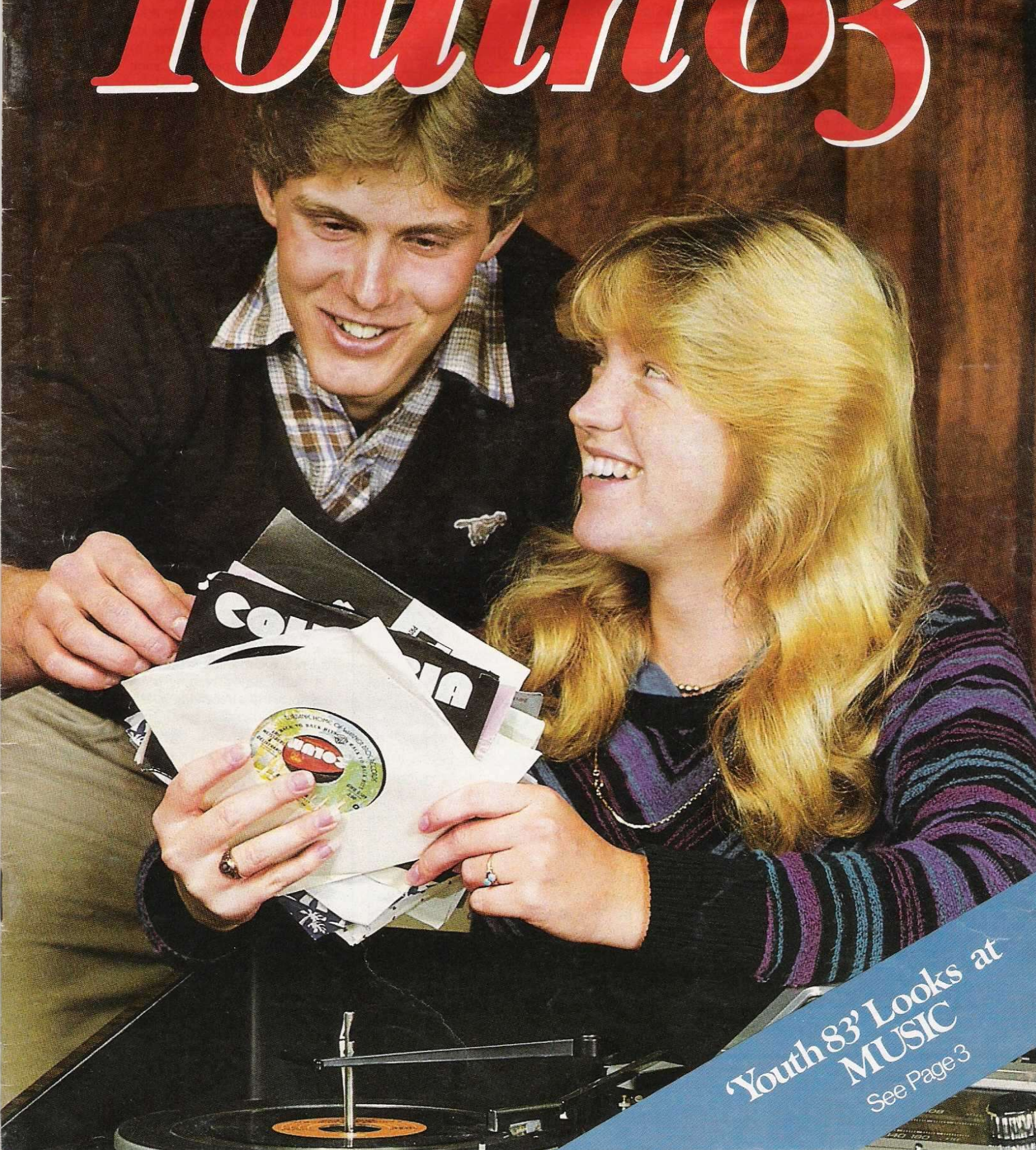


Youth 83



*'Youth 83' Looks at
MUSIC
See Page 3*

Is God Fair?

Why has God permitted 6,000 years of human woe and suffering?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Look at the world today! War, famine, pestilence! Poverty, inequality, hunger, want! Sickness, disease, suffering, death! Crime, graft, dishonesty, corruption! Insanity, degeneration, decay! Unhappiness, fear, wretchedness and woe!

How, so many are asking, can a supreme, all-powerful God of LOVE permit it?

WHY does God allow wrong governments? WHY is He permitting civilization itself to crumble?

Is God FAIR?

Listen! Some men are saying, "God isn't fair!" — or "Is there a God, after all?" But what do you suppose men would say if God took away their right to think and do as they please? For God could never stop this awful carnage without FORCING men to act according to His will — denying them a free will of their own!

It is *men's ways*, so contrary to God's ways, that have brought on this unhappy state. And they have brought on all the world's sorrows and anguish *in spite of* the pleadings of God. He says, "Your ways are not my ways."

