

## Thoughts On Being Young

Recently, I read the thoughts of a young person who lamented the loneliness and general feeling of missing out on life. This made me think about the trials and minefields of the young.

As people pass their youth the good things are remembered and the hard challenges are forgotten. In one's youth there is an awkwardness of not knowing how to act and what to do in certain situations. Have you ever known any young person who believes they are the popular one which every else wants to be? Everyone thinks they are on the outside looking in at the "in group". Perhaps the rise of "social media" and the constant sharing of people's trips, pets, fun times, gives us the idea we are missing out. Not every day is fun, not every job, or every minute is the pinnacle of life.

Keep in mind your life is just starting. Life is not High School. It is meant to be much more. Life has trials and it is through those trials we learn and become better. As a young person you are the butterfly in the cocoon struggling to get out. Without those struggles you will never learn to fly on your own.

They are big decisions which will impact the rest of your life. You are making some really importance choices concerning things such as college or not, where to live, jobs, dating, and marriage. Keep in mind the decisions you make are important but just as important is how you make those decisions, because this is what determines your life.

When you make a bad decision do your best to change into the right decision. Sometimes you may learn you were right the first time. Don't give up to easily and don't be afraid to admit you were wrong. Your pathway in life will take many different directions but keep on living.

Don't try to grow up too fast. There are things which take time and hurrying up life does not work out. Sit back and enjoy where you are at each stage of life. You are in school? Enjoy being with others and learning new things. You are newly married? Enjoy getting to know your spouse. Make life an adventure. You have young children? Hug them while you can because they grow up quickly.

Listen to Solomon, *"1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time*

*to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)*

Don't compare your life to what others have or haven't accomplished. It is a dead-end street in which nothing good will come. You don't know the trials the person has under that smile. You don't know the heart ache the young beauty queen in High School has faced since graduation. Many people will trade places with you if they could.

About that marriage thing, I mentioned earlier, don't rush it. Don't settle for someone just because you are afraid of being alone. Live your life, be your best, be happy where you are, and the right person (if there is one) will come along. That is what happened to me. If that special person doesn't come along, understand being alone is better than being in a bad marriage.

Everybody needs a moral and spiritual compass. As a young person you will spend numerous hours in school where they tell you there is no God and we are products of evolution. In church you will hear people teaching you about God. It is up to you to decide if you are going to listen to what others say or think for yourself. Only in the Bible can we read about God and His will. Science can be good as it has improved our lives in so many areas but science cannot deal with the spiritual. Science and God do not have to contradict each other but science without God can be dangerous. Spend time learning about God.

Let me end this with two quotes from the Bible. “1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them... 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.” (Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13) – Dennis Tucker