

Taking Time to Care

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The body of Christ has many members, each with a specific purpose. We read of this in [Romans 12:4ff](#), “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith...” There are certain times in our lives when we have more opportunities to serve the body of Christ. When we were children, we were very important to the church, but we were not yet capable of doing large tasks on behalf of the church. Now that we are teenagers, however, we have a special calling in the church—a calling that many of us fail to see.

This calling for young people in the church involves many things, some of which are more obvious than others. Almost everyone agrees that all young people should be involved in society and fundraising for the conventions. This requires more than just showing up for society; we should come prepared and ready to participate. We should be willing to help with the fundraising too, and not come up with the usual excuse, “Sorry, I have to work.” Is that what we say when someone offers us a free ticket to a Red Wings game the same night we are supposed to work? I know I would probably do anything to get out of working so I could go to the game. We should give this amount of effort towards young people’s activities too.

There are other callings for young people besides society. [II Peter 1:7, 8](#) shows that part of being a godly person is helping out other Christians: “And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” Young people should be concerned for the elderly in the church, taking the time to visit them or send a card. Also, some things can be done even closer to home. Helping our family members is a calling many young people forget about. We tend to think that this is the fun time in our life, and we neglect our responsibilities at home.

Our calling as young people is special because we are at an age in which we have fewer responsibilities than adults. Homework, sports, and jobs do not take up *all* of our time. This is proven by the many students who go to basketball games, the mall, and friends’ houses on the weekends and even on school nights. We find it so easy to make time for the things that we want to do. We need to try harder at making time for the church. As teenagers we are at a time in our life when we have so much energy. Much of this energy should be geared toward the work of Christ in the body of believers.

Many of us might be thinking, *I really do not have the time or energy, and I’m tired all the time. When I have some spare time, I would rather sleep or something.* This might be true, but we need to ask ourselves, why are we tired? Is it because we stayed up late with our friends on the weekend, or did not get to bed on time because we were on the Internet or watching television? We as Christians are blessed with many precious gifts, and one of these gifts is time. We need to use it wisely. What about Sunday afternoon? Do we really need to take a nap? We find it so easy to make time for ourselves; we need to stop making excuses and start making time for others.

There are so many areas in which we can aid fellow believers. We can help out at school, church, home, or many other places. Our calling is not limited to just the people at our specific church; it involves the whole body of Christ! [Romans 12:13](#) states, “Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” So we need to take the time to help our mothers set the table, teach a fellow classmate how to do a difficult math problem, and spend a few hours playing with younger siblings.

The key to our calling is taking the time to be with the people of God and to be aware of their needs. This does not mean that we cannot spend any time with friends.

After all, good, Christian friends are part of the body of Christ too! It is important to do things with people of our same age group, but we need to be careful not to do things that are a detriment to the church. Watching a movie or drinking alcohol are not good ways to fellowship with our friends. These are hindrances to the church, not aids. Instead, we need to talk to our friends or play card games with them. We should not just sit around looking for trouble, because that is when young people easily fall into sin that they will later regret. We should surround ourselves with strong Christians who will keep us on the right track and help us in our calling in the church.

Sure, it is not easy to make time for the church, but it is the right thing to do.

Because God’s kingdom is not of this world, we should spend the majority of our lives serving Him and His people. So much of our time is wasted on the things of our earthly, temporary home. We must strive to be busy, laying up treasures in heaven where they will last for an eternity.

In order to fulfill these spiritual goals we must depend on each other. The Bible shows this in [Isaiah 41:6](#), “They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.” The young person’s calling will only be successful if there is a love for God and a passion to be an active member in His church. We are unique young people, set apart from the world, and by our calling one should be able to see our love for God and His people.

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