

PROBLEM AREAS OF YOUTH

1. Problem #1 - Salvation Assurance

A. Am I going to heaven? Is heaven real? What is it all about?

B. Scripture reveals these things:

1) Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God and there is not one thing that man can do to please God."

Romans 8:8, "They that are in the flesh cannot please God.

2) Man is separated from the love of God because man cannot produce the same type of type of GOOD that God produces. Man produces relative righteousness and God is absolute righteousness.

a. Man's good is HUMAN GOOD or works and is classified as "filthy rags" in God's sight, Isaiah 64:6.

b. God's good is DIVINE GOOD, or righteousness, and is based upon His perfect character. Isaiah 55:6-9.

3) God is righteous and man is unrighteous, therefore God cannot love anyone who is unrighteous until that person has the same type of righteousness in him that God has. God can only love His own righteousness. So how do we gain God's righteousness?

a. Man is under the penalty of death because of his sins. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

b. Mankind cannot create or produce a work that will gain him eternal life and remove the curse of death. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one that is righteous, no not even one."

c. God cannot fellowship, cannot show love, nor bless anyone who does not have His righteousness in their soul.

d. 1 John 4:7-10.

Verse 7 shows that man knows nothing about the love of God for all love comes from God. Man has to learn how to love. Emotional love is not the love of the Bible.

The love of the Bible is based on knowledge of God and the Gospel of Christ. When a person believes in Christ as their Savior then they gain God's Righteousness and God is free to love them.

Verse 8 shows that the person that NEVER KNEW (never saved) God in the past does not know how to love the way God requires.

One cannot say to God "I love you" and mean it apart from salvation in Christ and receiving God's righteousness.

Once a person is saved then they must study the Word of God to learn about Him. This knowledge will enable the believer to love God.

Verse 9, God had to show us HIS LOVE in a way so that we could understand it. He didn't love YOU when He sent His Son to the cross, HE LOVED HIS SON. When you accepted His Son then He is free to love you.

The maximum expression of God's love was to send His Son to die for our sins.

God couldn't love Abraham until Abraham accepted Christ as His Savior (Acts 7). Once Abraham was saved then God gave him righteousness and God was free to love Abraham. Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6-16, 26-29; Romans 3:10.

Romans 3:25-26, the Lord Jesus Christ was a propitiation for our sins. The righteousness and justice of God the Father were satisfied with Christ's work on the cross. Now God's righteousness is available to anyone who believes in Christ.

Romans 5 teaches justification by faith alone satisfies God's righteous and just standards. No works are accepted by God in order to gain righteousness. We believe and then He freely gives us righteousness.

1 John 4:10, “In this is love (AGAPE is God’s type of objective love not emotional love) not that we have loved God but that He loved us (AGAPE is in the Aorist tense which means that God showed His love at a point in time. How?) and sent His Son, a propitiation concerning our sins”.

- 4) John 3:16, “For God so loved the world (Aorist tense of AGAPE to mean at a point in time God sent His Son to demonstrate His love) ,” that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

The solution to man’s biggest problem that he will ever have which is a lack of God’s righteousness.

Romans 5:8, “God demonstrated His love to us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:12-14, “through Adam we are hopeless, through Christ there is hope, note verse 17.

Romans 11:6, we are saved by faith, not works.

- 5) Romans 8:35-38, ASSURANCE OF SALVATION. Yes you can know for sure that you are saved and have eternal life! 1 John 4:6, 13-14; 5:1-5, 13, John 10:28-30, in the hand of God.

Romans 5:9-10, we are delivered from the anger of God now that we have righteousness in the soul.

2 Timothy 2:12-13, the Lord cannot deny us eternal salvation even when we turn around and say that we do not believe any longer. In verse 12 he can deny us rewards if we do not produce the fruit in the Christian life that He wants us to.

Galatians 3:26, we are born into the family of God and cannot be unborn.

Colossians. 3:12, you are called holy and elect, beloved.

