

WORD

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. **1 TIMOTHY 4:12**

The church grows not just because one generation knows and follows God, but because one generation passes on the gospel to the next. We see this demonstrated in the lives of Paul and Timothy. In this lesson, we will look at how the youth should be valued—from God’s perspective, from the preceding generation’s perspective, and from the next generation’s perspective.

1 God values the next generation.

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. **PSALM 145:4**

Since the beginning, God has worked generationally and He values the next generation. The Bible says that one generation should commend God’s works to the next. This is God’s design. How did God reveal Himself to Isaac (Genesis 26:24)? If we train the next generation in the way they should go, what will happen (Proverbs 22:6)?

2**The preceding generation is to challenge and believe in the next generation.**

Let no one despise you for your youth . . . **1 TIMOTHY 4:12**

Paul believed in Timothy and prepared him to fulfill God's call on his life—even at a young age. Timothy was not to let anyone despise him for his youth. What do you think it means to despise someone for his/her youth? Why should we not look down on or get frustrated with the young?

3**The next generation is to set a godly example.**

. . . set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. **1 TIMOTHY 4:12**

No matter how young, the next generation can humbly and graciously set a godly example that even the older generation can follow. As the next generation encounters God and is changed by Him, these young people will raise a standard of godly speech and conduct, love, faith, and purity. How have you learned to set an example for those older than you? How have you learned to do this, while listening to and honoring the older generation?

APPLICATION

- How do you view the next generation? Starting this week, how can you see them the way God does?
- What is your part in passing on the baton of the gospel? To whom can you reach out and help follow Jesus?
- How can you set a godly example? What's one thing you will start doing differently?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His faithfulness throughout all generations. Speak a blessing over the generations (physical and spiritual) that will come after you.
- Pray that you would do your part in preparing the next generation to fulfill God's call for their lives. Ask God for wisdom, provision, and grace.
- Ask God to bless the next generation with His presence, boldness, and faith. Pray that they will be better than the generation that preceded them.



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