God's ways, had they been followed, would have led inevitably to peace, happiness, prosperity



and joy. God always has revealed to men His ways. Always He has pleaded with the human family.

Suppose God had taken the only alternative. Suppose He had FORCED men, against their wills, to have lived according to His laws?

Can't you almost hear the defiant, rebellious, stiff-necked human race indignantly screaming at the Almighty, "You can't cram your religion down *my* throat!" For it *is* a matter of religion. Can't we see that, had God followed that course, more than ever men would have shouted, "GOD ISN'T FAIR!"

For nearly 6,000 years men

have lived in defiance of God's laws. Had God denied them this right to be wrong, men would have accused God of injustice, demanding freedom to follow their own ways.

God's plan has for its purpose the creating of perfect CHARACTER in beings who are separate entities from God yet members of the very Family of God. Character cannot be created automatically by fiat — it must be developed through *experience!*

Nor could character be instilled without free moral agency. To achieve this great purpose — that of producing the supreme pinnacle of all God's creation, sons of God having perfect character — man has to be *convinced*, of his own free

will, that God's laws are JUST, and that His ways are the only right ways for man! Man must turn to them, voluntarily! This lesson could be learned *only by EXPERIENCE!*

In the beginning, Satan appeared to contest the wisdom of God's law. This law is, simply, LOVE for God and love for neighbor, as defined in the 10 broad principles of the Ten Commandments. A fundamental, spiritual, eternal law. The philosophy Christ taught is that it is more blessed to GIVE than to receive. But Satan argued for the GETTING way. Competition, he argued, is the lifeblood of activity. Self-desire provides incentive to endeavor. Vanity

Youth 83 Photos

The Creator God
"is not the author
of confusion" . . .
Its real author
is Satan,
the world's god!



spurs to action. And so, in Satan's philosophy, self-desire, competition, strife, provide the root-principle for accomplishment. The way of GETTING is the way to progress and advancement.

Had not God permitted this selfish way to be tried, tested and demonstrated, God's creatures could argue throughout eternity that they had been denied the better way.

The devil's week

And so God turned over to Satan the first six days of ONE WEEK, consisting of seven 1,000-year days, in which to *demonstrate* the falsity of this way — the way of greed.

During the first six days of this week of 7,000 years Satan was permitted to retain DOMINION over all the earth. "Six days," God said, "thou shalt labor and do all thy work" — his work of deception and hate — "but the SEVENTH day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." Six 1,000-year days have been permitted Satan for his labor of DECEPTION. Even then his dominion has been limited to the power of influence and suggestion. Never has God permitted even Satan arbitrarily to force men against their wills.

And so for 6,000 years men have been left free to accept the self-seeking, competitive philosophy of Satan, or to follow the Golden Rule of God. And for 6,000 years Satan has labored. And mankind has fallen for his delusion!

Satan's philosophy is the philosophy of the world today. On it our present civilization has been built. A civilization men love and cherish, and for which they patriotically sacrifice their lives! A civilization developed on desire for self-gain, competition, strife! In it success is determined by HOW MUCH a man has been able to GET, not on how well he has served.

God has never left men in ignorance of the TRUE way of life. Always He has made known the true values — the way of His spiritual law of love! Continually God has pleaded, with patience and in love. He set up a nation of His own on earth, pledged to follow His laws, dedicated voluntarily to God's ways of life. But Israel turned from God's ways, and persecuted and killed God's prophets!

God sent His only begotten Son to point men back to the true paths. And Him, too, men rejected and killed!

During these 6,000 years since Adam, men continually have spurned God's love, rejected His law, turned a deaf ear to His prophets and His true ministers. They have built a world after the false philosophy of Satan, replete with its pagan customs, traditions and beliefs. Today people are hopelessly engulfed in these false ways, but, being deceived, realize it not at all!

Satan is revealed as the "GOD of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4). The original *inspired* Greek should properly be translated "the god of *this* AGE." And this worldly civilization worships its GOD. The appalling fact unrealized by the world is that Satan, not the Eternal, is its god! The Creator God "is not the author of confusion," we read in I Corinthians 14:33. Its real author is

Satan, the world's god! And so he has his many denominations and sects, all striving in a babylon of confusion!

The devil's work

There is just one thing, it seems, that Satan's ministers can agree upon. "God's LAW," they chorus in unison, "is DONE AWAY!" Yes, they have to tell that in order to draw their salaries! Today the people of organized religion refuse to HEAR the law of the Lord (Isaiah 30:8-11). They demand that their ministers preach the soft and smooth things — the deceits! They have turned away from the TRUTH, and are accepting and believing FABLES (II Timothy 4:2-4). They are BITTER against God's law, and against the few who have courage today to proclaim the PLAIN TRUTH of God's Word!