John 5:24, You have eternal life and will never be condemned,

Romans 8:1, Believers are never condemned to eternal judgment.

John 17:19-20 shows that once you have believed and belong to Christ you are kept forever.

C. Youth need not worry about your salvation for the Scripture shows plainly that if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and have accepted the Gospel that Christ died on the cross for your sins, was buried, then resurrected the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) then you are saved forever.

2. Problem #2 – Not knowing how to deal with problems Biblically. Now that you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, God has provided truth in the Bible to help you deal with daily problems. There are five areas we need to learn to handle.

- Self-image – Who am I in Christ?
- Family – What are my responsibilities?
- Dating and Marriage – What are God’s rules for safe dating and a happy marriage?
- Friends – Who should I hang out with?
- Purpose in life or the plan of God for you – Why am I here?

Any problem in the Christian life can be traced to a root sin problem that you have not handled properly.

It has grown from a root of bitterness into sin cycles and formed scar tissue on your soul, and is revealed in a bad attitude, verbal abuse of others, or in some outward behavior.

We are going to trace several known problems of youth and show where they come from, what the Bible says about them and how to handle them Biblically.

Problems like, stealing, lying, profanity, disinterest, dishonesty, arguing, clothing styles, inferiority and superiority complex , insecurity, fear, worry, guilt, frustration, bitterness, hate, revenge, feeling like you don’t measure up, anger, boredom, pride, distrust, rebellion, etc. If I didn’t hit your problem we will sooner or later.

All problems can be solved through the four steps mentioned in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All Scripture (Bible) is God breathed and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may

be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Is it profitable for you to go down a path in the forest that has a bear at the other end of it? 2 Kings 2:24 shows that teenagers who cuss and make fun of a teacher of God’s Word are headed down a path with bears in it, and the teens in this passage were killed by the bears.

What is the solution to heading down the wrong path? Turning around and going down another path that is not so painful...right? Right!

If you are walking down a road and come to a fork with one sign that says, “Danger! Bears Ahead” and the sign on the other fork says, “Safe Road, No Bears!”, a person of reasonable intelligence will take the safe road. The Bible offers us the same kind of warning signs.

Proverbs 2 shows a contrast between the path of the righteous way and the path of the unrighteous way, and the end of each.

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord...He shall direct thy paths.” You allow Him to clear the path of bears.

Proverbs 4:11-15, turn away from the wrong path and go down the right path.

Proverbs 4:20-27, staying on the right path and keeping eyes straight ahead.

The Bible shows that it is profitable to stay on the right path and DOCTRINE and RIGHEOUSNESS will guide you down the path and make the way clear for you. Proverbs 4:11-14.

Principle: Doctrine points to the safe and intelligent road to take.

3. Problem #3 - Rejection of Reproof- 2 Timothy 3:16 continued...
“for reproof,” means conviction of when we are wrong, to restore us to the path of righteousness when we get off of it

Proverbs 17:10, “A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.”

Proverbs 1:20-33, Notice those who refuse to listen to the warnings of the Lord are not helped in the day of trouble, the Lord only laughs at them.

Proverbs 10:17, He that refuses reproof goes astray from the path of life.

Proverbs 12:1, if you love discipline then you love knowledge, but if you hate reproof then you are foolish.

Proverbs 13:18, Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored.

Proverbs 15:5, A fool rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is prudent, (foresighted, wise, shrewd).

Proverbs 15:10, Stern discipline is for him who forsakes his way, He who hates reproof will die.

Proverbs 15:32, He who listens to reproof will gain in understanding.

Proverbs 29:15, The rod and reproof give wisdom, but child that gets his own way brings shame to his mother. The foolish child is selfish, throws temper tantrums, and needs to be spanked.

John 16:8, it is the job of the Holy Spirit to reprove the world of the sin of unbelief.

Verse 14, the Holy Spirit will guide you into truth, and therefore you as a believer will stay on the right path if you listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, which is the teaching of God's Word to you from a teacher. Hebrews 3:7; 10:25; 13:7, 17.

