

Overcoming the Myth of Modern Adolescence

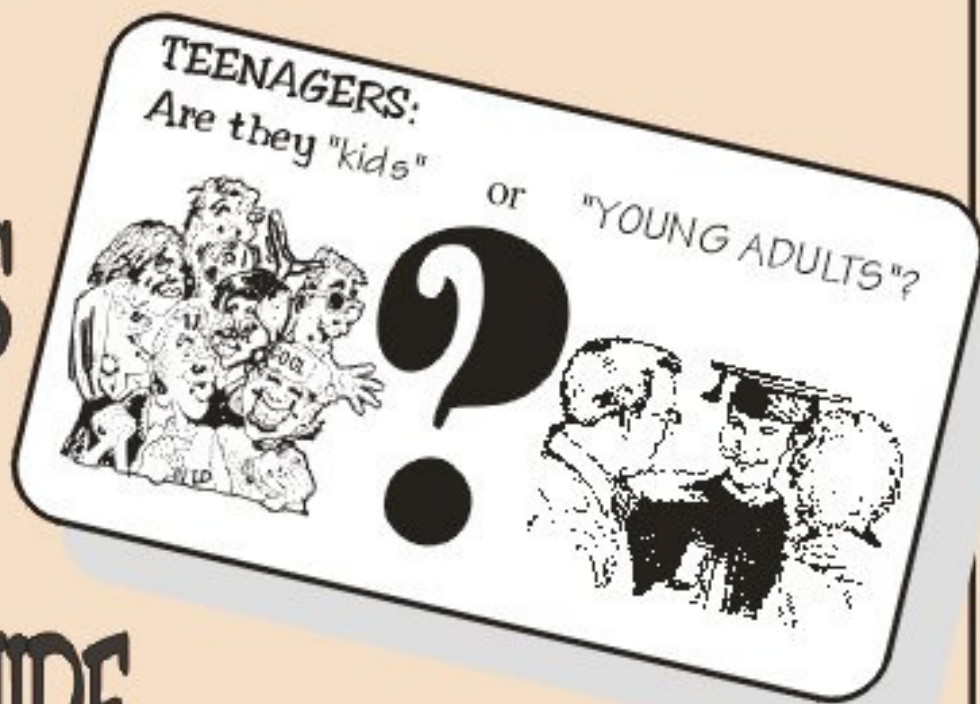
Bringing Your Children to an Early Maturity

An EXAMINATION of modern culture and its influence on the slow maturing of today's young people.

An ANALYSIS of modern Youth Ministry as a "help" or a "hindrance" to the maturing process.

A PLAN for parents who want to unlock their children's full potential for early maturity

**SYLLABUS
AND
STUDY GUIDE**



Reb Bradley

OVERCOMING THE MYTH OF MODERN ADOLESCENCE

Bringing Your Children to an Early Maturity

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OVERCOMING THE MYTH OF MODERN ADOLESCENCE

The Myth: Teenagers are children in a transitional period of childhood called “adolescence”

Adolescence is defined as the period of physical and psychological development between childhood and adulthood.

The Truth: Teenagers are young adults, of whom much can be expected.

I. HOW DO WE KNOW GOD REGARDS TEENS AS ADULTS?

A. What does history tell us -- how were teenagers viewed by past world cultures?

1. What marked onset of adulthood?

2. What was the minimum age for marriage?

- Talmud: Onset of
- Roman law: WOMEN - MEN --
- English law: 1000 years ago --
- American common law 200 years ago:
- American law at the turn of the century:

3. At what age did teenagers receive adult responsibilities?

- John Quincy Adams - 1781: Held an ambassadorial post in Russia
- Laura Ingalls Wilder - 1882: Taught public school
- David Farragut - 1813: Commanded a captured British vessel
- Apprenticeships: Began careers
- School attendance laws -- 1850-1900: Compulsory attendance
- Period art: Only young children are depicted as

B. Physiologically are teens adults?

- Ask a doctor - at age 12, medication dosage same as
- Ask a restaurant owner
- Ask a mom - firsthand observation

C. Intellectually are teens adults?

- The mind's capability for abstract thinking is reached on the average by
- School authorities -- Courses requiring **abstract reasoning** allowed at age
- Paul - 1 Cor 13:11 Noted the difference between child & adult thinking: LANGUAGE, THINKING, AND REASONING

