



Grown Up Mistakes!

1 Timothy 4:11-16

Paul Writes to Young Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:11-16

These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth; but be an example to the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands, of the eldership.

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them; that your progress may be evident to all.

Take heed to yourself, and to the doctrine; Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself, and those who hear you.

Two Huge Mistakes Grown Ups Make With Their Youth

#1 We Dismiss Them

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young.”

- The apostle tells the young man Timothy that there are those in the church who will look down on you because of your youth (Paul says don’t justify their thinking)

“You haven’t been groomed by life’s experiences yet”

“You’re not old enough to contribute anything of real value”

“You’re not old enough to be taken seriously”

“You’re not old enough to be in charge of anything”

“You’re too young to be counted on consistently”

I Will Remind You of Paul's Documentation of Timothy's Credentials

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:14-15

- Paul says, ***“Timothy, you were indoctrinated with Christian behavior as a child.”*** Wisdom and Knowledge are different.
- He even says that the faith that he is expecting Timothy to produce was in Timothy's grandmother first, then it was handed down to his mother, and that he expects to see it in Timothy as well. 2 Timothy 1:5
- In other words, ***“Parents don't dismiss your child or grandchild's faith in Christ, but INVEST IN IT YOURSELF as Timothy's grandmother and mother did!”*** Put your spiritual brand on your offspring!
- Notice that Timothy's father is not mentioned here!

Observations

***The Apostle Paul Was Able
To Capitalize On What Eunice
and Lois Had Already Started
In Young Timothy!***

***(That's What Our Bible Coaches and
Bible Teachers Do)***

How Can We Move Our Youth In the Right Direction?

- Stimulate our youth to *participate/serve* in our worship to God. When the church has youth activities, involve them.
- In the text, Timothy was encouraged by Paul to use the talents that he had been given for the Lord, Verse 14

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you....”

- A church’s longevity is determined by how it invests in its youth (Bible Bowl is a church activity, but the answers to those questions are also personal and practical for life)
- Ex. What are the ramifications of the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew?

“Do not your alms before men to be seen...” Matthew 6:1

- Ex. *“Upon this rock I will build my church...”
Matthew 16:18*

Observations

In Order for the Talent of Our Youth to Be a Positive Influence For the Church, There Needs to Be a Consistency of Spiritual Values On the Part of That Young Person. Look at 1 Timothy 4:16:

“Take heed unto yourself (hold fast to your character) and to the doctrine and continue in them (immerse yourself in the will of Christ for your life) so that people can see your growth, for in doing so you can save yourself and those who hear you.”

- ***“Timothy, you can’t just talk the talk, but you’ve also got to walk the walk!” (Don’t just speak God’s Word but model God’s Word!)***

Mistake #2, We Coddle Them

“Let no one despise thy youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

- **I believe that often times we expect little to nothing with reference to solid Christian behavior from our youth, so we coddle them and excuse their misbehavior:**

We say, “Well, they are just kids”

“Well, there are so many temptations out there”

“Well, growing up now is harder than it use to be”

“Well, there is so much competition for their attention”

So, We Coddle Them and Excuse Their Lack of Growth!

Observations

- Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:12, *“Timothy, set an example for the believers in word, in manner of life, in charity or love, in spirit, faith, and purity.”*
- My point is that Paul doesn't stop with just encouraging Timothy to do something, but he tells Timothy to, **“Set An Example”** for **ALL BELIEVERS** to follow

Point: Being a young Christian is not an excuse to live a “Pathetic Life!”, as if to say, *“I’ll do better when I get older!”*

- Let's don't “Baby Our Youth” and then Expect Nothing from them by, “Coddling Them”
- Some parents enable their child's poor behavior by excusing their actions (parents won't be around forever)



Brother Robert Beeman Coined a Bible Bowl Phrase That Exists On Our Tee-Shirts:

**Woodland Park
Church of Christ
An Environment
Where Excellence
Is Expected!**

How Do We Insure That Our Youth Step In the Right Direction?

- We need to Challenge Them to take the principles of Christ seriously, *“Before your life goes sour,”* Ecclesiastes 12:1
- Being young doesn’t exempt you from the principles of life: *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* Galatians 6:7
- The first baby I ever assisted in delivering had a 13-year-old mother!
- As parents and as churches, we need to Model the life of a follower of Christ for our youth
- The sad truth is this: many of our youth’s pathetic Christian lives are simply accurate reflections of the lives they see in their church family and at home

One Reason This Matters So Much:

Our Youth Are Not the Church of Tomorrow, But the Church of Today!

Our Failure On This Issue Is Not Something That Will Come Back and Hurt Us Tomorrow!

It Is Hurting Us Now!

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38