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## The Now Generation

Part Two

by Jason Y. Frizzell

In discussing the problems of the 'now generation' with several serious minded people and reading many articles from people that are quite concerned about the future of our young people, I believe we can list four things that they really want. Pay close attention to these, you may be surprised.

**FIRST:** The young generation wants good effective leadership—someone that has the courage to say some things are false and honestly and sincerely try to do something about improving the conditions without making all kinds of feeble excuses and putting off our young people because we don't want to admit failure or hypocrisy. They had rather have an honest and sincere answer even if there is nothing that can be done about a bad situation. For the most part, I find young people more patient and tolerant than older people, if you or I deal honestly and sincerely with them. They can readily recognize if we are being honest or putting them off.

We can find examples of the type of people our youth are looking for in the Old Testament.

Hosea - 10,2: Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty, he shall spoil their images.

These words has to do with people that would not or will not accept the fact that they have failed or made a mistake. As to that matter, people that will not admit they are wrong. We have plenty like that today even in the Church.

Our youth today wants committed men and women who can earn the respect of the young people through honest sincere communications and personal association. They want to know that the adults will admit they can be wrong also. They want and will help most all activities that will accomplish good for all people. They need educators, church people, politicians, and parents who can offer examples of a meaningful lives that honestly face the critical issues and conditions of our times with out excuses for our failures.

**SECOND:** "THE NOW GENERATION", wants real authentic relationships with people they can admire for what they stand for and the honesty they show in their lives. The "Generation

Gap" is not as wide as many people think. ANY ONE who is willing to say, "Come along with me and I will lead", will find more young people that will respond than any one person can direct—if his invitation is for real, honest, sincere, service that aids those whose lives have been mired and blighted by the dishonesty, sins, and imoralities of our times.

JOSHUA; 24-15; And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Matthew: 4-19: And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Many other scriptures could be sighted that infers that where something is honest and sincere or worth while, followers will be plentiful. This is much more true with younger people.

**THIRDLY;** The youth of today want to deal with matters that pretain to life and death and participate in them. They are willing to give of themselves as well as the material things they may possess if there is an honest explanation that makes sense for the benefit of all and not just a privileged few. There is no person now or in past history that has offered the challenge as did Jesus, when he said,

Matthew; 20-27, 28; and who so will be the chief among you, let him by your servant: even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many.

Many of our youth of this day will spend and be spent for a worthy cause, but for most part, we as adults have let them down as to what is worth while for all mankind. We have failed for most part to give a Bible reason for the things we stand for in life or live a Bible example before them. In any age, the adult population has the responsibility of guiding, setting the examples, and being able to give a Biblical reason for the purpose of life, so, that by our fruits they will know us. It surely is a definite fact that our youth are intellegent enough to

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## A PARENT'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them and deliberately contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me courage to confess my sins against my children and to ask of them forgiveness, when I know I have done them wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule as punishment. Let me not tempt a child to lie and steal. So guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me. May I cease to nag and when I am out of sorts, help me, oh Lord, to hold my tongue.

Blind me to the little errors of my children and help me to see the good things they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise.

Help me to treat my children as those of their own age, but let me not expect of them the judgments and actions of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose, and to make decisions.

Forbid, that I should ever punish them for my selfish satisfaction. May I grant them all of their wishes that are reasonable, and have courage always to with hold a privilege which I know will do them harm.

Make me so fair and just, so considerate and companionable to my children that they will have a genuine esteem of me. Fit me to be loved and imitated by my children. With all Thy gifts, Oh God, do give me clam and poise and self-control. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IF I ATTEND A CONGREGATION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

There are some people who read our bulletin who have never attended the services of a congregation of the church of Christ, so for these, this is written.

**THEY ARE PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU!**

The members of the local congregation of the church of Christ are your neighbors, good neighbors. They

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**The Fulton County Gospel News**

... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS: Erwin Cowen  
and James E. Henley.

**Who Supported The Church**

"I'm curious, and I'm ashamed. I wonder who has supported the church for the last number of years in the community where I live. I was in the hospital, and the preacher and the members of the church visited me, but I have been too busy to go since that time. My son attended the Bible School and wanted to be baptized. The preacher came to the house and talked to him and on Sunday night he was baptized. But I had too many other things to do to start attending. Then my daughter wanted to be married in the church building. Again the preacher assisted in every possible way, and a group of church members provided the songs: and some of the church ladies had a shower for her in which she received so many nice things. But I still could see no need of bothering to start attending services. Who was I to be needed?"

"Then, last week my wife became ill. Some of the ladies from the church sat with her through several nights. The preacher called and offered his services and the services of the church. then, my wife died. Members of the church cleaned the house and provided food for those who came from a distance for the funeral. The preacher again was called upon to render help in the greatest hour of need I have ever experienced. A group of singers also helped with the most beautiful songs I have ever heard.

"As I sit here tonight, I wonder who has supported the church. Had it not been for them, there would have been no church, no building, no preacher, and no members to provide the help I needed. How much I owe to those who have made it possible for me to avail myself of the services of the church which I have not supported!

"Yes, I am ashamed. I have not done my part when I could have done so much. Now I find myself unable to do nearly as much as I would like to do. I have wasted

**Thank You, God**

Editor's note: This prayer was written by a 17 year old christian. God bless this great faith.

Dear God,

Just recently have I realized the great expanse of your power. Each day I have taken for granted all the wonders you have provided for me. At this time I would like to thank you for only a few of the many gifts you have granted me.

Perhaps the most prevalent blessing is my life. Out of the millions of people that now live, have lived, and will live, there is me. I have my own thoughts, emotions, and experiences which no one has ever known before but me. I am extremely grateful that I was born healthy and with a strong mind. You have given me the chance to accept the truth, and although it is often quite hard to achieve the goal, I will meet the obstacles in my path and plod ever onward along the path of precision. It strikes me as strange to think that what I am is your gift to me, and what I make of myself is my gift to you.

Secondly, I wish to express my gratitude for the world around me. Each cloud in the sky and every flower I touch reminds me of your love for me. The brilliant colors of the earth, the great vastness of the oceans, the majestic animals, and even the sometimes despised insects were put here for a purpose in man's life. Trees especially suggest your existence to me. Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" says this: "Poems are made by fools like me, But only God can make a tree." How can anyone, Lord, look at such a magnificent creation and not believe there is a living God?

At the risk of sounding patriotic, I thank you for allowing me to be born in America. While other countries have only tolerated religion and some completely abolished it, the United States has always granted religious freedom. Here I am free to go about my Christian ways without

my life and my finances and my opportunities. Had others done no more than I have done, the community in which I have lived would have known nothing of the church.

"You perhaps are interested in my identity. I will not tell you my name, for I am too ashamed. But I can tell you this much; I was once a member of the church as a young man. Then I left home and finally came here to live with my wife and baby. I have been all these years an erring member who refused to work for the Lord. You will, of course, not recognize me from this, for there are so many others just like me—ERRING CHURCH MEMBERS."

By Foster Ramsey

fear of molestation or ridicule as were the early Christians in Rome. Occasionally I think that if I were subject to that sort of harassment many Christians have had to suffer, my faith would be stronger than it is now and would grow each day. Perhaps my insignificant experiences in life are my faith testing ordeals. Isn't my daily temptation parallel to the early Christian's torture to deny you?

How can I express the indebtedness I have to you for my birth into a Christian home? My parents have given me the love and training needed to sustain my faith. Without them, it is possible that I might never have known the truth and been doomed. How fortunate I am to be so close to your word, while others are destined to fail in life and eventually in death. It makes me shudder to think, now and then, when I forget how easy you have made it for me on this earth; yet, I still sin so often, knowing that I am wrong.

What words can I say that will truly represent my exceeding thankfulness for my savior, Jesus? I cannot even begin to imagine such love and faith as that. It goes beyond man's comprehension of love and faith and cannot be labeled by a single word. John 3:16-17 states, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." What else needs to be said, but that I will try in my own small way to repay this favor by simply obeying your will.

What words can I really say to tell you what is already in my heart? Each day I live brings me closer to you. It may be a kind word from a friend, or the sigh of a lone bird flying across the open sky that reminds me of your presence. My only want from life is to spread your love to others and someday find the great solitude which death brings. I love you, Lord, and thank you so very, very much. In His name, Amen.

Rebecca Wallace

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read us as parents and adults and they don't like what they see. May I say here the youth of today are to be the judge of all things but are to be considered in every thing as tomorrows church will make of our young people of today. They should ever bear in mind:

EXODUS 20-12; Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Also, Deut. 5-16; Matt. 15-4; Eph. 6-2: Many other passages may be sighted concerning the honour the young is to show older people.

FOURTH: The, NOW GENERATION, wants answers to some very basic questions. What does it, speaking of life in general, all mean anyway? The best and most complete and most complete answer to this question can be found in the 17th chapter of the book of acts. The Apostle Paul in this writing says: Beginning with verse 24 thru verse 31; "God that made the worlds and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands."

Neither is worshipped with mens hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing that he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things:

And hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation: That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not for from every one of us:

For in him we live, and move, and have our being: as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also his offspring.

For as much as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, or graven by art and men's devise.

All the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent, because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

The scriptures just quoted is what life is all about, the very nature of all things that exists demands that anything with meaning will have to be searched for and found in the search for GOD.

Some other questions that young people of today are asking: How do I get rid of my hang-ups? Why do I feel guilty? If and when we are confronted with questions like these, are we able to tell them or read to them from the book of Romans 8-1, 2: where it says: There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not

after the flesh, but after the Sprirt. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

This union with Christ, by obeying his commands, can and is guilt resolving. We are also told in the Roman letter: 6-3, 4:

Know ye not that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into his death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Despite the promises God has made, many people feel that growing up in this part of this century is more of a task than it was and has been since the beginning of time. If that be so, then, we as adults have not prepared our young people properly for tomorrows world or todays world and it's problems. Many young people of today are being taught that sin is unreal and is just a superstition of ignorance of by-gone days; Yet we find a man by the name of PAUL, who was recognized as a scholar and a thinker of his day having this to say:

Romans; 3-23; For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Another part of our trouble today is: our youth are being taught there is no HELL, material things are all there is to life, a new car will get friends, a new mouthwash will be instant success with the opposite sex, and many other things of a materialistic nature that is nothing short of rebellion, sadistic, unadulterated ignorance, on the part of those teaching such things. Jesus said;

Luke; 12-15: A mans life consisteth not in the things which he possesseth. We also teach, or allow to be taught, another modern myth—that happiness is all there is to life; do anything and everything, go anywhere and everywhere you have to, but by all means and at all costs—be happy. In addition to the things just mentioned, here is a great CHALLENGE that every young person must take. This challenge is the one of making a choice between JEHOVAH GOD and the modern gods of the world of pleasure and presitge. One cannot remain neutral.

Matt. 12-30; He that is not with me is against me; and he that gatereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Every one must decide between obedient faith in God or the self rule idea which is so popular in todays thinking. History has proved again and again that self rule brings heartaches, sufferings, and final isolation from all that is really dear to the human race: love, faith, being wanted, knowing someone cares, being needed, and having hope of something better somewhere sometime. Another choice facing todays youth is that of CHRISTIAN service—or selfish acquisition of material things.

Let us check the will of GOD in this matter;

James; 4-13, 14, 15: Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord wills, we shall live, and do this or that.

A third choice or option concerning life, is the greatest challenge that faces the young, the old, and all mankind. Jesus challenges everyone with this scripture, if we are interested in a life of usefulness and service.

John; 10, 10: I come that they might have life, and have it more abundently. Christ has also challenged every one every where with the matter of equality. Ephesians; 2-11 thru 16: Also Colossians; 2-11" Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumised, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all and in all.

THE MATURE CHRISTIAN — THE CHRIST LIKE ADULT, is the goal I would urge for all young people today.

THE MATURE CHRISTIAN is that individual who lives under the rule and guidance if Jesus Christ for every facet of and phase of life.

Romans; 14—7, 8, 9; For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord: and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living.

THE CHRIST LIKE ADULT; is a person that accepts each day as an opportunity for true growth as a person. The life of Christ and his teachings provides every person with what they must have to face the world tomorrow or each day of life. When anything is PERFECT, it is mature. Col. 1-28;

THE MATURE CHRISTIAN, involved in tomorrows world lives by standards that enrich his life—even if these standards are far removed form prevailing attitudes that are popular.

There has never been a more radical ethic for life, a more revolutionary quality in life, a more opposite way of life, than was given to us by Christ himself.

Matt; 5:1 thru 12, commonly known as the 'BE-ATTITUDES', which mean, have an attitude like this and be like this in your life every day.

To accept the Gospel call of Jesus Christ, is not "COPPING OUT" on real (Continued on Page 4)

**A Parents Prayer (Con't.)**

love their community, county, state and nation, but MOST of all they love God, the Lord and You! They have nothing to sell you, just wish to SERVE you in any way possible. As each member is trying to serve the Lord, they try a little harder than most people to prove to you, through friendship and service to the whole community, that Christianity has something to OFFER you and that it can do something for you and that you NEED the Lord. They try real hard to let others see Christ LIVING IN THEM. YOU ARE NOT A STRANGER EVEN THE FIRST TIME YOU ATTEND! You are an honored guest a WELCOME visitor and you will soon KNOW that this is true!

**DO—THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THINK THAT EVERY ONE WILL BE LOST BUT THEM?**

Well, of course I can not speak for what every one thinks, but no Christian, or no RESPONSIBLE person, would usurp the prerogatives of the Lord to judge His servants! The Lord does have something to say about who WILL and who will NOT be saved and this we BELIEVE and teach, but spend NO time in JUDGING others! The Gospel of Christ IS GOD'S POWER to SAVE, Rom. 1:16. Those who OBEY it will be saved, Mark 16:15-16. Those who do NOT obey it WILL BE LOST, 2 Thess. 1:7-9. Therefore we believe and teach that the ONLY SURE WAY of being saved is to DO the Lord's will! We TRY to get EVERY ONE to READ, UNDERSTAND and OBEY THE BIBLE ONLY! I just KNOW that you will agree with us on this. WE HAVE NO RULE OF FAITH EXCEPT THE BIBLE. So we believe that ALL MEN must obey Christ to be saved because Christ says as much, Heb. 5:8-9. But ONLY the Lord can KNOW who is to be saved and who is not to be saved. This is NOT our job. Our job is to TEACH all nations, the Lord does the saving, Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:47.

**CAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS EAT THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH THE MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?**

**IF THEY WISH TO DO SO, YES!** The Lord's supper is in the church for Christians, but NO ONE has the right to EXCLUDE any one else from eating it. The Lord's supper is passed up and down pews each Lord's day and EACH PERSON is to "EXAMINE HIMSELF" whether he eats or not, NO MAN ON EARTH has ANY right to say who CAN, or who can NOT eat the supper of his Lord, I Cor. 11:28. When he does he is PLAYING God! God forbid!  
**MAY I CONTRIBUTE, OR AM I EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE?**

You are NOT expected to contribute, as the churches of Christ are supported

**A LITTLE SELFISH**

One old man, a fine Christian, was noted for his giving to the Lord. From his modest means, he gave liberally, and so cheerfully that he was approached and asked why he enjoyed giving so much. His answer:

"Yes, I know I give more than I can afford. I know I'm depriving myself of the luxuries of life and many of the necessities. But, you see, I'm just a little selfish. I know life here on earth is, at best, not too enjoyable, and if it were I could not enjoy my money too long. So I'm just investing my money in the future. I'm sending all I can on ahead where I'll be able to enjoy it a long time. And just thing, I'm having all the pleasure of seeing it work for the Lord here, so I'm really getting double for my money... more than anyone else. You see, most men lose their money when they die, but I'm MAKING MY MONEY REALLY MINE!

**Do More Than "Play It Safe"**

A friendly passer-by put this question to a tattered, bewhiskered man sitting on the steps of a tumble-down shack:

"How's your cotton crop coming along?" "Ain't got one," was the response. "Didn't do any planting... afraid of boll weevils." "Well, how about your corn?" "Didn't plant any," came the laconic answer. "Afraid there wouldn't be enough rain." "How about your potatoes?" "Ain't got none. Scared of potato bugs." "What on earth do you plant?" asked the passerby with a touch of impatience. "Didn't plant nothing," the man said with a yawn. "I just play it safe." An excessive tendency to "play it safe" could be disastrous to world peace. Christ Himself urges us to be bold and daring in everything that concerns the good of man: (Luke 5:4)

by the FREE WILL offerings of the members, I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7. Each Sunday morning the collection plates are passed up and down each pew, and like the Lord's supper, you MAY contribute if YOU WISH TO DO SO, you are WELCOME to do so, but that is UP TO YOU! Sunday night the Lord's supper is served to those who did NOT get to eat it at the morning service and THEY are given an opportunity to contribute. NO collection is taken from others. During Gospel meetings, or at NO OTHER time, except "the first day of the week" is collection taken. There is NO tithing like the law of Moses taught, and NO selling of anything, no bills sent out and no pressure put on ANY ONE, member, or non-member, to contribute. EACH person must PURPOSE in HIS OWN HEART concerning giving, 2 Cor. 9:7.

Glynn Purdy

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life. It is something stable, honorable, reliable, trustwrothy and acceptable to all and for all mankind. It is that life above the ordinary, above the common things of the world, above that condition that always degrades the moral fibers of life. It is all the good and that cannot possible come from man alone. The Bible says: "It is not within man that walks to direct his own steps". To follow Christ—even in the face of homelessness, hardships, poverty, social rejection, is that strait road, that narrow road that leads to eternal life.

Read Luke: 9-57 thru 62: Matthew: 7-14.

Whether you are a member of the, "NOW GENERATION", seeking purpose and meaning in life—whether you are a parent, grandparent struggling with the responsibilities of leading and guiding young lives; this is the only plea and hope that is life enduring, soul saving, burden lifting and peace eternal;

- Accept Jesus Christ in
- obedient faith ..... John; 3,36
- Repent of your sins ..... Acts; 2,38
- Acknowledge Christ as
- Lord ..... Rom.; 10:9, 10
- Receive the baptism that frees
- you from sin ..... Rom; 6; 3,4
- Continue to be faithful for the
- crown of life ..... Rev.; 2, 10

By doing the things above, wil create a new freedom, the power to over come sin, the courage to continue life with meaning, hope that will sustain strength to meet the future and effectively prepare the youth of today for the world tomorrow; and the eternal world where there is no Generation Gap, Now Generation, Up-Rooted Society, nor anything that is disturbing.

I sincerely hope this article has in some small way encouraged our youth that all is not again them; also I hope that some ray of light has been shed to the older people as to our-deep responsibility to our young people and has helped both to deeply consider what really counts in life.

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 Junior High