



The Value of “Youth” to the Cause of God Youth Worship

1. Presenter: Opening Scripture:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:34-35**

Sometimes it may be difficult to love youth as Jesus has called you to love one another. Especially today when we look so much different than you did when you were our age. The fact is we are different than you were because times are different.

2. Optional Video- X Factor Performance of Amazing Grace

<http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=YLWPYWNX>

3. Presenter: The Value of “Youth” to the Cause of God

Which is the most difficult era of human life? Infancy? Adolescence? Mature adulthood? Old Age?

It probably depends upon where you are in life as to how you might answer that.

While many might suggest being an adult is the hardest. Perhaps you might think differently after engaging in discussions with youth about their life, school, bullying, pressure to succeed, internships, responsibilities for their sisters and brothers while their parents work.

Youth is a frustrating time in life. It is that period when one is hardly old enough to be “on his own,” and yet may be feeling a sense of independence. Youth are frequently attempting to find some sense of identity; that is why we sometimes act and dress so weird. Some can be

bizarre! But then, so are some adults.

Our Creator recognizes the value of youth to the divine cause. Young people have energy, we are daring, our hearts are filled with visions of the future; indeed; we can be a most valuable component in the service of Jehovah.

In 1 Tim. 4:12, Paul said to Timothy: “Let no man despise your youth; but you be an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity”

Youth can sometimes act without thought and can sometimes be a bit silly they are, nonetheless, a wonderful resource in the kingdom of heaven. The fact is the Bible is full of examples of how God has used younger people in some of the most vital roles in the unfolding of his marvelous plan of redemption.

4. Presenter: Let's reflect upon some striking examples that demonstrate God's confidence in youth.

5. Youth Reading: Young Boy and His Lunch

There is a story of a young boy who responded to a call to do something for the Savior. Christ was surrounded by a multitude of 5000. Jesus looked to His disciples for a solution to the problem that the multitude was hungry and that it was late in the day. Of course, Christ already knew what He was planning to do (John 6:6).

Jesus asked Philip where they would get enough bread to feed the crowd. Philip didn't know, but doubted that it could be done with the limited resourced they had. Andrew found a young boy with a meal of 5 loaves of barley bread and two small fish. The boy could have refused to give up his lunch. He could have chosen to run away when the disciple approached him and asked if he would sacrifice his meal for Jesus. But this boy allowed the Lord to use his little gift. He trusted Christ with his possessions even though he did not know what the outcome would be.

6. Youth Reading: Little Maid of Israel

There is a wonderful story in 2 Kings 5 about Naaman being healed of leprosy by God. One of the minor characters in the story is a little slave girl of whom we know almost nothing. However, the one thing we know

about her is that she was concerned for the people around her that they would know the power of God.

Actually she was taken from her home against her will and lived in a unfamiliar land. Yet, she still loved the people God had placed around her and was willing to share what she knew about the Lord with them.

When she learned that Naaman had leprosy, she willingly told him about God's prophet Elisha and how that God worked through this man. Naaman, the captain of the army of Syria, trusted the words of this young lady. He went to see Elisha and was healed of his leprosy. We know nothing else about this young lady, but we know she loved the Lord and the people God called her to serve.

7. Youth Reading: David

The story of David, who became Israel's king, is too well-known to need elaboration. Who among us, both as child and adult, has not thrilled to the narrative of David's encounter with the devilish Goliath?

When David arrived on the scene he couldn't believe how timid his Hebrew kinsmen were and volunteered to take on the giant. But he was ridiculed as a mere "youth" — however God was with this "youth," who may have been about twenty-two or so at the time. Goliath was slain and the Philistine force was defeated. Again, the Lord invested in youth, and the cause of truth triumphed.

8. Youth Reading: Mary

One can only imagine how sweet the beloved Mary of Nazareth must have been, as evidenced by the fact that of all women in Israel, she was chosen to be the mother of our Lord.

It is entirely possible, therefore, that when Mary gave birth to the Savior of the world that she was in her early teens. Does this not speak volumes about how God trusts spiritually minded youth?

I want to share that young people can accomplish magnificent things for the glory of God. But do you always recognize this? Are our young people merely ignored as empty-headed, silly people who are unworthy of serious responsibility? Sadly, this may be the case sometimes. But you should not overlook this valuable resource. You must encourage youth along the way.

God can use us in great ways.

9. Optional Songs (play songs and have youth sing)

He Reigns - Newsboys

<https://youtu.be/dhWxiITdpE>

Hello my name is child of the one true King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdVZ3JdthFM>

10. Presenter: 1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in.

11. Youth: Closing Prayer

Thank you Lord for this time to reflect on the value of youth in the bible, but most of all to know that You love Your children. Please help us to remember how much You love us God and to remember that we are made for great things in live. Amen.

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is the Youth Ministry for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Questions should be emailed to:

CCYM@bwcumc.org or to Pam Bowen: pbowen@bwcumc.org