

SAVING THE SOULS OF OUR YOUTH

While door-knocking I came across a woman who confidently asserted that in order for churches to attract and keep the young, they must give the young what they want. According to her, the young want all the latest trends in religious music and entertainment. Sadly, many members of the church believe that we must give our youth all of the subjective, emotions-driven programs that the denominations are giving their youth. It is believed by some that this is the only way to keep the young in the church. I strongly disagree. Giving in to all the latest religious entertainment trends, and post-modern subjective thinking will not save the souls of our youth. In fact, it will cause the souls of our youth to be lost eternally.

At least two things need to happen in churches of Christ if they are to have any hope of saving the souls of their youth. The first thing that must happen is that churches of Christ and Christian parents need to recognize the fact that it is the work of the parents to teach their children the Bible and to ground them in the faith. While it is not wrong for the church to help the parents, the parents and the church must recognize that it is primarily the function of the home to bring the children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4). The church is not losing its youth to the world and to Satan. It is the home that is to blame.

The second thing that must happen is that churches of Christ need to help the parents to ground the youth in the facts. Give the young people the evidence. Show them why we believe in God. Give them reasons to believe the Bible is from God. Show them from the Bible why we do the things we do, worship the way we do, and teach what we teach. Take advantage of every opportunity through the home and through the church to teach the children the truth and show them why it is the truth. I fully understand Deuteronomy 6:5-9 was given to the Jews under the Law of Moses. However, this passage contains principles that apply under any covenant.

It is not wise to give your children everything they want. However, it is wise to try to give them everything they need. It is not wise to give the youth everything they want, but it is wise to try give them everything they need. What they need is a good solid grounding in the Word of God. This is what saved the soul of the young Timothy (2 Timothy 1:3-7; 3:15-17).

Let the denominations compete for youth with their expensive and elaborate "feelings-driven" entertainment oriented productions and programs. Let true Christians encourage fellowship among spiritually minded people, who love the Word of God.

~Kevin Rutherford