Therefore, doctrine gives you a way of life, pathway. God uses our authorities in life to warn us when we stray off that pathway.

4. Problem #4 - Rejection of Righteous Instruction - 2 Timothy 3:16 continued...
“for instruction in righteousness,”- DIKAIOSUNE means God's righteousness,

Proverbs 1:8, Hear your parents instruction (corrective teaching), training of the father and the doctrine of the mother.

Proverbs 4:13, Take hold of instruction and she will guard you, she is your life. Instruction here means training through logic and reasoning then allows you to make up your mind.

Proverbs 4:7-14 shows the disastrous end of not listening to

instruction and reproof. Premarital sex can harm you!

Proverbs 13:1, a wise son accepts his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 15:5, A fool despises his father's instructions.

Proverbs 19:27, If you stop listening to discipline then you will stray from the words of knowledge.

Proverbs 23:23, Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom, (divine viewpoint), instruction (training), and understanding.

Proverbs 24:30-34, observe the production of the sluggard who does not hear instruction.

5. Problem #5 - Rejection of Correction - 2 Timothy 3:16 continued...
“for correction,” training and education that reveals a wrong way of life and shows the right way of life.

Proverbs 15:10, read from verse 1 to show stern discipline is for him who forsakes his way.

Proverbs 15:22, Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13, Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod he will not die. This would be for hard

Rebellious children who are into drugs, prostitution, alcohol, and violence.

Jeremiah 2:30, When the sons refuse correction from the Lord then they will die (sin unto death).

Jeremiah 5:3 shows the attitude of the proud person

Jeremiah 7:28, When correction is not heeded, truth perishes.

PRINCIPLE: Correction is the severe type of discipline that the believer must endure for forsaking, doctrine, reproof and instruction.

Expanded translation of 2 Timothy 3:16-17,

“All Scripture is God breathed and is profitable to show you the doctrinal way of life, to warn you from straying from that way of life, to severely discipline you when you refuse to listen, and to instruct you in righteousness of God’s thinking, in order that the man of God may be capable and complete, having been equipped for every divine good work.”

6. Each problem area can be attacked through the Word.
 - A. Identify problem.
 - B. Note what the Bible says and adjust if you are wrong.
 - C. Adjust to new way of thinking.
 - D. Solve problem with new way of acting (time involved).
7. Accept yourself for who and what you are and going from there.
 - A. EGO is the Greek term and means to be aware of yourself.
 - B. Developing a self-image or ego that gives us pleasure is part of what the Word of God is all about.
 1. Your identity is influenced by values of the world you live in, by your friends, family, and the things they say about your appearance, abilities, environment, etc.

6. Problem #6 – Negative Attitude

- A. Negative attitude towards self is where you listen to what others think about you and believe what they say as true.
 1. This will drive you into depression for you cannot live the way other people want or expect you to live.
 2. You are an individual and must express what you know and feel unless it harms others.
- B. Right development of ego: Following God’s Lead

1. Looking into the Word of God and finding out what HE expects of you and then following them, this gives you confidence and relaxation in spirit.
2. God has a way for you to be happy apart from the world system and that is the answer you need.

C. Wrong development of ego: Giving in to Peer Pressure

1. Taking your appearance and asking others what they think about it. You are to dress according to Bible standards. If they don't like it then you won't wear it for friends will laugh at you.
2. Afraid to try new things for fear others may not like it.
3. Your environment is a set thing for that is the way others like it, friends, etc.

D. A negative attitude is the problem: Five manifestations of it.

1. The Christian teen and young adult needs to have his questions answered and then by faith believe the Biblical answer. If he rejects God's answer then he loses faith, accepts a world view, then distrusts God.
2. Another negative attitude is to reject yourself or be down on yourself. Remember that God created you to serve Him. By doing so you will discover your real purpose in life and who you are.

The person who is dissatisfied with themselves and rejects God's answers will have few real friends because they cannot give of themselves to others. People do not respond well to a negative, critical, cynical attitude so they stay away from that person.