D. Biblically are teens adults?

- By the end of their twelfth year Hebrew boys were recognized as beginning manhood.
- Although Jewish teens were regarded to be men, there were specific responsibilities and privileges which they did not have until age 20:
 - At age 20 they were counted in the census as independent men (Ex 38:26; Num 1:18; 26:2)
 - They were counted among the adults cut off from the Promised Land (Num 32:11).
 - They were old enough to begin their ministries as priests (1 Ch 23:24, 27).
- The spies who interacted with Rahab were teens [na'ar] (Josh 6:23)
na'ar, nah'-ar; a boy, from the age of infancy to adolescence; babe, boy, child, damsel, lad, servant, young man
- David's small army consisted of teens [na'ar] (1 Sam 25:5)
- Teens [na'ar] did the fighting for Abner and Joab (2 Sam 2:14)
- Teens [na'ar] sat at the city gate with the other men of the city (Job 29:7)
- Eli's married sons, who assisted him in the priesthood, were teens [na'ar] (1 Sam 2:17)
- Joshua, one of the teenage Jericho spies, served Moses as an aid throughout his youth (Num 11:28)
- Like in Israel, in the early church it was the teens [neos] who served as assists to leaders (Acts 5:6)
neos, neh'-os; "new", i.e. youthful or fresh

E. What can we conclude? Teens today are _____ their God-given

⇒ The church must do all it can to _____ them to their

II. WHERE DID WE LOSE IT?

A. William Harris -- 1870's _____ Created _____ to accommodate women teachers

- served as U.S. commissioner of education (1889–1906)

B. Horace Mann -- Fixed the _____ which standardized age segregation

- (1839) secretary Massachusetts state board of education, (1853) first president of Antioch College

C. G. Stanley Hall - 1904 -- First psychologist and author to promote the idea that young adult teens were still "children." Invented the phase we call "adolescence"; based ideas on

D. John Dewey (1859–1952) -- Built American education system around

E. Child labor laws -- Formally identified adults as

- 1916 -- Owen-Keating Act

F. 1900-1920 -- Formation of new _____ organizations

1908 -- Boy Scouts; 1910 -- Girl Guides (Girl Scouts); Boys Clubs, Agricultural clubs, etc

G. 1930's – _____ oriented ministries for "youth" were created which
_____ on and _____ immaturity

⇒ The church began _____ the very immaturity which teens were to be _____ (2 Tim 2:22)

III. WHAT WERE THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN HISTORY WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT EARLIER MATURITY AND HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT THEM IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

A. They *were* so acted as

THE PLAN:

- 1. View them as and raise your
- 2. Speak to them with the an adult should be shown.
- 3. Welcome them into
- 4. Be willing to failure
- 5. the of them

B. Societies were oriented — not oriented

THE PLAN:

- 1. Raise them to see their teen years as their years of — not the

1 Cor 7:32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs-- how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife -- 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

- 2. Permit them to in the as young as possible
 ⇨ Give them and ie: Audio/video technicians, set-up crew, ushers, Sunday school teachers and assistants, nursery workers, office help, moving crew, barnraisings, mommy helpers, evangelism outreach, visitation, etc.
- 3. Sponsor no and oriented activities for youth
- 4. Church leaders must re-evaluate their own attitude toward and

C. Life was and everyone learned to

The Bible exalts the value of

Rom 5:3-5; Jam 1:2-4; Zech 13:9; 1 Pet 1:6-7; Jam 1:2-4; Heb 12:3-11; 2:10

Heb 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

THE PLAN:

1. Do not remove life's _____ or exempt them from

⇒ Do not cave in to their whining, or to parents' pressure

2. _____ ALL parents about your philosophy of ministry

- Annual meetings
- Newcomer gatherings
- Written statements in visitor brochures, etc.

3. Teach the flock (with teens included) that life is not about personal _____ but
self, and _____ God & others.

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

D. In education there was no

THE PLAN:

1. Minimize the time children spend exclusively with

2. Integrate the teens into the

3. Encourage single adults to _____ and _____ teens into their

E. There was a strong _____ identity rather than a _____ identity

THE PLAN:

1. Create a strong

2. Keep families _____ as much as possible

3. Request of your people that families

4. When children are _____ away from their family, encourage them to

5. Teach your people how _____ a strong family identity

F. There was a greater respect for

THE PLAN:

1. Teach parents how to _____ their children's

Lev 20:9 "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, and his blood will be on his own head. (Ex 21:17; Deu 27:16)

Mat 15:4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

(Consider also: Deu 21:18-21;22:20-21; Prov 20:20;30:17; 1:84:1; 13:1; 23:22)

2. Teach parents that _____ them to _____ their teens' lives

Deut 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Ex 20:12; Mal 1:6)

Josh 24:15 "... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

G. _____ were more common

- Jews, Romans, Tribes, Religious Confirmation
- American law -- Age 16? Age 18? Age 21?

