

“Exhort the Young Men to Be...”

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“Exhort the Young Men to Be...”

- A number of religious people and older folks believe that youth is a disease that people need to grow out of.
- “Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels. But old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young.” (J. K. Rowling)
- More often than not, our culture worships the condition of being young, and considers youth to be the universal excuse for the sins of the young
- “Use your youth so that you may have comfort to remember it when it has forsaken you, and not sigh and grieve at the account thereof.” (Walter Raleigh)

Youth Is A Time For Fun

- Ecc. 11:9 - “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.”

Youth Is A Time For Fun

- Life is meant to be enjoyed
 - Ecc. 11:7-8 - “Truly the light is sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; 8 But if a man lives many years And rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming is vanity”
 - Ecc. 8:15 - “So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.”

Youth Is A Time For Fun

- But note the warning that we are still responsible for the things we do in our youth
 - Ecc. 11:10 - “Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity.”

Youth Is A Time For Fun

- There is a proper time for fun and for serious things
 - Ecc. 3:1, 4 - “To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven... 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Laughter and silliness out of season and for no purpose is useless
 - Ecc 2:1-2 - “I said in my heart, Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure; but surely, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter-Madness!; and of mirth, What does it accomplish?”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Ever meet a person who makes a joke out of everything?
 - Ecc. 7:6 - “For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, So is the laughter of the fool. This also is vanity”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- God had this matter against Israel
 - Isa. 22:12-13 - “And in that day the Lord GOD of hosts Called for weeping and for mourning, For baldness and for girding with sackcloth. 13 But instead, joy and gladness, Slaying oxen and killing sheep, Eating meat and drinking wine: Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”
- Partying did not stop the evil times from coming

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Sorrow has a place in life
 - Ecc. 7:2-4 - “Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Fun that causes harm to another is evil
- Laughter sometimes ends in sorrow
 - Prov. 14:13 - “Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth may be grief.”
- Some people take their fun at the expense of others
 - James 5:4-5 - “Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Fixating on fun and ignoring danger
 - Amos 6:3-6 - “Woe to you who put far off the day of doom, Who cause the seat of violence to come near; 4 Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches, Eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall; 5 Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David; 6 Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- People use pleasure to avoid responsibility or difficulties.
 - Prov. 23:29-30, 33-35 - “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. 34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: 35 They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Using pleasure to avoid responsibility or hardship doesn't make it go away; it makes it worse
 - Prov. 23:32 - "At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper"
 - Prov. 7:21-26 - "With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. 22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, 23 Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life. 24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; 26 For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong men."

Fun Can Be Harmful

- Degenerating into sinning for fun
 - Prov. 1:10-16 - “My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; 13 We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse - 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.”

Fun Can Be Harmful

- 1Peter 4:3-4 - “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”
- Eph. 5:3-4 - “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

Teach The Young Men

- Titus 2:6 - “Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded”
- The word does not mean “not drunk”; instead, it means “being of sound or healthy mind, moderate, self-controlled” (Strong’s)
- Youth is a time of struggle with impulse control.

Teach The Young Men

- Be on guard
 - 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
- Prepare your minds and watch
 - 1Peter 1:13 - “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

Teach The Young Men

- Titus 2:7 - “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works”
- Choose to excel as an example of good works
- Temptations are everywhere and as a young person you don’t have a lot of experience yet in dealing with them
 - Titus 2:11-12

Teach The Young Men

- Rather than giving into impulses, establish good habits
 - 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
 - Ecc. 12:1 - “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”

Teach The Young Men

- Titus 2:7-8 - “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, & sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”
- Show integrity; it literally means uncorrupted doctrine or teaching

Teach The Young Men

- Youth is a time of passionate ideals, but it is so easy to get side tracked by foolish causes and dangerous philosophies
 - Eph. 4:14 - “That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”

Teach The Young Men

- Be reverent; means dignified, honorable, or noble. It is a person who commands respect by the way they behave, not by what they demand

Teach The Young Men

- Being incorruptible; something that cannot be destroyed
 - Rom. 2:7 - “Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality”

Teach The Young Men

- All of life is ahead of you; aim for something great, something of lasting value
 - 1Cor. 9:24-27 - “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
 - 2Cor. 5:9 - “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”