

DO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVE IT?

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Our Christian young people are expected to be different from the general. This is true because a Christian must be different. He has been "born again" (John 3:7). When one is "born of water and the spirit," he is "translated" into "the kingdom of his dear Son" (John 3:5; Col . 1:13).

However, because our young people are associated with evil companions, influenced by secular press and television, at times being taught by non-religious persons, they often imbibe the same non-Christian notions. Too often the influence of the church and parents is weaker than that of their peers. The extreme desire to be like other young people frequently overcomes their courage to do right.

A research study conducted by Daniel Yankelovich, Inc., polled young people between the ages of 16 and 25 to see what they believed, and found some interesting beliefs:

1. Only one third believe that casual premarital sex is morally wrong.
2. As to abortion only 48 percent think it is morally wrong.
3. Only 42 percent feel that religion is a very important value in their lives.
4. Only 40 percent stress patriotism as an important personal value.
5. One out of three young women consider marriage obsolete.

They found specifically those of "college age" believed:

1. A total of 61 percent welcome more acceptance of sexual freedom.
2. A total of 71 percent feel that privacy is a very important value.
3. A total of 35 percent feel "this is a sick society."
4. "Having children without formal marriage is morally wrong" is accepted by only 41 percent.
5. "Having children is a very important value" by only 50 percent.

Two especially encouraging reports from both groups show:

1. College students: 66 percent believe it is morally wrong to use violence even in a good cause.
2. Non-college: 63 percent recognize that a lack of college education of good vocational training, hinders their growth.

If these figures are even half accurate, it gives us cause for alarm because the issues involved are basic to the American home to the church, and to our nation: ***"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."*** - Psa 33:12