THE PLAN:

1. Consider sponsoring _____ or moments of _____ on 13th birthdays
2. On the 13th birthday, have a couple _____ of _____ the new "man"

Hope Chapel Pastoral Training – Growing a Family-Strengthening Church Session 4
EVALUATING MODERN APPROACHES TO YOUTH MINISTRY

I. WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF MODERN APPROACHES TO YOUTH MINISTRY?

A. Teenagers gather separately from children and other adults

1. It promotes age segregation with its side effects

→ Reinforces a youth identity -- they are treated as if they were

→ Removes them from the benefits of having as their peers

→ Creates an identity with

→ Creates an peer group -- slowing up process

→ Creates and between ages

2. Multiple activities minimize , breaking down family

3. Emphasis on identity helps break down identity

B. Activities and Entertainment

1. Feeds the mentality, promoting and

2. Fosters the teens should be fleeing

2 Tim 2:22 "Flee also youthful desires ..."

(neoterikos epithumia): desires or passions characteristic of immaturity; ie: self-indulgence and self-gratification (craving for fun and entertainment), self-centeredness, etc.

3. May glorify what parents want in their children's lives.

4. Creates rather than active for Christ.

5. Emphasis on fun distracts from learning the (Deut 6:2; 31:13)

6. Hard rock Christian music may (Gal 5:22-23)

C. Outreach to unbelievers

1. The Church exists to strengthen and equip individual believers for personal outreach. Outreach-oriented meetings lower the standard for Christian young people.

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, to the building up of the body of Christ;

→ Standards are when more than one unbeliever is allowed into the group.

→ Tone of the group is changed for

2. Fleshly appealing approaches which are used to , serve to Christians.

3. The power of the family as a place of is neglected.

D. Socialization of peers

1. Groups together causing a _____ and _____ influence.
(Prov 13:20)
 - _____ kids are often most popular, and set the tone of the group.
 - Fosters a _____ mentality -- pressure to conform hinders maturity.
 - Gives great opportunity for _____
2. Creates intense _____ with accompanying problems.
3. _____ become so intense that they consume some teens, robbing their hearts from the home.
4. Boy/girl _____ in the group distracts many from _____ of God.

E. Dating opportunities

1. Broken relationships are like mini-divorces, so _____ fellowship and cooperative ministry efforts.
2. Dating relationships are encouraged, which promote moderate _____ and _____

F. Overseen by Youth Pastor

1. Youth leaders are often _____ and _____, therefore lack _____ and _____ to train teenage young people.
2. Youth leader becomes new spiritual authority to stand _____ parents.
3. Reinforces to parents that they are _____ to disciple or train their own children.
4. Division between teens and parents may _____ because of new loyalties to _____
5. Youth leader may actually pass on values _____ to parents'.

G. Teaching geared for young people

1. _____ parents of their _____ -- appeases consciences.
2. Segregating ages is based on _____ ideas using _____ wisdom -- "Foolishness" to God (1 Cor 3:19)

II. WHEN CAN A YOUTH GROUP BE LESS DANGEROUS?

- A. When it is _____ oriented -- "go out" and _____ -- not "bring them in" and _____
- B. When it welcomes _____ to be part of _____
- C. When run by the teens -- develops _____ abilities, causing growth in _____
- D. When it exists in the form of small group _____ divided by _____
- E. No matter how a youth program is developed, it is always potentially _____, because it _____ teenage adults _____ adults, and _____ families.

III. COMMON QUESTIONS ON THE VALUE OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

- A. Wouldn't the absence of a youth group rob young people of traditional, fun youth experiences?

- B. What about all those young people who get saved through youth groups?

- C. Isn't the wholesome fun provided by youth groups better than what teens find in the world?

- D. Who would minister to the teens who rebel against spiritual instruction from their parents?

- E. What would attract young people to church?

- F. What other way can church be made enjoyable to rebellious youth?

- G. Shouldn't we accept the culture the way it is and adapt ministry to it?

- H. How else would we meet the unique needs of teens?

- I. What other way will public school children find Christian fellowship?

- J. How would young people meet other Christians for dating?

- K. How would Christian young people from unbelieving homes be discipled?

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