

Summary: Philosophy of Youth Ministries

God has given specific instruction throughout the entire Bible on the subject of youth. All through the OT, instruction is repeatedly given to parents, whether it be in single verses or throughout an entire book, on how to bring up their youth according to God's ways. God addressed the nation of Israel specifically in regards to raising their children in keeping with His Word. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul focused on the concept of working with youth as well. Whether looking at Old or New Testament instructions regarding youth, all that is done should be to the honor and glory of God.

1Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23, Revelation 4:11

Old Testament:

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children. . . **Deuteronomy 6:6-7a**

For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

That the generation to come might know *them*, *even* the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children:

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation *that* set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. **Psalm 78:5-8**

The entire book of **Proverbs... Chapters 1-10** repeatedly states, "My son / My child hear / receive the instruction of parents and those that are wiser."

New Testament:

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Philippians 3:7-11

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.

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 3:15-17

The Apostle Paul outlined a philosophy for working with young people.
The 1st Goal is to see children **SAVED** by faith in Christ.
The 2nd Goal is to see youth **STRENGTHENED** through Scriptural teaching and preaching.
The 3rd Goal is to see the youth **SPIRITUALLY** prepared unto all good works and willing to serve.

The Youth Ministry's purpose is to glorify God by coming along side of parents (the primary teachers of youth) and helping them train their children to "set their hope in God" (Ps.78:7) and to take the next step in their spiritual walk "by knowing Christ" (Phil. 3:10). When children set their hope in God, God will be shown to be supreme in their lives... **NOT** relationships, peer approval, sports, music, fashion, materialism, etc.

These goals for the youth ministry are accomplished by ministering to children and providing youth the opportunities to minister through several different facets: Education, Edification, Evangelization, and Entertainment.

The above facets are focused upon by training young people to be disciples of Christ and by teaching them to pattern their lives after Christ as they deepen their relationship with the Creator - Jesus Christ and each other. It is our desire to help them love God but also to love each other. Each of us are commanded to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves

We want young people to come to the realization that true meaning in life is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our passion is to see them become more like Jesus Christ, because He can be known and wants to be known. He alone will fill the emptiness that is evident in teen culture today.

The activities are designed to either **ATTRACT** youth so they will meet Christ, **ASSIMILATE** youth so they have the opportunity to follow Christ, **ASSIST** youth to grow in Christ, and/or **ACTIVATE** youth in service for Christ. These are accomplished:

- Through God-focused worship
- Through passionate evangelism
- Through strategic discipleship
- Through genuine fellowship
- Through faithful leadership

As a youth group we seek to provide a program that comes alongside the parent's of our youth to help them raise their children to love and serve the Lord. We hope that your youth finds an accepting environment where he can grow in his daily walk with the Lord and set his hope in God.

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
Philippians 1:21