

THE 'WHY?' OF YOUTH MINISTRY

[Is youth ministry legitimate & Biblical?]

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I. SOME QUESTION IF YOUTH MINISTRY IS BIBLICAL

1. Do you believe this child is a possession of God entrusted to your care?
2. In this light, do you promise to provide for his/her temporal well-being, **to teach** him/her to love God and His Word, the Bible, and **to provide** him/her with a **God-centered education**?
3. Do you promise **to teach** him/her of his/her sinful nature, of the plan of salvation which centers in Jesus Christ, and his/her own personal need of a relationship with Christ?
4. To the end that he/she may grow in the Christian life, do you promise to pray for him/her, and **to train** him/her to read the Bible, to pray, to keep the Lord's Day and to understand the nature of the Church, the value of its worship and fellowship, and his/her need to seek communicant membership in the church?

A TROUBLED ARGUMENT

THE WARRANT FOR THE CHURCH TO TEACH ITS CHILDREN

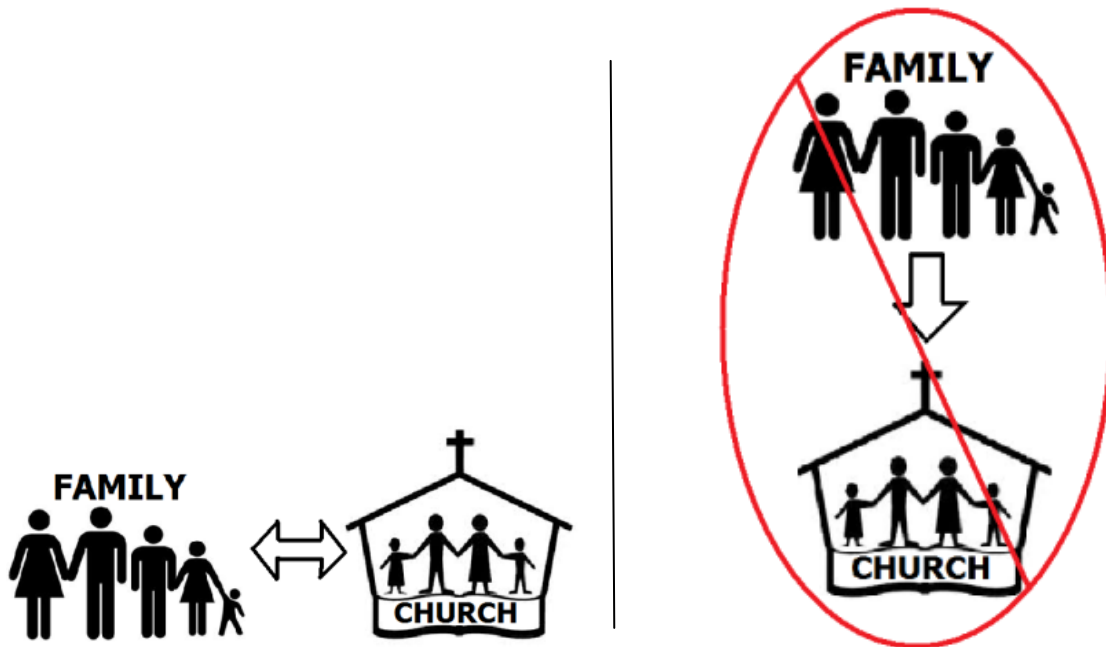
Examples: (not exhaustive)

- Titus 2:3-5
- Psalms 78:5-6
- 1 Sam. 12:23
- 1 Timothy 3:2
- Ephesians 4:11-12
- Romans 15:14

THE MATTER OF RESPONSIBILITY

Illustration: migrant workers picking beans...

At the heart of the critique of youth ministry is a faulty ecclesiology!



II. OTHERS THINK LITTLE OF YOUTH MINISTRY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE BULK OF OUR EFFORTS & RESOURCES SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON ADULTS.

1. Despising young people in their youth.

- 1 Tim. 4:12 –
- 1 Samuel 17:42

2. Believing (even unintentionally) that church is really *for/made up of* adults.

RP Testimony [c. 28 p. 5] –

- Psalm 103:5
- Psalm 110:3

THE KING'S ARMY IS MADE UP (at least in part) OF YOUTH!

- Psalm 71:5-6
- Psalm 144:12
- Eccl. 12:1

Youth Ministry takes advantage of a critical window of opportunity! Some statistics say that over 85% of the decisions to follow Christ happen before the age of 18 ... It is a ripe mission field.