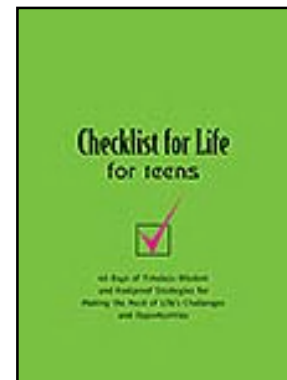


No One’s Looking, “Making Ethical Decisions”

Common grace has mentioned many times before; God endows his creation with the “common” knowledge – this inherent sense – of wrong & right, of morals and ethics. Besides this “nature” is also nurture – or the morals & standards taught through your development, your upbringing.

Often described as your conscience, this common grace is like a mystic voice that reminds you of what is right...or wrong; especially, at the time that the choice is before you.

This devotion encourages you (the teen, young folk) to “become a God-pleaser by choosing to do right whenever you’re confronted with an ethical dilemma – even when you think no one is looking.”



Homework:

Please try to do these:

- Thank God for his mercy – when you’ve made bad decisions
- Realize the Bible offers clear guidance for Godly behavior
- Trust the Spirit of God to lead me to make good decisions
- Do the right thing – even in private
- Pay attention to your conscience
- Think less about getting caught, and more about pleasing God

Things to Do:

- ✓ Make a commitment to God to adhere to a Biblical standard of behavior
- ✓ Meditate on the psalms that deal with ethical behavior
- ✓ Think back over the past week and mentally assess how you handled questionable circumstances
- ✓ Prepare a defense against *situation ethics* - the belief that an action can be either right or wrong depending on the situation
- ✓ Ask God to forgive you for the times you have willfully disregarded your conscience

God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand. I’m an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I’m never out of your sight. You know everything I’m going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you’re there, then up ahead and you’re there, too—your reassuring presence, coming and going.

Psalms 139 (*The Message*)