

Christian Duties for Young and Old

Acts 2:17,21

Introduction:

- A. Age groups.
 - 1. Physical realm: Infancy, childhood, youth, maturity, old age.
 - 2. Spiritual realm: Babes in Christ, Mature in Christ.
- B. New Testament Christianity reduces rather than magnify fleshly differences.
 - 1. All one in Christ. (Gal. 3:28).
 - 2. Spirit on all flesh: male, female, old, young, etc. (Acts 2:17)
 - 3. Partiality forbidden in the church. (James 2:9).
 - 4. Church activity not divided into special programs catering to each physical class.
 - 5. Amazing how little attention in epistles paid to age differences.
- C. Modern Christianity magnifies rather than reduce fleshly differences.
 - 1. Denominational “ministries”: youth, singles, married, aged.
 - a. Why not add other ministries? Poverty, Wealth, Employees, Employer.
 - b. Why not add various ethnic groups?
 - 2. Brethren follow suit.
 - a. Some “Liberal” churches fast catching up with denominations.
 - b. Some “Conservative” churches heavily tilted toward youth.
 - (1) Barrage of “specials” geared to young people.
 - (2) Have not learned lessons of history.
 - (3) Preachers become de facto youth directors.
- D. Christians, old and young, have been assigned two basic kinds of duties:
 - 1. Those things that pertain to this present world (cf. 1 Cor. 6:3,4).
 - 2. Those things that pertain to the kingdom of God. (cf. Acts 1:3)

Discussion:

I. Christian Duties In Things That Pertain To The Present World.

- A. Duties due to our domestic status.
 - 1. Married or unmarried. (1 Cor. 7).
 - 2. Husband or wife. (Eph. 5:22ff).
 - 3. Parent or child. (Eph. 6:1-4)
- B. Duties due to our economic status.
 - 1. Rich or poor. (1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19).
 - 2. Master or servant. (Eph. 6:5-9).
- C. Duties due to our age status.
 - 1. Older people. (Tit. 2:1-10).
 - 2. Younger People. (1 Tim. 4:12; 5:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:22).
- D. Duties due to our physical location: Neighborhood, state, country.

II. Christian Duties In Things Pertaining To The Kingdom Of God.

- A. All one in Christ regardless of age, etc. (Gal. 3:17).
 - 1. Common faith regardless of age or other fleshly consideration. (cf. Jude 3)
 - 2. Common duties regardless of age or other fleshly consideration.
 - a. Plan of salvation.
 - b. Church.
 - c. Worship.
 - d. Work (In keeping with individual ability).
 - e. Rules of living.
- B. Duties may vary due to ability and/or spiritual maturity - not physical age.
 - 1. Each does duty to benefit whole body. (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-25).
 - 2. Each joint to benefit whole body nor just one segment. (Eph. 4:16).
- C. Attention may vary according to spiritual age, not physical age.
 - 1. Babe in Christ, whether initially or reverted back, may need more attention.

2. No physical age deserves more attention based on mere age.

Conclusion:

- A. Let all young and old do duty in things that pertain to this life.
- B. Let all young and old do duty in things that pertain to life to come.