

As you are aware, the culture and atmosphere in our world has changed & is continuing to change rapidly.

- As this is occurring, the impact upon our kids and youth has been devastating.
- They are faced with a learning curve that pressures them to adapt to be able to survive.

The advent of technology, which is still rather young:

- The iPhone coming out in 2007 and with it the ability to carry the World Wide Web in your pocket has been a drastic worldwide experiment primarily on the younger generation.
- The average American spends 7 ½ hours daily looking at a screen.
- Over 3hrs.on their phone, not talking on the phone; but looking at the phone.
- The result of all that world-wide connectivity has brought information that brings along with it fear, anxiety and social pressures causing a constant bombardment of anxiety resulting in a decrease in time spent with friends in a physical relation, noting a massive uptick in drug/addictions, porn viewing [self-reported among young men say 86% view porn on a regular basis], impacting their ability to carry on human and eye contact conversations with women:
 - Less time hanging with friends
 - Less time talking socially
 - Less time dating women
 - Less marriages
 - Less kids, which is now affecting the birth rate in America.

So the culture our youth are growing up in today is one where they are faced struggling with issues that are far beyond what most of us have ever dealt with at that age.

We can either wag our heads, shake our fingers at them or ignore them **OR** we can become a mentor in their life that can provide stability for them.

**It's not their fault they are like this;
but it has become their problem they must deal with!**

- They didn't make these phones, but we put them in their hands as babies and let them grow up with the effects of them.
- It's not their fault, but it is their problem; so how do we as older men [with wisdom] impart to them how to navigate this world well?

- How can we come alongside young men [as father's and mentors] and help them **adapt – survive –** and help them **thrive**?

Take the words of Moses in talking about life and the number of years we have on the planet:

Psa. 90:12 “Teach us to number [count, weigh out, prepare] our days, so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”

- The prayer was:

**Let me understand the reality that one day I'm going to die
so that it will impact how I live.**
- So I'll know how my life is to go out, to play out, before I go out.

We get a window in the last writings of Paul as he's in prison in Rome after Nero has burned Rome and is blaming it on the Christians and Paul's in prison waiting for his time to come:

- He's letting Timothy know that he's probably not going to make it out of this prison sentence alive, the time of his departure has come and his life is like the final drink offering being poured out at the end of the feast day. I'm done!

What is true of Paul should be true of us as older men, at the end of his life he was surrounded by young men whom he had poured his life into and he was ready to let them lead the way.

- Vv 9-12 Paul is as a coach calling plays and sending his disciples out to accomplish what he has prepared them for.
- Paul's life may be coming to an end, but his ministry [life] is expanding because he is investing in younger men to carry on.
- Yes, there is a lot of pain in the younger of today; but there is a lot of opportunity for them to be mentored by those who have the vision to invest in the younger generation.

Motivations for Mentoring the Younger Generation of men and women:

1. The Church needs it-

- **We cannot be indifferent about the personal investment in the lives of our kids and youth if we care at all about the Gospel. “Here We Grow!”**
- A new marker was hit in 2020 – US church membership for the 1st time has fallen below 50%.

- 46% of Americans say they attend a religious gathering,
- A dramatic drop since 2020 – 1 year ago.
- Most of that shift is among young people as the social makeup of the church seems to be unraveling.

Many are asking; what's the answer?

- There are many businesses that have slowed or tanked in recent years.
- Not that the church is to take the lead from business, but the business' that recovered did so by going back to the basics and built upon their relations with their customers – one customer at a time, rebuilding relationships.
- That's the answer for reaching the generation we seem to be losing – to reach them and bring them into a relationship that the techno world is starving them from.

They, as well as all people, need to know somebody cares about them!

The Bible qualifies the elder from scripture as one who has character and ability to teach.

- Someone who is worthy of emulation and you can pass that along to the younger.

2Tim 2:2 “And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

We, as mentors, need to be surrounded by younger men teaching and imparting to them the wisdom of scripture and life.

- Too many men have never had that happen for them, therefore feel inadequate to offer it to others. “You can't give away what you don't have.”

2. Young People Want it

- Believe it or not, the younger generation wants someone who will spend time imparting to them.
- They've not had fathers that did it for them, because those dads didn't have fathers to invest in them; and the cycle has gone on and on.
- It's time to break that cycle and see Mal. 3:6 come to pass:

“I will send to you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. **And He shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers,** lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

- Youth are looking for that mentor to teach them what they don't know.
- They have zeal, but need someone with wisdom to speak into their lives.

- I'm currently enrolled in a mentorship program with someone with more experience than I've had. I need to learn, we all need to learn no matter what age we're at. I was always amazed at Bob Collins who was always open to look at and learn new ideas.
- **As you conceive of the back chapters of your life, do you have a vision of the young people who are behind you that you have influenced.**
- What is the wake of blessing I have left behind me?

3. They Need It

- Phillip Zimbardo's book "The Demise of Guys" discovered that the over indulgence of video games and pornography use has left young men without the basic social skills needed to communicate.
- The average young person will spend 21,000 hours gaming by the age of 21 yrs. It takes less than half of that time to earn a Bachelor's degree.
- It not that's it totally wrong to enjoy time in gaming; **but what's happening is that young men with an adventurous spirit are spending their lives saving a fantasy world when the real world is on fire!**
- The pornography industry in 2020 has a retail income of more than \$15 billion, more than Net-Flicks and every movie coming out **combined**.
- Porn is devastating the ability of young men to interact socially in a healthy way. **The shame it lodges in their hearts keeps them from serving courageously.**
- We don't shame those involved in porn, but we hate porn because it is destroying their lives and effecting all of society on all levels.
- We heal the pornography wound by exposing it, and letting the Great Physician work on it to remove it. **CONQUER SERIES**

4. It's a Command to Us

2Tim 2:2 "And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

- Men who are reliable and show up and are able to pass it along to others is the qualification.
- Psa. 71:18 "Yes, even when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not, until I have declared Your mighty strength to this generation and Your might and power to all that are to come."
- We are not to depart this life until and unless we have imparted to others what the Lord has shown to us.

5. We Can Change the World This Way

Instead of cursing the youth and the way the world is, as the church we are to be catalysts placed into this dark mess to bring light, hope and goodness.

- Paul changed and influenced his world by taking the reliable young men, imparting the scriptures to them and entrusting them to take the truths farther than he could.
- Mark, at his youth, split Paul and Barnabus. 2Tim. 4:11 “Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with you, for his is profitable to me for the ministry.”
- What changed? Peter had taken and disciplined Mark and he was now mature and ready for use in the ministry.
- Barnabus did not give up on Mark. In the end Mark was the one who wrote the first biography on the life of Jesus and went on to co-author other Epistles with Paul.

6. It's For Your Joy

3John 4 “I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my spirit children are living their lives in the Truth.”

- There's no greater joy than to see your physical children or spiritual kids who have gone on to do God's will and serve Him.
- Philomena Reed and others who faithfully served as teachers to children and kids and have seen them grow up and are now serving the Lord and accomplishing great things in life because of the investment made in them of time, sacrifice and love.

1Thess. 2:19-20 “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.”

- We think it's the rewards of we will receive that will make heaven so great.
- It's really those who we've influenced and sown into to disciple that will be our joy, hope and crown of rejoicing when we stand before the Lord Jesus.
- Seeing Jesus and the wake of those behind us is what will be the reward of standing before the Lord at His coming.

The best thing you and I could have on the day of Jesus' arrival is those whom we have invested in for His Name's sake.

- There is nothing better than this.