

THE PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Elder Frank Bondurant -
Columbia Union



The Leaning tower of Pisa

- Bell Tower of the Pisa cathedral in Pisa, Italy
- 179 ft tower moves about 1/20 of an inch each year
- 'Pisa' means marshy ground





What foundation is your
ministry built on?

- FADS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- POPULAR YOUTH CULTURE
- PARENTAL PRESSURE
- CHURCH GROWTH TRENDS
- PASTORAL EXPECTATIONS



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE AS OUR FOUNDATION FOR MINISTRY


- PSALM 127:1

‘Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.’
NLT

- Matthew 7:24-27

‘Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.’ NLT

- 1 Corinthians 3:11 ‘For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ’



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FOUNDATIONS



A Sure Foundation

Youth ministry without a Biblical foundation is suspect. For it to be legitimate and credible it must have deep roots in the word of God.

Advantages of a Biblical Foundation in Ministry

01

‘True North’
keeps us
heading in the
right direction

02

Prevents us
from being
distracted by
fads, trends,
youth culture

03


We have a
standard by
which to
evaluate our
ministries

Philosophy = the study of knowledge or truth

Theology = The study of God

The study of what we know about Youth and
Young Adult Ministries

The study of what God says about Youth and
Young Adult Ministries



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM
THESE SCRIPTURES ABOUT
HOW GOD VIEWS
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS AND
MINISTRY TO THEM?

What Does God Say about Youth Ministry?

And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NLT

What Does
God Say
about Youth
Ministry?

Let each generation tell its children of
your mighty acts; let them proclaim
your power

Psalm 145:4

What Does God Say about Youth Ministry?

Then, after doing all those things,
I will pour out my Spirit upon all
people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your old men will dream dreams,
and your young men will see visions.

29 In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on servants—men and women
alike

Joel 2:28,29

What Does God Say about Youth Ministry?

‘But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea’

Matthew 18:6 NLT

What Does God Say about Youth Ministry?

‘Then Jesus Called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children”

Luke 18:16 NLT

What Does God Say about Youth Ministry?

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

Ministry Principles from these verses

We must teach and pass on our faith to the generations that follow us

We are to be intentional in discipling our children, teens, and young adults

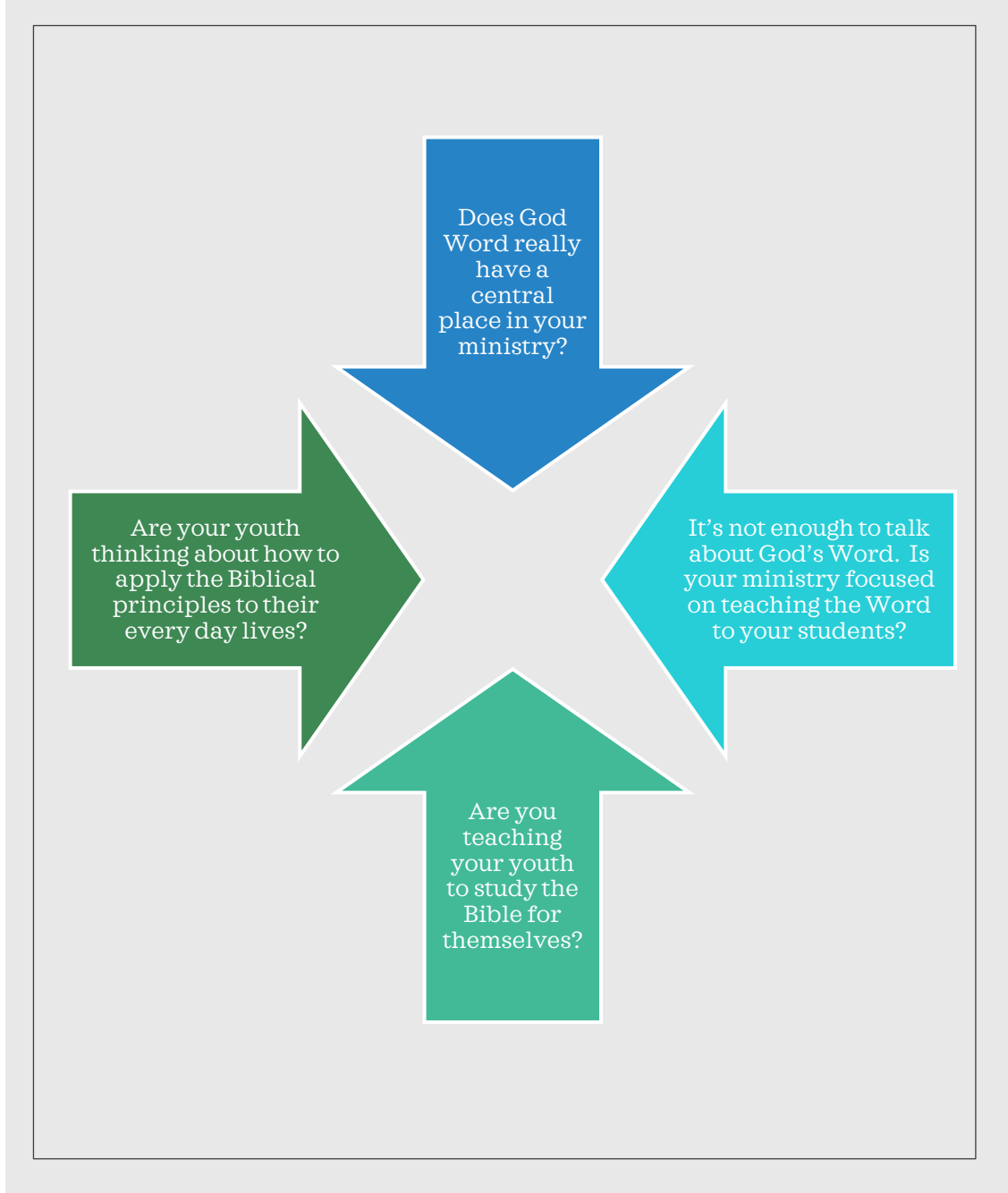
God regards Youth and Young Adults as equally valuable and worthy as older generations

God gives them His Holy Spirit and equips them with Spiritual gifts

God calls the young into His service



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Does God Word really have a central place in your ministry?

Are your youth thinking about how to apply the Biblical principles to their every day lives?

It's not enough to talk about God's Word. Is your ministry focused on teaching the Word to your students?

Are you teaching your youth to study the Bible for themselves?

Creating a Biblical Model for your Ministry

‘You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up His divine principles, He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.’

Philippians 2:5-8



WHAT ADJECTIVES CAN WE
WITHDRAW FROM THIS
VERSE THAT DESCRIBES A
BIBLICAL MINISTRY?

Creating a Biblical Model for your Ministry

‘But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.’ 2 Timothy 3:14-17



WHAT PRIORITIES CAN WE
WITHDRAW FROM THIS
VERSE THAT DESCRIBES A
BIBLICAL MINISTRY?

Biblical Priorities for Youth Ministry

Build	Build trusting and lasting relationships with youth
Mentor	Mentor them
Lead	Lead them to a saving relationship with Jesus
Instruct	Instruct them in doctrine (disciple)
Equip	Equip them for every good work
Engage	Engage them in the mission, message, and ministry of the church