

Understanding Teens

Author Unknown

[posted by Bob Young]

Characteristics of Contemporary Teens

1. Teens are often without goals, aimless. Narcissistic entitlement with the cultural emphasis on self. Live in a world where fantasies come true. All will come out okay.
2. Teens are strangers to famine, plague, want and war.
3. Teen culture is consumerism. Youth is worshiped in the culture which caters to the kids.
4. Teens think they can or should be happy on their own terms.
5. Teens have grown up in the computer age. College graduates do not get jobs; a degree is said to be mandatory but is not in their experience. There is no apparent connection between education and earning.
6. To avoid rejection, teens will not risk failure. The tendency to avoid failure is seen in the “disconnect” between expectations and reality. Their expectations are not grounded in reality, so they avoid reality.
7. Education skills of teens are generally lower than those of their parents.
8. Teens expect work to have meaning, believe they are entitled to influence and power.
9. Teens want career choices to give life meaning.
10. Their rebellion is often a “fun house staircase” which goes nowhere.
11. Teens live in a world of job changes, with the expectation of frequent career or job changes during their lifetime.
12. Teens want to be well off financially. To be rich is a major goal of 2/3 of college freshmen.
13. Their heroes are those who make the most money with the least work having the most fun.
14. Teens live in a world where many parents tend to withhold independence, parents who keep their children to stay emotionally and financially dependent.
15. Teens are not taught to be problem-solvers.
16. Comfort is the norm.
17. With extreme self-centeredness, teens often spend on luxuries not necessities.

Solutions—a Place to Begin

1. Start earlier with an emphasis on the love of Christ, 2 Cor. 5:9,14,17
2. Hold them responsible for actions—help them learn consequences.
3. Help them learn the dignity of work.
4. Encourage Bible study and prayer daily—back to the basics.
5. Teach them to give to the Lord their best.
6. Be benevolent to them on a consistent basis; demand that they be benevolent consistently as well.
7. Teach the importance of objective decisions with God, develop problem-solving skills so they can make spiritual decisions.

8. Teach them sin, guilt, judgment, hell
9. Let them see that Christ makes a difference in the lives of their parents and mentors.
10. Be an example to them in everything—including in saving souls.
11. Help them understand the power of giving their lives to a cause bigger than themselves, and model that attitude.
12. Show them what it means to give the Lord's Day back to God.
13. Religion taught by parents in the home.
14. Help them process and grow in faith, knowing what they believe and why they believe in God.