



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

All in this together: Church of today

It bothers me when people say that teenagers are the hope of the future. And, it bothers me when Christians say that teenagers are the church of the future.

Yeah, it's true. You definitely will have an impact in the world and in the church in the future. But I think that line of thinking shortchanges your abilities. Paul was speaking to a young man named Timothy and he urged him, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example!"

God sees you as a leader right now. When it comes to making a difference, age is just a number! Jesus didn't just save you from something (your sin). He saved you for something (spreading God's love to others)! You are the church of today! You can set an example for others to follow—even your own family.

God created families to be mini churches—places where parents and children would learn his Word and put it into practice. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

You can influence your family by simply talking about God with them. Your family needs to be reminded daily about God's promises and commandments. You can be that reminder! Start a conversation today with your parents or siblings about God. You may be surprised how much you both will enjoy it.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your Word. You show me my sin and my Savior. Help me put your Word on my heart. Help me talk about you with my family. Thank you for making me part of the church of today. Help me influence others for you. Amen.