritual light than others?

10. Do you have a form of godliness but deny the power of God? Are you practicing religion but lacking a spiritual life?
11. Do you have a controlling spirit? Is it your way or the Highway?
12. Are you blind to your own faults?
13. Do you love money? Does the thought of making or acquiring money consume much of your time?

Finally, what is the cure for this unhealthy state of spiritual rebellion? We can find it in John 3:3. Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Prayer Requests

Please pray for this ministry. Renewed Hearts, Inc. is a 501(c)3 God-supported, non-profit organization. If you have a request, please email us at: prayers@renewedheartsinc.org.

Please pray for the following individuals:

- Bro. G - Family Issues.
- E & C - Family Issues
- M & D - Marital Issues

Also, please pray for:

- Our family members
- Our Church members and our Pastors
- Our finances and the gas crisis
- The homeless and jobless
- Those who are hurting
- The youth and young adults
- A grant writer - to help raise funds in order to provide needed services.
- A facility for this ministry

Funds for Education, Suntrust Bank Offer

Renewed Hearts is dedicated to helping provide children with the expenses (supplies, field trips, clothing, etc...) that accumulate during the course of a school year. With the help of friends like you and SunTrust Bank we would be able to help families that have children in public, private, or home school.

There are several ways that you can help us to build this fund:

1. SunTrust Bank has a special called, Our checking, Your cause. If you open a free, **NO FEE** personal or business checking account, SunTrust will donate \$100 of **THEIR** money in your name to our fund. Renewed Hearts, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All you have to do is:
 - open a new personal or business checking account.
 - use your Visa Check Card to make a small purchase.
 - go online to: www.suntrust.com/mycause or call 866-266-2802 to complete over the phone. Click on Charity Search. The company search name is Renewed Hearts Inc. The city is Atlanta, GA. Click on our

name and select the Donate Now button. Fill in the required fields and select the Submit button. SunTrust will donate \$100 of THEIR money on your behalf.

This account can be used as a 2nd account to save money or as an account for your children. It is of **no cost** to you. **Suntrust donates their own money on your behalf.**

2. If you are not interested in opening an account, but you would still like to help out, you may make a personal donation (please make checks payable to Renewed Hearts, Inc. and annotate on the check 'Education Scholarship Fund') Mail it to: P.O. Box 5474 Atlanta, GA 31107. Your donation is tax deductible.

If you are able to be a blessing to this ministry through one of the above options, so that we can be a blessing to other families, we thank you greatly for your support. A special thank you to those who have already supported us in this effort.

Please pass the news on to your friends and family. May you be blessed.

Support

Check out our website!
www.renewedheartsinc.org

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. If you would like to support us, please visit our website or you may send donations to the following address:

*Renewed Hearts, Inc.
P.O. Box 5474 Atlanta, GA 31107*

All donations are tax-deductible!
Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

If you would like to submit an article, a poem, or share a testimony, email:

heartbeat@renewedheartsinc.org

All articles are subject to editing and may not be included in the current issue. However, it may be included in a later issue.

News Crew

Gary D. James, Sr.
Director

Tanya James
Director

Marsha Peters
Administration

Karla Bliss
Information and Research

Todde Bliss, Sr.
Consultant

Derek Peters, Sr.
Editing

The Heart Beat

The Heart Beat
a publication of Renewed Hearts, Inc.
P.O. Box 5474, Atlanta, GA 31107
www.renewedheartsinc.org

