

SIX QUESTIONS OF LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

By Keith Greer

What kind of son or daughter shall I be? The world says, "You are only young once, so enjoy it in every way you can." This is easy for most young people to accept because they want freedom from restraint. However, the Bible says "Remember now thy Creator in the days of your youth" {Ecclesiastes 12:1} Young people need to obey (Ephesians 6:1-3), and have due consideration for, their parents (Proverbs 10:1; 17:20,25). Parents are not as some think just old fogies trying to keep their children from enjoying life. They are mature people who have experienced many of life's problems. Wise young people will heed their advice. (Proverbs 13:1)

What Kind of character shall I develop? "A good name is better than precious ointment." {Ecclesiastes 7:1} "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor than silver and gold." {Proverbs 22:1} It takes no planting, watering, or cultivating to grow weeds; nor does it take effort to develop worthless character. Developing noble character requires careful attention and diligent effort. Young person, strive to build a good reputation by being pure and godly and by being an example to the believers. {1 Timothy 4:12}

With Whom Shall I Choose to Associate? "Be not deceived: Evil companions corrupt good morals." {1 Corinthians 15:33} The counterpart of this is also true. Good companionships promote good morals. Young people should avoid the crowd that drinks, dances, tells dirty stories, uses curse words, and laughs at people who attend worship services.

What will be my Life's Occupation? Much depends on the answer to this question. In far too many instances, we place too much emphasis on money. One must be careful to choose an occupation that is honorable and legitimate. Dishonest gain and get-rich-quick schemes should be avoided. This may mean a smaller income; however, "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." {Proverbs 15:16} Also, "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right." {Proverbs 16:8}

Whom Shall I Marry? If there is ever a place for clear minds and true ideals, it is in marriage. God's laws must be understood and heeded (Matthew 5:32; 19:1-9). Marriage is a lifetime commitment (Romans 7:2,3; 1 Corinthians 7:39). The best advice I can give young people is to choose a mate who is a Christian. Marry someone who will encourage you in the way of salvation. If you are unable to convert that boy or girl before marriage, you probably never will; and problems only multiply when children come along.

What Shall I do with My Life in relation to God? If you have not obeyed the gospel, you should answer, "Shall I become a Christian?" Jesus said, "Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed" {Luke 9:26} If you are already a Christian, you should answer, "Shall I remain faithful?" "He that endures unto the end, the same shall be saved." {Matthew 24:12,13} ***

These six questions deserve the serious consideration of every young person who reads this article. These questions merit sober meditation and truthful answers. Many have asked me about the fifth question, concerning marriage. I've been asked if it is a sin to marry a non-Christian. 1 Corinthians 7 gives the answer clearly, and that answer is "no." However, my better judgment tells me that one who is making such a decision should consider it prayerfully. Please think with me: "how can I live with and love someone here on earth, knowing that if that person remains in his/her current spiritual state, we will spend eternity in entirely different places? How difficult will it be to live together knowing that, after death, you'll be taking different paths-