



THE CHURCH CONNECTS CHILDREN WITH CHRIST-FOLLOWING ADULTS

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Young people do not grow and develop in isolation. They need to know whose they are, from whence they have come, and why they are here. Caring parents, grandparents and older adults are in the best position to answer these questions for children. And in doing so, the elders of the community impart knowledge and wisdom to the young. This sharing of information is a way to nurture and protect our children as it empowers them to make sense of the past, to make wise decisions in the present, and to cultivate a vision for the future.

There are several biblical reasons why the Church, even a nation, cannot move forward unless we connect our children and young people to their identity, potential, and vision (through relationships in the community of believers):

- It is the pedagogical method designed by God. The responsibility of elders and parents is to teach the children the way of God. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "Impress them (God's laws) upon your children."
- It is the only way to ensure that the knowledge that leads to long life, and peace and prosperity in a nation is passed to each generation. "These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, ad so that you may enjoy log life" Deuteronomy 6:1, 2.
- God uses children and young people in His redemption plan. Throughout the Bible we see God using children--
 - Joseph, the slave boy became prime minister (Genesis 41:41-46).
 - Samuel, the altar boy became God's prophet (I Samuel 3:10-21).
 - David, the shepherd boy became king (1 Samuel 16).
 - Esther, the teenage queen risked her safe position to save her people (The book of Esther)
 - Josiah, the boy king renewed his nation's covenant with God and ushered in a revival in his country (I Kings 13-23).
 - Timothy was saved as a child and served as a pastor in the early church (I Timothy 1:18).

God continues to use children today in their schools, homes, communities, and nations to testify of His salvation and to accomplish His purposes.

To connect the generations, then, is to give our children a framework in which to grow up. When we connect the generations, we make our future secure.

- We give our children roots and a sense of belonging.
- We help our children establish their familial, spiritual and cultural identities.
- We transfer to our children the values that will shape their lives and our future.
- We enable our children to discover their potential and purpose.
- We give our youth a vision for their lives.
- We establish a bulwark generation *in the present* to counteract the work of the devil *in the future*.