

Seeking God in a Season of Change

2017 Men's Retreat – 14-29-yr old breakout – Dec 2

INTRODUCTION

- The changes you'll experience between 14 and 29-yr old are massive.
- At 14...
 - You're deciding between professional baseball and football—or soccer! (year later it was music!)
 - You're trying to figure out whether to choose between Hulk and Superman—or Rocky or Luke Skywalker for me!
 - Maybe you're thinking about girls but maybe not.
- At 29...
 - You have a career...or at least a job—at 29 I started with SGC
 - You think about girls and might even be married
 - You're not a child and might even have children—I had #2.
 - All college and almost all pro athletes are younger than you—and you realize you *never had a chance*.

This message look at 5 key areas of this change...

I. Faith

- During this period of your life you go from the faith of your parents to making it your own.
- Starts with you!

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

- The key: *Own it in each season of transition—high school, post-high school, career/job, marriage, children.*

- One thing that might help is to see that FAITH IS NOT JUST A PIECE OF YOUR LIFE.
- Not just what you do on Sunday morning or 15 minutes of reading your Bible a day.
- FAITH IS HOW YOU SEE AND DO EVERYTHING.
- To be a Christian is to be part of a REVOLUTION...a radical worldview...it's an invitation to a PURPOSE IN LIFE that will energize, transform, focus you on things that matter.
- Faith is what gives you PURPOSE...COMFORT...GUIDANCE...
- It's also what TELLS YOU WHAT KIND OF STUDENT...ATHLETE...EMPLOYEE...GOVT...HOW TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT...CHOOSE SPOUSE...PARENT...EVERYTHING!
- One small example—1 Timothy 4:12...

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim 4:12)

II. Purity

- 14→29 go fr occasional thought re girls to real battles with purity to (possible) marriage.
- One thing to remember is that this will be a real battle...till you die.
- Your standards must be different from the world's (e.g., Kevin Deyoung and *Game of Thrones*).
- You need to develop real accountability.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (Matt 5:30)

III. Calling and Vocation

- From 14 to 29 you'll go from school to a career—or at least a job!
- The key is to think in terms of your calling (vocation) and not simply your career—or 'just a job.'

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Col 3:22-24)

IV. The Church

- From 14 to 29 you go from attending your parents' church to making it your own.
- The key is to invest yourself in the church in whatever season you're in.
- Passages like Romans 12:3-8 are not given only to older adults:

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom 12:3-8)

V. Wisdom

- Between 14 and 29 you'll make (perhaps) the most important decisions of your entire life: to be a Christian, your post-high school life, your career direction, your spouse...

- The key is to *know that you need wisdom and to seek after it!*
- Be a Proverbs 2 treasure-seeker—"seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures..." (v. 4)

CONCLUSION

- Pick one area to pray about, read about, think about, talk about...
- Pray for each other to grow in that area...