

See What Youth Can Do -2/26/23

TEXT – 1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

INTRO – Let no man despise thy youth - That is, do not act in such a manner that any shall despise you on account of your youth. Act in such a way that people will respect you, though you are young. It is clear from this that Timothy was then a young man, but his exact age there is no means of determining. It is implied here:

(1) That there was danger that, by the lightness and indiscretion to which youth are so much exposed, the ministry might be regarded with contempt;
(2) That it was possible that his deportment should be so grave, serious, and every way appropriate, that the ministry would not be blamed, but honored.

But be thou an example of the believers - One of the constant duties of a minister of the gospel, no matter what his age. A minister should so live, that if all his people should closely follow his example, they would live lives pleasing to God.

Philippians 3:17 *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*

In word - In "speech," that is, your manner of conversation. This does not refer to his "public teaching" - in which he could not probably be an "example" to them - but to his usual and familiar conversation.

In conversation - In general deportment

In charity - Love to the brethren, and to all;

In spirit - In the government of your passions, and in a mild, meek, forgiving disposition.

In faith - At all times, and in all trials show to believers by your example, how they ought to maintain unshaken confidence in God.

In purity - In chasteness of life; see [1Ti 5:2](#). There should be nothing in your contact with the other sex that would give rise to scandal.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 *Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.*

What is youth? Children up through young men and women in the twenties.

I. Learn From God-Given Authority

Ephesians 6:1-3 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth*

Exodus 20:12 *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

II. Serve The Lord In Your Youth

- Be faithful in church.
- Work on a bus ministry
- Vacation Bible School
- Church work days
- Soul-winning visitation
- Teaching
- Working in the nursery
- Mission trips
- Bible training

III. Examples of Youth Used of God

Psalms 144:12 *That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:*

- David

1 Samuel 17:33 *And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.*

1 Samuel 17:42 *And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.*

- King Josiah
- Timothy

1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

- Little boy with five loaves and two fishes
- Mary the mother of Jesus
- The Disciples

The men who signed the declaration of Independence were young. Some were older, like Thomas Jefferson who was 33, John Hancock who was 39, or Benjamin Franklin who was 70. Key people during the American Revolution were shockingly young — even teenagers. James Monroe, for example, was 18 and Alexander Hamilton was 21. James Monroe 18 Andrew Jackson 9 and Nathan Hale 21

IV. Start Now

Ecclesiastes 12:1 *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

Learn to work hard

Lamentations 3:27 *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.*

- **Live for God**
- **Read your Bible**
- **Draw close to God**
- **Surrender your life to His will**
- **Get involved**

CONCL -1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*