

Andrews University

## Digital Commons @ Andrews University

---

Faculty Publications

---

4-1-1971

### Questions Youth Are Asking Today

C. Mervyn Maxwell  
*Andrews University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Maxwell, C. Mervyn, "Questions Youth Are Asking Today" (1971). *Faculty Publications*. 3884.  
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/3884>

This Popular Press is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact [repository@andrews.edu](mailto:repository@andrews.edu).

# questions youth are asking today

*answered by mervyn maxwell*

## DID JESUS DATE?

**Did Jesus ever have a girl friend? If He was really human, it seems to me He must have had the same sex feelings anybody else has. But you never hear anything about Him having dates.**

The Bible shows that Jesus was very attractive to women. For instance, Mary and Martha of Bethany liked to invite Him to eat at their home. As He carried His cross to Calvary, women wept so hard that He stopped to comfort them. Luke 23:27-31.

Jesus didn't get married. We don't know why, but we can suggest some possible reasons. He knew He would die young, which would mean, if He married, leaving a widow and perhaps orphans. Think, too, how people would have regarded His children—sons of the Son of God! Quite likely they would have wanted to worship them!

Energetic, intelligent, courteous, interested in people, Jesus undoubtedly made hearts beat in a lot of girls when He was a teen-ager. And since, according to the Bible, he experienced normal human feelings, undoubtedly nice-looking girls looked good to Him. We just don't know. We do know that He controlled Himself in view of the purpose of His life.

Having a great purpose in life, incidentally, can help anyone con-

trol his sex urges. Isn't our contemporary sex-and-pot scene largely a product of boredom and aimlessness?

## MUST I BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY?

**I simply cannot get myself to believe in the Trinity. I memorized a formal statement—something about "three Persons in one substance"—when I was young, but it meant nothing to me then and it means still less to me now. Do I have to believe in the Trinity in order to be a Christian?**

We are invited to believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20), but the formula, "Three Persons in one substance," does not occur in the Bible. It was first composed by one of the church fathers 200 years after Christ ascended to heaven. As a matter of fact, just how the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost can each be God and yet there be only one God is nowhere explained in Scripture. If God really wanted us to accept any particular view, I am sure the Bible would be clearer on the matter.

The ancient phrase may perhaps have more meaning if I explain it a little to you. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are "one substance" in the same sense that a black man, a red man, and a white man belong to one identical human race and are each equally a human being. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make

up the entire population of the "divine race" (as we might refer to the Godhead), each one equally and fully a divine Being. Just as we often speak of the human race as "mankind" or "man," so we may speak of the Trinity as "the God-kind" or "God."

Together these Three constitute a unity. Christians worship "one God" just as a crowd at a rally may cheer with "one voice." The one voice at the rally is the sound produced by a large number of people shouting in unison. The three members of the Trinity relate to each other and to us as a united team—as "one God."

## PRAYING AND HATING

**I have tried your idea about praying for someone I don't like, and it hasn't done much good. I still feel the same way about him I did before.**

You dislike this person. Do you really actually hate him? Probably not. Do you want him to be a total failure in life? I doubt it. I dare say that if he could be successful and happy somewhere far away from you, you wouldn't mind how happy he was.

Start there, and then pray for him *until you are sure you really mean it.*

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He



Mervyn Maxwell

who does not love does not know God; for God is love." 1 John 4:7, 8, RSV.

#### CHRIST'S AGONY

**I once heard it said by a minister that he had experienced Christ's agony. I got the impression that if I hope to be saved, I should experience His agony also. How can I?**

There is an agony which is appropriate to the Christian's conflict with evil. Jesus said, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate" that leads to the narrow way. Luke 13:24. The Greek word here is "agonize," which in the days of Jesus meant "wrestle." There is no denying that at times it is a real struggle to keep close enough to Jesus so that we will do the right thing and resist temptation.

But when we speak of the agony of Jesus, we are referring to His experience in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44. At the time this occurred Christ was suffering for the sins of the whole human race as our Redeemer and Intercessor. He was doing this so that we would not need to suffer the penalty of our own sins.

You should, when severely tempted, wrestle (agonize) to stay

close enough to Christ to get power to resist sin; but you do not need to agonize as Jesus did in Gethsemane.

#### UP FROM THE DUMPS

**I've been so depressed lately. The kids I run around with seem to pick on me all the time. Come to think of it, do I run around with them? I admire them a lot, but they seem to contradict me and make fun of everything I say. How I wish some of them could admire me for something. Or at least be nice to me once in a while.**

If you knew how many other people feel the same way you do, it would be a comfort. Yesterday at a campus get-together I heard a college boy say, "This morning I felt down; real low. I prayed about it. And it's really cool. God came through. I can hardly get over it." And then he quoted Romans 8:38, 39: "I am persuaded, that [nothing] . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If you could have seen him while he spoke, you would know that Christ had got him out of the dumps. For real!

So remember the love of Christ. And remember that God wants you to train yourself to think loving thoughts about others. 1 Corinthians 13:5 says that love "thinketh no evil." Philippians 4:8 says, "Whatsoever things are . . . lovely, . . . think on these things."

You might begin by praying to God for your friends and for yourself. Then with God's help choose to think happy thoughts. Choose to remember the nice things your friends have said and done to you. Choose not to let yourself be glum. Get yourself off to a new start. Remember, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

#### KICKING SMOKING

**I know you Adventists have helped a lot of people quit smoking. I burn two packs a day. That's forty cigarettes. Can you help me?**

Recommendations which have helped many other people include

these: To help flush the accumulated poisons from your system and tone up your nerves, try drinking a lot of water and fruit juices, breathing deeply every hour (*not while driving*), and beginning the day with a hot and cold shower.

To help satisfy the urge to have something in your mouth, chew gum or suck hard candy.

To reduce the risk of relapse, throw away all cigarettes. Put a pocket Bible, a picture of Christ, or a dish of candy where you usually keep your cigarettes.

To strengthen your will: 1. Read everything you can on the harmfulness of smoking. Keep telling yourself you're quitting for your own good and because you want to.

2. Tell several people you're quitting. When tempted, you'll not want to let yourself down in their eyes.

3. Pray in faith.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able . . . to bear." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

#### GOD AND EVIL THOUGHTS

**If God knows each of us so well that He even knows our thoughts, why does He allow us to think evil thoughts?**

Because He respects us so much that He gives us the privilege of choosing what we want to think. He would never dream of controlling our actions contrary to our own decisions, let alone controlling our thoughts!

The Bible quietly invites us: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Joshua 24:15.

#### DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Would you like to ask Mervyn Maxwell to help you find an answer? If so, send your question to

Mervyn Maxwell  
"Signs of the Times"  
1350 Villa Street  
Mountain View, California 94040