

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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Young Men and Young Women, It Is Time!

By: David Sproule

Modern culture has created a mold for today's young men and young women, and too many are allowing themselves to be poured right into it. Young people are depicted as self-absorbed, ungrateful, anti-social, materialistic individuals, who are given to a lifestyle of instant satisfaction, sexual abandonment and irresponsible behavior. (Notice, that is not my view, but how young people are often depicted by others in today's society.) In the home, they are portrayed as "running the show"—knowing more than the parents, having more sense than the parents and being more adept at raising themselves and ruling the house than their parents. We've been so conditioned to expect this of today's young people that to find one who steps out of that mold and behaves as a responsible human being is quite a sight!

Young men and young women, it is time to be what God intended for you to be! God's young people are like Shem, Ham and Japheth, who respected their father's instructions over the opinions of their friends! God's young people are like Isaac, who trusted his father to know and to do what was in his best interest! God's young people are like Joseph, who resisted and fled sexual opportunities that were offered to him! God's young people are like Reuben, who stood up to his brothers, in order to do what he finally realized was right! God's young people are like Joshua and Caleb (and like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego), who did not go along

with the crowd, but took a stand for what they knew was right (based upon God's revelation of right) and in the face of what they knew was wrong! God's young people are like Samuel who humbly said to God, "Speak, for Your servant hears," and then spoke God's Word, even if the message may have been offensive to its hearers! God's young people are like David, who stood up to the imposing enemy of God, even when no one else had the courage to do it! God's young people are like Jonathan, who chose a godly friendship to the detriment of his own potential power and prosperity! God's young people are like Josiah, who learned God's will and changed the course of an entire nation! God's young people are like Jesus, who was respectful and obedient to His parents, when He may have been the only child in history who might have known better than them! God's young people are like Timothy, who set a Christian example for everyone else to follow! Young men and young women, it is time!

Modern culture has utterly twisted what God designed young men and young women to be! Whether it is popular or not, whether it fits the mold or not, we need young people who will go back to what God designed for them to be! Our families will be better for it, society will be better for it, and each young person will be better for it! It is time!

Why Am I Always the One Who's Different?

By: Selected

It is not easy being different. The story of "The Ugly Duckling" taught us that. When someone is of different race or a different gender than "everybody else in the room," he might feel a bit uneasy. It is certainly easier to "blend in" sometimes than it is to "stand out."

Christians sometimes may feel like they are always the ones standing out, especially when compared with "worldly folks." Everybody else drinks, but I don't. Everybody else uses profanity, but I don't. Everybody else enjoys a dirty joke, but I don't. Everybody else has sex before (or outside) marriage, but I don't. Everybody else dresses in revealing attire, but I don't. Everybody else sleeps in on Sundays, but I don't. Being different can be difficult.

Additionally, compared with many "religious folks," New Testament Christians often stand out. Other groups teach "accepting Jesus" by saying a "Sinner's Prayer," but we don't. Other groups talk about the Holy Spirit speaking to them and leading them, but we don't. Other groups use mechanical instruments in their worship, but we don't. Other groups have women leading in worship, but we don't. Other groups teach about the rapture and 1,000-year reign of Christ, but we don't. At every turn, it seems that we are the ones who are different!

Brother or sister in Christ, let me take a moment to encourage you to remain strong in your faith and in your stand for righteousness. Sometimes a Christian may grow weary of being the one who is different all the time, and he/she may just decide to

give in, blend in and go along with everyone else. Suppose Noah had decided to do that. Suppose Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach or Abed-Nego had decided to do that. Suppose Jesus had decided to do that. What a disaster it would have been for them, as it would be for us!

Remember that God does not want us to be conformed to what everybody else is doing (**Rom. 12:2**). Remember that God does not want us to follow a crowd in whatever path they're walking (**Ex. 23:2**). Remember that God does not want us to have fellowship with those who do not practice His righteousness (**Eph. 5:11**). Remember that God does not want us to commend or show approval for those who do not accurately teach His word (**2 John 9-11**). Remember that God does not want us to believe or accept everything that someone might teach about Jesus or the Bible (**1 John 4:1**).

Dear Christian, if you are standing up for sound doctrine and holy living, you are standing with and for God! Do not be ashamed! Do not grow discouraged! Do not be pressured to capitulate! God is on your side (**2 John 9b**). When you stand with and for God, God stands with and for you!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Youth Devo after evening service. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts. It will be here at the building.

Jan. 18: Midtown will host our Ladies Day. Registration begins at 8:30am. Food sign up sheet is in the hallway.

Jan. 26: Keno Shrum from House to House Heart to Heart will be speaking.

Feb. 7-9: Midtown will host our Youth Winter retreat for grades 6-12th. Please visit our website to register.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rick Bass will have a mri on January 13.

Jerri Rosales will have pet scan results on Jan. 23.

Joyce Faires who is recovering at home from knee surgery.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of January 12, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Barry Lehtinen
Song Leader.....Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Dan Fielder
Closing Prayer.....James Cammock

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....Bryant Siegel
Cup.....Ken Dorries
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Steve Randle
Assist.....Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Richard Hill

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Bryant Siegel/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassMark FitzSimmons
Song LeaderBarry Lehtinen
Devotional Ron White

Other

Prepare CommunionFerman Rosales

Congregational News For This Week

Birthdays

Rick Bass.....Jan. 15

Please get with Kelly Cannady if you would like a picture for the pictorial wall directory.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Cody McCoy will be arriving in town on Jan. 15th and will begin preaching on January 19th.

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Weekly Reading

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at
this scripture, preached Jesus to him.
Acts 8:35 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of January 5, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....77
A.M. Worship.....101
P.M. Worship.....59
Wednesday Worship.....45

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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