

What Today's Youth Needs

In the old testament story of Cain, as he and Abel are in the field together, being jealous of God's acceptance of Abel, he rises up against Abel and kills him. Here are the three traits leading to the total renunciation of all affection to God and man.

I greatly fear the youth of today are all too often like Cain, self-willed, prideful, and jealous. This causes the question to be asked, "what does today's youth need?" The question is by no means unanswerable, but it is a question for which the answer depends greatly on each young person. The answer requires the change from the above mentioned traits to another three traits in man's character.

God-willed. The young person must desire to see God's will over his own self-will, as was demonstrated by Abel when he offered the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. Man must possess this attitude of doing as God wills before he can begin to be acceptable in God's sight. The necessity of doing God's will is further illustrated for us in . Angry and suffering from thirst, the children of Israel come to Moses asking why they were brought into the wilderness to die. The Lord tells Moses to speak to the rock and water will come forth, but Moses gathers the congregation and strikes the rock with his rod. Because Moses elected to do his will over the will of God, he was not allowed to enter the land of inheritance. It is imperative that God's will be done or there will be no acceptance into the Heavenly home that God has promised unto those that keep His commandments.

Humility. In Proverbs we are told that "before honour is humility," and Matthew records of man, "he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Whereas Cain was prideful, our young should strive to be humble and to put off pride and vanity. It is a far better life to lower ourselves before God and be exalted in the final hour than to be prideful and haughty only to be made abased as we stand before God. To be prideful is to be self-willed, but to be humble is to seek God's will and after all, it is for doing His will that He will reward the faithful one day.

Love. Finally, we notice that the character of Cain was to be jealous, where the young today need to display the character of love. John tells us in the first epistle of John that God is love and that if a man does not love, he knows not God. It was because of this infinite love for man that God allowed His son to suffer and die on the cross. Our youth today needs to be constantly aware of this love that God and Christ have exhibited and in turn strive to perfect their love toward man and God.

By burying self-will, pride, and jealousy and replacing them with the implanting of God's will, humility, and love in the heart, the youth of today will have what they most need. They will have a firm foundation from which they can begin to serve the kingdom of God and further the borders of His kingdom, one day to receive their inheritance in heaven.

Lawrence Kelley