Yes, Satan has *organized* religion. He himself appears, not as a devil with horns and a tail, bearing a pitchfork, but "is transformed into AN ANGEL OF LIGHT" (II Corinthians 11:14). His ministers are transformed as the ministers of righteousness, appearing AS the apostles of Christ! (verses 13, 15). But they are preaching "another Jesus" (verse 4), in the power of "another spirit," and deceiving men with "another gospel" than the true Gospel of the Kingdom that Christ brought and Paul and all the apostles preached! (Galatians 1:6-7).

Satan's congregations go in for much FORM. "Having a FORM of godliness, but denying the POWER thereof: *from such turn away*," plainly warns God's Word! (II Timothy 3:5). The present worldly order — its competitive principles, its customs and traditions, its political systems — are upheld by Satan's churches within every land! Truly, ALL nations are deceived! (Revelation 17:2, 18:3).

Jesus Christ appeared 1,900 years ago as a messenger bearing a message from God. He brought to an unhappy world steeped in false
(Continued on page 22)

Is God Fair?

(Continued from page 2)

ways the "GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD." A Kingdom now, soon, to replace these crumbling governments on earth!

That Kingdom today is near at hand — *even at the doors!* (Luke 21:31).

Thank God, we are near the END of the six working days allotted to Satan's dominion. God's 1,000-year Sabbath day is just about to dawn!

There is a saying that it is darkest just before the dawn. Now we see on every hand the final fruitage of men's ways. Written in unerasable blood, in human misery, anguish and despair, is the 6,000-year record of EXPERIENCE!

Even now men will not heed this horrible lesson — not until they are FORCED to see it!

But, as Satan's sixth "working day" closes, God is about to step in and supernaturally to interfere!

The coming seventh millennium shall see Satan restrained. Christ will return to rule the earth with all the power of God. God's new order for the next thousand years will restore peace, happiness and joy.

Then men may look back over this present world and COMPARE! Never will God FORCE a single human being, against his own will, into salvation and eternal life.

But, with the 7,000-year record of EXPERIENCE set plainly before seeing eyes, do you think anyone will *want* to return to these ways we seem now to love? Not many, you may be sure of that! Yet some, even then, will rebel.

Finally the world shall acknowledge, of its own free volition, that God's ways are right. Christ, says the scripture, "learned obedience by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). Even He who never did wrong! "And *being MADE perfect*" — through experience — "he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him".

Someday we shall look upon God's plan with breathtaking admiration and awe! The suffering of this present time shall have faded completely from mind. The lessons of experience we shall have with us for eternity! Finally humanity shall accept God's ways of life, KNOWING that they are right ways. The happiness and joy we shall then experience cannot be conceived by our minds today! Through all eternity we shall worship and praise the Eternal God for His wisdom, His mercy, His LOVE!

Do you think anyone, then, will look back and say, "God isn't fair"? □

'Come On...'

(Continued from page 7)

chaperons, some of the trouble-makers are there and the alcohol is flowing quite freely.

Don't be afraid to say, "No!" Sure, you said that you'd go to the party, but the one that was described to you, not the one that you are at. Don't let one bad decision lead to another.

Finally, Ecclesiastes 11:9 tells us the following: "Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment."

Those are pretty strong words. Responsibility. Accountability. Your decisions are yours to make and yours to answer for.

Remember these guidelines the next time one of your friends says, "Come on, make up your mind." Remind yourself not to make a hasty decision. If you face a tough decision, get some advice from an adult. And if you see that you've made a bad decision, don't be afraid to back out of it. And finally, keep in mind that you are responsible for your decisions.

Think about it. Sleep on it. You can use these guidelines and avoid many of the pitfalls or you can simply take your chances. The decision, after all, is yours. □

You're A Girl

(Continued from page 11)

general most girls have a natural inclination to be all of these things. With a little conscious effort, a girl can really excel in these areas.

Do words like *delicacy* and *modesty* sound old-fashioned? They shouldn't, because they have to do with confidence — something that is always needed. You see, both these attributes help one be successful in any situation. They have to do with doing things with just the right touch and in good taste. Modesty simply means "not extreme." A modest girl does not call undue attention to herself by wearing clothing too tight or too revealing, or by unseemly conduct or language.

Delicacy has to do with tact or consideration, not weakness as some would have you believe. Everyone appreciates those who are tactful and considerate, and especially young women who exemplify these qualities.

It's easy to see how being modest and delicate can see you through most situations — at school, on a job or in a social gathering — with a feeling of confidence. Knowing how to successfully relate to others and conduct yourself in a truly feminine way makes being a girl delightful.

If you really think about it, all these qualities that make up the multifaceted role of femininity require another ingredient: character. In the same teen poll mentioned earlier, the boys indicated they admired girls who would stand up for and be loyal to their convictions.

In order to be able to take such a stand, girls must first have an understanding of clear-cut goals they set for themselves in their feminine roles, and a determination to achieve those goals.

There's so much more to femininity than can be covered in one article. Why not put femininity on your list of goals and really set yourself to understand every sense of the word? □