

WHAT IS BEHIND THE SPIRIT OF REBELLION?

Note to the speaker:

Provide insight into why Christians must not become involved in the various rebellious movements and attitudes that emanate from Satan. We need to see that such rebelliousness accomplishes little in the way of establishing a just society and that God's Kingdom is the only practical answer for the many ills that afflict human society

WE ARE LIVING IN AN AGE OF REBELLION (5 min.)

Easy to observe examples of rebellion on a personal level: Many youths rebel against parental authority; wives rebel against husbands (*w84* 10/1 5; *w83* 6/15 6-7)

On a broader scale, there is rebellion against school authorities, police, and government (*g87* 11/22 30; *g82* 5/8 17-18; *tp* 129; *g71* 2/22 16-18)

There are sporadic outbreaks of open rebellion against established order of society (*w72* 261-2; *g90* 8/8 9)
Spirit of rebellion is so widespread that it touches everyone to some degree

IS REBELLION THE ADVISABLE AND MOST BENEFICIAL COURSE? (5 min.)

History helps to answer whether rebellion is advisable and beneficial

Bible enables us to learn background of rebellion against authority

First, a spirit creature and then two humans rebelled, with disastrous results (*Ge* 3; *lp* 53-61; *it-2* 757)

Later, bad results came from rebellion at Babel (*Ge* 11)

Original spirit rebel still influences mankind and foments a general bad spirit (*Eph* 2:2, 3; *Re* 12:12; *hs* 52-3; *rs* 389-93; *w72* 262)

He is primarily responsible for widespread spirit of rebellion as well as for imperfect conditions that stimulate rebellion among people (*rs* 364-5)

WHAT ARE THE MOTIVES BEHIND REBELLION? (15 min.)

Sometimes those in rebellion are sincere, moved by injustices and problems

Some youths are repelled by hypocrisy and materialism of parents

Wives might rebel against oppressively domineering husbands

People rebel against economic and social systems that produce class distinctions and lack of regard for life (*w89* 11/15 30; *w72* 263-4; *g87* 11/8 4-6)

Selfishness or pride also prompts rebellion

We see an example in Korah (*Nu* 16; *w78* 11/15 13-15; *it-2* 184)

Many youths rebel against parents and authorities because the youths desire their own way or are influenced by sinful inclinations (*g88* 1/8 20-1)

A wife may show prideful independence by disputing with husband publicly, thus rebelling against his authority

Millions today reject basic moral restrictions simply because they want excuse for loose life; become rebels against God, who has high moral standards (*Ps* 119:150; *Eph* 4:17-19)

Whether sincere or selfish, rebellion has failed to solve basic human problems (*Ps* 146:3; *g87* 9/8 23)

Rebellion should be shunned because it is condemned in God's Word (*1Sa* 15:22, 23; *Pr* 24:21, 22; *Ec* 8:2, 3)

Where does the real solution lie?

REAL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF REBELLION LIES IN SUBMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM (15 min.)

God's Kingdom is only hope for completely eliminating the spirit of rebellion and the injustices that cause it

Under rule of that Kingdom, "the wicked one will be no more" (*Ps* 37:10)

Rather than manifesting the spirit of rebellion, vital that we submit to God's Kingdom now, as shown by our following God's ways outlined in the Bible (*w78* 1/15 18-22; *g76* 10/8 6-7)

Doing so brings many present benefits

Even if youths cannot accept hypocrisy and materialistic goals of parents who are not true Christians, should respect parents' position and obey them (*Col* 3:20; *fl* 161-3; *tp* 138-9; *yp* 13-17)

Rebelling hurts parents and may well hurt self

Obedience is pleasing to Jehovah and may attract parents to the truth

Many successes among those who follow Bible principles prove that wifely respect and relative subjection can bring lasting peace and happiness (*1Pe* 3:1-6; *fl* 54-69; *w89* 11/15 20 ¶19; *w86* 5/1 22-3; *gm* 171-2)

Although true Christians do not promote the established order of society, they do not rebel against "superior authorities" (*Ro* 13:1-7; *tp* 131-5)

Avoid rebellion against God by not opposing governmental arrangement he permits

True Christians have already overcome many of mankind's problems—racism, materialism, family breakdown, war; have purpose in life (*g88* 6/22 8-10; *g85* 12/22 9-11; *g81* 2/22 17-18)

Even now they are actively working for the new system, where injustices will not be permitted (*gm* 162-83; *g78* 10/8 4-23; *g76* 10/8 8-15)

SERVING GOD IS THE PRACTICAL ANSWER TO THE SPIRIT OF REBELLION (5 min.)

All are invited to associate with Jehovah's Witnesses to see that many problems over which the world rebels have already been solved among them (*br* 78 23-4)

Their success is not a result of guesswork; they are ordinary, imperfect people

Have Scriptures as sure guide on all attitudes and relationships (*rs* 199; *sj* 5, 9-11)

No need to be apathetic regarding present problems

You can learn workable counsel for handling present problems

Can have valid hope that *all* problems will be *permanently* solved in God's new world (1Ti 4:8)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)

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TO BE COVERED IN 45 MINUTES

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