

Salt Shakers 08/08/08  
**Adolescence: Identity in Christ**

**Peter Stokes - Salt Shakers**

**Adolescence: Identity in Christ**

Proverbs 29:18 - "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Vision = Knowledge - Revelation,

'Revelation' - God's disclosure of Himself and His will to His creatures.

('Dictionary.com')

'His will' = His values, direction for His creation.

What 'vision', revelations, and direction are our children/young people getting today –  
What are they hearing and seeing?

**Reclaiming Adolescence**

Hosea 4: 6 - My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge

In Proverbs alone there are

- 54 verses about 'Wisdom'
- 39 verses about 'Knowledge'

**Whose 'vision' are our young people hearing/seeing?**

Zechariah 10:2 - The idols speak deceit, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.

**Knowledge - Vision**

Colossians 2:8 - "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

**Made in His image**

Genesis 1: 26-27 / 9: 6 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Isaiah 42:17

Jeremiah 10; 14 - Everyone is senseless and without knowledge; every goldsmith is shamed by his idols. His images are a fraud; they have no breath in them.

Ezekiel 20; 7 / 37: 23

Romans 1: 23 - and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Colossians 3:10 - and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the **image** of its Creator.

**What 'vision' are our young people hearing and seeing?**

Evolution – What does it say about the three key questions of life?

- Where do I come from?
- Why am I here?
- Where am I going?

NOTHING – from nowhere – we are nothing – going nowhere... NO HOPE

## Adolescence: Identity in Christ

Should we be surprised that every 4 days another young person takes their own life in AUSTRALIA

ABC TV "Rage" MA15+

- Adult themes
- Course language
- Sexual references
- A sex scene
- Some nudity
- Drug references
- Drug use
- Some violence

After 6am Rage is for General viewing

### What 'vision' are our young people seeing?

#### Drugs

*The 'Choosing to use ... but wanna keep your head together?' booklet aimed at high school students by the Sydney West Area Health Service suggested that young people*

- should not experiment until they are over 18,
- Should "use only small amounts and not too often".

These are ILLEGAL drugs being promoted as acceptable in moderation!

Kings Cross drug injecting room - A "Safe" place to shoot-up heroin?

### Our children are constantly confronted with the culture of death

### What 'vision' are our young people seeing?

Marie Stopes International (Australia)

- Provide morning after pill free at Pharmacies to teenagers!
- 'Abortion is a women's right' – essays by young people...
- "Abortion is a safe procedure for women, and because abortion is their choice they will not be stuck with a hindrance on their life." Megaessays.com
- Legalisation (decriminalisation) of abortion (Vic, QLD)
- Euthanasia proposals before both State and Federal parliaments.

### What 'vision' of marriage are our young people seeing?

Our young people are constantly told that...

- 30 – 50 percent of all marriages FAIL.
- That family means any combination of people.
- The media and TV are continually undermining marriage and the natural family, yet they are happy to normalise homosexual relationships.

### Sexuality... Intimate Relationships

- For most people over 50 this is a Black and White issue
- But evidence suggests that for young people today, even Christian young people, sex is far from being a Black and White issue
- They are told Gender is FLUID - You can be whatever 'sex' you want to be - Homosexuality is 'normal'
- 12 year old Girl told she can start 'sex change' treatment by FAMILY COURT

### What 'vision' of sex is this?

## Adolescence: Identity in Christ

### Everyone else has come out of the closet

- Same sex relationship 'rights' – 100 laws
- Civil Partnerships (ACT) & Relationship Registers
- IVF and surrogacy for single women, homosexuals and lesbians
- Anti-Homophobia 'training' - (bullying)

But the church is still there – Often it is a prayer closet

Prayer must come first, BUT there must be more. We need to ACT - Faith and Works are required.

We need uncompromising support and promotion of God's vision of sex, marriage and the family

### What 'vision' of the future world are our young people seeing?

#### Global Warming –

- DOOM and GLOOM
- Man is the cause – unless we cut the population, stop progress and plant trees WE will destroy the planet.
- Most of it is political hype! More about POWER than truth.
- “We can act together to bring down greenhouse gas emissions in order to save the planet.” Mr K Rudd
- **WE, rather than God, are in control.**

### Reclaiming our children/youth

Bible references

1 Peter 5: 8-9 - “**Be self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

Psalms 67:3 - You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on the earth  
Proverbs 29: 2 - When the [uncompromisingly] righteous are in authority the people rejoice BUT when a wicked man rules the people groan (and sigh)

Proverbs 22: 12 - Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Matthew 5: 13 - Jesus said - “You [my disciples] are the salt of the earth – the light of the world”

Titus 2: 3-5 - Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Titus 2: 15 - Encourage and rebuke with all authority

1 Timothy 4: 7 - Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

## Adolescence: Identity in Christ

### **Paul told Timothy to *Fight, Command, Guard***

I Tim 6: 11-21

**Fight** for what is right - Faith, Truth and Righteousness

**Command** / Lead / TEACH others - Take Authority over the enemy  
and

**Guard** - Uphold and Defend the Authority of Scripture and the Christian Faith

All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good men [and women] to do nothing

Edmund Burke - MP - UK

### **Praying for change (ideas)**

**Personal** – It starts with us – are our attitudes right?

**Church** – Get back to the Bible –

Especially in relation to sex, marriage and family

Heterosexual – male/female – mum/dad/children

Take responsibility to train parents how to raise a family

Educate children about their responsibilities

### **Government**

Christians in Parliament – “Righteousness exalts a nation – sin is a reproach”

### **God’s promise to all His people**

Isaiah 40: 31 - **But those who hope [Trust] in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**

**How will they know if YOU don’t tell them?**