

“Exhort the Young Men to Be...”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Titus 2:6-8
- B. A number of religious people and older folks believe that youth is a disease that people need to grow out of.
 - 1. “Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels. But old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young.” (J. K. Rowling)
 - 2. More often than not, our culture worships the condition of being young, and considers youth to be the universal excuse for the sins of the young
 - 3. “Use your youth so that you may have comfort to remember it when it has forsaken you, and not sigh and grieve at the account thereof.” (Walter Raleigh)
- C. The Bible’s perspective of youth is balanced and wholesome.

I. YOUTH IS A TIME FOR FUN

- A. Ecc. 11:9
 - 1. Life is meant to be enjoyed - Ecc. 11:7-8, 8:15
 - 2. But note the warning that we are still responsible for the things we do in our youth - Ecc. 11:10
- B. But it doesn’t mean that every day will be fun or intended to be pleasant.
 - 1. There will be seasons of hardship and sorrow
 - 2. Youth can ignore this for a time because parents shield them, but it can’t be ignored into adulthood; sad times have a maturing purpose.
- C. There is a proper time for fun and for serious things - Ecc. 3:1, 4

II. FUN CAN BE HARMFUL

- A. Laughter and silliness out of season and for no purpose is useless - Ecc 2:1-2
 - 1. Ever meet a person who makes a joke out of everything? A first it is amusing, but after a while it becomes tiring, then it becomes an irritation
 - a. Ecc. 7:6
 - 2. God had this matter against Israel - Isa. 22:12-13
 - a. Partying did not stop the evil times from coming
 - 3. Sorrow has a place in life - Ecc. 7:2-4
- B. Fun that causes harm to another is evil (bullying)
 - 1. Ever did something that you thought would be funny, but the person on the receiving end didn’t think the same?
 - 2. Laughter sometimes ends in sorrow - Prov. 14:13
 - 3. Some people take their fun at the expense of others - James 5:4-5
- C. Fixating on fun and ignoring danger
 - 1. Even been so focused on something that someone shouts at you, “If the house were afire, you wouldn’t notice until it burned down around you!”
 - 2. There are people who focus on fun and ignore any potential danger
 - a. Amos 6:3-6

3. People use pleasure to avoid responsibility or difficulties. It is probably the most common reason people give for using drugs and alcohol. It disconnects them from reality so they don't have to deal with it
 - a. Prov. 23:29-30, 33-35
 4. Using pleasure to avoid responsibility or hardship doesn't make it go away; it makes it worse - Prov. 23:32, 7:21-26
- D. Degenerating into sinning for fun
1. Prov. 1:10-16; 1Peter 4:3-4; Eph. 5:3-4

III. TEACH THE YOUNG MEN

- A. Titus 2:6-8 - Be sober-minded
1. The word does not mean "not drunk"; instead, it means "being of sound or healthy mind, moderate, self-controlled" (Strongs)
 2. The exact opposite is demonstrated by the demon possessed man; when Jesus healed him, he became sober-minded - Mark 5:2-5, 15
 3. Youth is a time of struggle with impulse control. It is far too easy to give in and do the first thing that comes to mind.
 - a. This is the time when young men need to train themselves to think ahead and avoid extremes
 - b. Be on guard - 1Peter 5:8
 - c. Prepare your minds and watch - 1Peter 1:13
- B. Titus 2:7 - Choose to excel as an example of good works
1. Temptations are everywhere and as a young person you don't have a lot of experience yet in dealing with them - Titus 2:11-12
 2. Rather than giving into impulses, establish good habits
 - a. 1Tim. 4:12; Ecc. 12:1
- C. Titus 2:7-8 - Show integrity; it literally means uncorrupted doctrine or teaching
1. Youth is a time of passionate ideals, but it is so easy to get side tracked by foolish causes and dangerous philosophies - Eph. 4:14
 - a. Why are most of the Muslim suicide bombers are young men?
 - b. Because the reasoning and restraint parts of the brain are developing, young men are easily persuaded to do reckless things that older men would refuse
 2. Do not dismiss the wisdom of older persons without realizing that your understanding and experience is less developed than theirs
- D. Be reverent; means dignified, honorable, or noble. It is a person who commands respect by the way they behave, not by what they demand
1. God is telling young men to train themselves to act in such ways that cause others to sit up, take notice and say "I'm impressed!"
- E. Being incorruptible; something that cannot be destroyed - Rom. 2:7
1. All of life is ahead of you; aim for something great, something of lasting value - 1Cor. 9:24-27; 2Cor. 5:9