4. Negative attitude of trying to please others instead of meeting God's goals for your life. 1 Samuel 16:7, God looks into the heart, man looks outside.
5. Negative person is occupied with material things, such as clothes, cars, sports; "just the right clothes" do not make the person any happier than other clothes which is just a frantic search for happiness. Read God's solution in Matthew 6:27 ff.

Problem: Reject God's leading and focus on Self

Attitude: Distrust of others, bitterness, blaming God (Hebrews 12:11-15)

Fail Grace of God so accept worldview

Reject Christian friends and accept unbeliever friends

Hostile towards Christianity

Defile others with your negative attitude (Hebrews 12:15)

Self criticism, Depression (2 Peter 2:10)

G. Solution to a negative attitude.

1. Realize who you are—believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have a place, a position in God's family. You are associated with the Greatest King, the Greatest Warrior, Master of the Universe. John 17 is the prayer of Christ which shows how much He cares for His believers.

2. Realize your position—you are "IN CHRIST." Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2. You are an heir to the wealth of the universe and Christ did it for Himself and you are His reward for His work.

3. Realize Christ knew you before you were even born.

Jeremiah 1:4, before he was born the Lord knew him.

Luke 1:8-17, the Lord knew about John before he was born.

1 Samuel 1, the Lord knew about Samuel before he was born,

He also knows what you are going to do and be, so relax and learn His Word so you can use your freewill to be happy with His Word.

Your physical characteristics are God's design (Isaiah 43:7; 44:2; Psalm 139:14-16; Psalm 103:14).

You are a frame that contains a soul (Proverbs 15:13; Galatians 4:19.

Your frame contains a body, 1 Peter 3:3-4.

You are to keep body clean and soul clean, 1 Thessalonians 4:4; Romans 12:1.

4. Any sin that you have towards self or others is a sin against God as well, 1 John 1:7.

Confession of sin is the first step of RECOVERY for this gives you the filling of the Holy Spirit. I John 19; Psalm 32:5; 1 Corinthians 11:31; Romans 6:13, yield; Hebrews 12:11-15, lift up hands, etc.

5. Now in fellowship you can identify problem according to the particular sin cycle.

Self-criticism cycle “I’m not good enough Hebrews 12:15-17	Distrust Rebellion Reaction factor	Bitterness unfair father/ mother	Rejection will of God vs. 15-17, comes short of grace
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Self-centered cycle Stealing, lying vs. 7-9 Solution, vs. 10-11, 2 Timothy 3:1-10	Insecurity Worry, guilt vs. 6	Human viewpoint value system vs. 1-9	Rejection of God’s values, DVP vs. 5
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Lusts of sex Idolatry Solution vs. 14-33 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 is scripture for this cycle.	frustration grumbled	Immoral craved evil things	Rejection of God’s moral standards “not well-pleased”
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6. Remember that your rejection of yourself is a rejection of God.
7. Create a new way of thinking in your life to stop the self-criticism, depression, distrust, etc.
 - A. Hebrews 12:1-4 shows the new way to think—Since we have a cloud of witnesses of Hebrews 11 around us who pleased God, then they are our examples to follow.
 1. Get eyes on Jesus Christ and off of self.
 2. He will shape you if you will allow Him to.
 3. Don’t grow weary and lose heart, endure.
 4. If you get under discipline, endure it for it is good for you.
 5. Verses 2-13 shows the confession of sin.
 6. Verse 14, pursue PEACE with all men, and live what you

have on the inside, DOCTRINE on the inside comes out.

- B. 2 Timothy 3:10-11, is the solution to lusts of sex.
 - 1. Follow doctrine, conduct or way of behavior, faith, patience, love, perseverance.
 - 2. Verse 14, continue in the things you learn.
 - 3. Realize that 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is true!
- C. 1 Corinthians 10:13, the solution is to understand that all testings are common to mankind and that God has provided a way of escape which is following His Word.