

2006 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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The Problems of Youth

by David Padfield

"Our youth now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for their elders, and love chatter in places of exercise. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up their food, and tyrannize their teachers." (Socrates, 469-399 B.C.)

The problems facing our young people are not new problems. The temptations of young people today might come in better wrapped packages than they did a generation ago, but can still be summed up as *"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life"* (**1 Jno 2:16**). Not only are the temptations the same as in the days gone by, but so is the way of escape. The Psalmist spoke of God's eternal word and said, *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you"* (**Ps 119:11**).

Let us look at three of the problems our young people must face.

Problems With Friends

All of us want to have good friends. One of the saddest verses in the Bible is **Psalms 142:4**, where David said, *"Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me, refuge has failed me, no one cares for my soul."*

But, having the wrong type of friends can be even worse than having no friends at all. *"The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray."* (**Prov 12:26**). Rehoboam had to learn this lesson the hard way. By heeding the voice of his young and inexperienced friends and forsaking the wise counsel of the elders

he caused ten tribes to revolt against his rule and follow Jeroboam in the North (**1 Kings 12**).

Sometimes teenagers (and their parents) allow the people of the world to determine how they will act, dress and talk. They often forget that God has spoken on such matters as our attire (**1 Tim 2:9-10**). You will not find "modest apparel" being promoted by most designers of clothing for youth. Our Lord warns us *"that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart"* (**Matt 5:28**). The man who lusts after a woman has sinned. However, if a woman dresses in immodest apparel, she is just as guilty. She would be *"sharing in other people's sins"* (**1 Tim 5:22**).

Parents need to know where their children are going with their friends. Those who let their children roam around town at will are sowing to the wind and will reap the whirlwind.

Problems With Parents

The major problem between parents and children is the result of a lack of communication, i.e. the parents communicating God's word to the child. It is the duty of parents to instruct their children in the way of the Lord. This cannot be done by proxy. The primary responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the father. *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (**Eph 6:4**). I have observed far too many parents who try to "buy" their children's affection with material possessions. Materialism is one of the great sins of our day. Solomon told his son to "hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother" (**Prov 1:8**). A son cannot

"hear the instruction" of his father, if his father is never home.

Children must obey their parents (**Eph 6:1-3**). Obedience to parents will teach respect for authority. Our nation is paying a terrible price because of the neglect of parents. Parents who do not respect civil law will never be able to teach their children proper respect for authority.

Finding a Mate

Because of the high divorce rate in this country, finding an acceptable, prospective mate is an increasingly difficult problem. It is not uncommon to find a young man or woman who has been married two or three times before age 21. Young people need to realize that they are bound to their spouse "till death do us part."

Some preachers have been negligent in teaching what God has said about marriage and divorce. We need to affirm over and over again that Jesus gave only one reason for a man to put away his spouse, i.e. sexual immorality (**Mt 19:3f**). Parents often try to select the mate for their children. I believe this is a terrible mistake. If the marriage does not work out, the parents will be blamed for the divorce. Some parents have more concern for the social and economic standing of a young man or woman than they do for character. A mate with character will remember their wedding vows, love, honor and cherish their spouse even in the most trying of circumstances.

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw nigh when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (**Ecc 12:1**).
- via Reflections On Truth

HAVE YOU ANSWERED THE CALL?

Three military recruiters showed up to address high school seniors. Each recruiter, representing the Army, Navy, and Marines, was given fifteen minutes to speak. The Army and Navy recruiters got carried away, so when it came time for the Marine to speak, he had just two minutes. He walked up and stood silent for a full sixty seconds, half of his time. Then he said, "I doubt whether there are two or three of you in this room who could even cut it in the Marines, but I want to see those two or three immediately in the dining hall when we are dismissed." He then took his seat.

Later, when he arrived in the dining hall, he was greeted by a large number of students who were interested in becoming Marines. The recruiter knew that commitment comes from appealing to the heroic dimension in every heart. (*By W. Frank Harrington*)

Likewise, Jesus appeals to the heroic dimension in every heart. Let us deny ourselves, willingly take up our crosses, and follow Him.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" (**Matt 16:24**)

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie Agee
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)
Jason & Marie Anderson
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Juanita Dickson
Robert Erickson
Jon Fox (Kirk's dad)
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
Fern Key (Brentwood)
David & Jerica Lovett
Jean McCarty
Jeffry & Kaye Pennant
Wendell Rapier
Sven & Berniece Raven
LaurieAnn Reagan
Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)
Andy & Liz Roadman
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)
Ray Rude (heart attack)
Billie Rush (Troy's grandmother)
Rena Schultz
Geneva Shelton
Shawna Shuck
Ernie & Freda Sprinkel
Connie Taylor
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
Maxine Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse
Aaron Robertson
David Lovett

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Michael Mendez
Aaron Robertson

