



### Today's Sermons

Morning: A Day in the Life of Jesus  
Evening: Stephen, A Man Full of Faith

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	46
Sunday AM Worship	61
Sunday PM Worship	38
Wed. Bible Study	34
Offering	\$1525

The church is the body of Christ. There are no special interest groups in the church whether they are young or old, male or female, black or white. To promote a special interest group in the church violates the unity of the church as taught in the Scriptures (1 Cor. 1:10). There is no more Scriptural basis for special interest groups in the church than there is for clergy and laity. Anything that promotes special interest groups in the church, whether it be young people, old people, or anyone else, violates the spirit of unity as taught in the New Testament.

Why cannot we let our young people be just simple Christians like all the rest? The young people can make a contribution to the cause of Christ just as older people do. They can work beside and along with others in the church. They can grow spiritually in the same manner as the rest of the church. John said, "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:14). It is not significant that not a single letter in the New Testament is written to young people as a group and dealing with their problems as distinct from other Christians? There are no special youth epistles in the New Testament. The instruction given to the young is right alongside the instruction given to all other Christians.

I am not opposing young people. I would be just as opposed in an effort to make a special group out of old people and corrupt them and leading them into error. If I had no interest in young people, I would never have written this article, as I know before it is ever printed that it is not going to win me any popularity, but the church and the spiritual and eternal welfare of the young.



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Minister:

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**Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am  
AM Worship...11:00am  
PM Worship:...6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKK  
93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
Warm & Cordial  
Welcome  
To All Our  
Visitors!**

**THE CHURCH AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

by Franklin Camp

There are more young people in the world today than ever before. We have many fine young people in the church that are loyal and dedicated to the truth. We also have some that are using the young people in an attempt to restructure the church. Campus Evangelism was the first major effort to lead the young people away from the truth. Campus Evangelism was only a name to cover up what its real aim and purpose was. It was never designed to reach students on the universities with the truth. Campus evangelism no longer exists by name, but it is not dead. It has just gone underground. The principles and the practices of campus evangelism are still being advocated by many that are leading our young people astray. When Campus Evangelism threw in the towel many thought that was the end of the problem, but when seeds of error are planted, they are not so easily rooted out. Many of the errors of Campus Evangelism are still being advocated. These errors and practices will corrupt the young people in the same way that Campus Evangelism was doing.

The problem among young people in the church did not develop over- night. Some of the things that we have allowed to happen opened the door. The beginning of this problem was parents rejecting their responsibility of bringing their children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord

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(Eph. 6:1-4). Parents got so involved in the materialism of our day that they did not have the time or the inclination to do any teaching at home. The church was having classes, so just let the church take care of the teaching of the children. It is fine for the church to have classes for young people. This will never take the place of the responsibility of parents. God never intended for the church to take over the responsibility of mothers and fathers. The church cannot do this even if it tries. It is time for the church to refuse to accept the responsibility of parents and put the parents back to seeing after their God-given responsibility! I hear and read that the church is losing its young people. I deny that it is the church that is losing its young people it is the homes that are responsible for it. We need to put the blame where it belongs. The church cannot be saddled with a responsibility that God did not give it. How can the church be blamed for the failure of a responsibility that God never gave it? In our efforts and urging to get people to Bible classes, we have forgotten to teach parents to do some homework. It is time that we sent parents home to do some of this work.

The church, in allowing parents to put their responsibility off on it, found a load it could not carry. Elders began to look for ways to try to do the work. This is where youth directors, youth ministers, and retreats for young people came in the door. In addition to the church trying to take over the work of parents in teaching the Bible, it was now ready for the next step. It must provide recreation for the young people. The church found it was unable to do the teaching necessary when parents gave up their responsibility, and so, to try to hold the young people, it had to get into the recreation and entertainment field. Church-sponsored basketball, baseball and softball, and you-name-it teams — where is the verse of Scripture that even intimates, much less states, that this is the responsibility of the church. Timothy and Titus were young preachers associated with Paul, but with what stretch of the imagination can one conceive of Paul leaving Timothy at Corinth to organize a track team or race with the church at Ephesus, with Titus as their youth director? Or is it possible to picture Timothy carrying the young people at Ephesus on some retreat, then reporting in the Ephesus bulletin the following:

“The young people at Ephesus have just experienced a new high in spirituality. Saturday night at 11:30, we blew out the lights and started spontaneous prayer, with the girls leading as well as the boys. We held hands while we prayed and you could feel the Holy Spirit working. At five minutes past twelve, we observed the Lord’s Supper. It had never been so meaningful at Ephesus. Instead of passing the trays, in the old folk’s way at Ephesus, we were asked to pass by the table in single file. Each passed by the table, partook of the bread and wine, then returned to his seat. Titus led us in singing while we were observing the supper. That communion service was so meaningful! Every heart was touched. Each

communicant experienced renewal and forgiveness! It was beautiful and we praise God for ‘a full cup of blessing’! The highlight of the retreat was the speeches made by Hymenaeus and Philetus. Both of these men really know how to turn young people on! Hymenaeus discussed the subject: ‘Church Traditions’ and Philetus discussed the ‘Holy Spirit and Spontaneous Worship Services,’ and really got things going. Both of these speakers really know how to talk to young people and they really laid ‘The Establishment’ low. We are looking forward to our next retreat, to be at the Moonside Motel, on the Sea of Galilee.” - Timothy, Youth Director for the church at Ephesus

Lest you think that I just made this up, let me say that the report of the Ephesus bulletin was taken from bulletins that I have received. I just changed the congregation, the youth directors, and the names of the speakers at the retreat.

If we are still in earnest about following the Bible, it is time that we stopped and gave careful consideration to some of these things. Does the church have special interest groups? When will the elders employ a “Lonely Hearts Director,” a “Minister for the Sick,” and let him do the visiting for all the church? When will the church get a minister for the over-thirty group and one for the old folks? If retreats for the young people produce a spiritual high, by turning out the lights and observing the Lord’s Supper at five minutes after twelve, would not a little of this be good for the old folks? To listen to some of the youth directors and speakers on these retreats, the old folks need it worse than the young. If having the Lord’s Supper at five minutes after twelve makes it so much more spiritual and meaningful than at ten or eleven a.m., why not arrange for the whole church to meet regularly at five minutes after midnight and observe the Lord’s Supper?

Another practice that has developed is to take the young people off somewhere on Sunday night following the regular service and have some kind of devotional. Is it out of order to ask what was wrong with the regular service? Why is the regular service good enough for the old folks, but not for the young? What scripturally takes place in these devotions that provide spirituality that does not in the regular service?

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mar 24 – Song Service
- April 7 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- April 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- May 5 – Gospel Meeting w/Jeff Cannon; Preach-N-Eat; 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell