



# **What's Wrong with Youth And Youth Groups?**

**By**

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*Teaching Notes* are Bible studies we taught before GraceLife Ministries began publishing articles online in 1995. Some were presented as sermons, others as group studies.

Our hope is that these older studies will be a blessing to you in your life and ministry. Please use them in any way God leads you.

These teaching notes are from a radio program about youth and church youth groups.

[These notes are from 50 years ago.]



All across America, young people are searching! Searching for the ultimate high. Searching for God. Searching for peace. Searching for love. Searching for real meaning to life. Searching for truth. Searching for the way to happiness. Searching for security.

Millions of young people have turned to drugs, sex, reckless living, gangs, and Eastern mysticism. Many have turned to Satanism and the occult. After talking with young people coast to coast, members of our ministry have discovered that none of these roads are leading young people to peace they wanted. What is the answer? There is only one way.

A life of peace must have a root of peace. Humans do not have that root in themselves. We are gone astray. We have turned everyone to our own way. We care only for ourselves and what pleases us. So what if someone gets hurt. Only number one really counts. And don't forget that young people get their worldviews from parents and other adults. The responsibility for what has happened to youth in America lies squarely on the shoulders of adult America.

Young people, listen to me! You can never reach 'nirvana.' You will not reach the ultimate high on drugs. You can do nothing in yourself. Your roots are shallow and cannot attain to the great peace and joy that is laid out for you from above by the Creator of humanity. For other foundation can no many lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus.

One of the reasons that young people have turned off Christianity before they try it is because some in churches today don't believe in God either. We have buildings full every Sunday of 'Christian atheists.' What do I mean by that? I mean so-called Christians who acts like doesn't exist. They worship Him in form but with no power. He doesn't really mean anything to them at all. That's hypocrisy. No wonder millions of our young people turn the 'church' off.

What I want to tell America's youth is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He is alive! Jesus Christ cares for your souls and desires to set you free from the torment of drugs, the shame of immorality, and the dungeon of despair. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." No man, woman, teenager, boy,

or girl will ever come to God except they come by Jesus Christ.

When I was younger I tried the way of Eastern religions. I practiced yoga and studied the writings of Buddha, but I couldn't find any satisfaction. It wasn't until I met Jesus that my mind, soul, and spirit found rest forever. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

Listen ... only Jesus can save and keep. There is no other way but Jesus. The early Christians understood this peace and used to open their letters with, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." Before you can have peace, my friend, you must experience God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Do you really think you're different from the hundreds of millions of young people that have gone before you? Do you think you can succeed where they have failed? Just ask the tens of millions of young people who have blown their minds on drugs, fast wheels, sex, and suicide. Ask them what they accomplished. Nothing of any eternal value. As Jesus Christ asked, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Which direction are you going? Do you want peace? You'd better meet the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. You want joy? You'd better see the Master of joy, Jesus Christ. Do you want love? You'd better meet Love Himself, Jesus Christ. You want real life? You'd better meet the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ.





Do you want to go to Heaven? Then you will need to meet the Lord of Heaven. You do not have a chance of making it to Heaven without Jesus Christ. Our message is very simple. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Corinth centuries ago – “And I, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, for I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

The message of the New Testament Church was very simple – Jesus bore the penalty for sin on the cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead on the third day by the power of God. This is the Gospel – good news! Too many churches try to make their messages sound so high and lofty, when in truth they are without any knowledge of God and salvation through Christ.

Many people in American churches are headed for hell and destruction today because they have not met the living Savior. Jesus Christ is a Person and Life Himself – not a history or ceremony. “Let him that is athirst come. And whoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Be done with ceremonies and come to Jesus!

Eternal peace is Christ's legacy to those who believe in Him. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let your heart not be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Jesus wants to give you peace today! Peace is a gift of God. Why are so many people without peace? They are without Jesus.

Many thousands of so-called ‘Christian’ young people walk the aisle of their church and make a profession of faith. I was one of them. They spend the rest of their lives ‘playing church,’ while headed for hell. You may fool the church, the youth group, your pastors, your friends, even your parents; but you can't fool God.

Are you playing church? Are you a 'pretend' Christian who puts on a pious face during youth group, Sunday school, and church services? You may be able to present yourself as a 'Christian' here on earth, but all pretentious are gone when you stand before God in Heaven. God will turn to the angel of the Book of Life and ask, 'Is this person's name written in the Book?' And as all of Heaven listens, the angel says, 'No, my Lord.' And then the awfulness of your sin will be known to every creature as God says, 'Cast him into the lake which burnt with fire and brimstone.'

You played church, but you rejected Jesus Christ – Lord of the Church. What a horrible and unforgivable sin. There is no escaping God's judgment. If you will not accept the payment that was made for you on the Cross of Calvary by Christ Jesus, then you will pay with your own life in an eternal nightmare of pain, fire, and torment.

What is your choice 'youth of America?' Heaven or hell? Jesus or judgment? Only you can choose.

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