The Church of Right Now

Terry Francis · Matthew 18:1–6 · Series: **A Faith of Your Own**

INTRODUCTION

- The young Christians are not the church of tomorrow.
- Young people have the same faith we do. And that's why they're the part of the church of today.
- The church of tomorrow concept produces a lower class of Christian.

1 Leadership Must Feed, Protect, and Train

1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 10:24

- There's a responsibility on leadership within the church to ensure that every member of the flock is fed and protected and trained. And that includes our young people.
- Create an environment where the youth aren't despised.
- While they're the part of the church today, they are the leaders of tomorrow. And we have a responsibility to train them in leadership.
- Older members need to realize that we can connect to the younger members. We need to seek relationships with them.
- It is our job in Hebrews 10 24 for all of us to consider how we can stir one another up to love and good works.

2 Be Obedient to the Gospel

- The first thing that they need to do is they need to be obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Good kids don't go to heaven. Christians do.
- As many of you have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. That's how you become a Christian.

3 Submit to the Leadership of the Church

Hebrews 13:17

- Sometimes the greatest challenge for young people is submission.
- Obey your leaders and submit to them for their keeping watch over your souls, as those who will give an account.
- Sometimes the reason you submit is because the one in authority over you has said so. And God says that's your responsibility.
- That takes humility, by the way. Be humble. And submit to leadership.

4 Be an Example

1 Timothy 4:12

- Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct and love and faith in purity.

- Be the person you're supposed to be. Be an example. Be a disciple.
- Don't play church, young people. Don't be hypocritical.
- People find out when you don't live the life you're supposed to live.

5 Spend Time With Other Christians

1 Corinthians 15:33

- My closest companions on earth ought to be people that believe the same way I do.
- Do not be deceived. Bad company ruins good morals.
- If you hang around the wrong crowds long enough, you're going to do what they do.
- Young people, don't hang around the wrong crowd. Spend time with the right crowd.

6 Grow Where You Are

Philippians 4:11

- What I mean by grow, young people, is you grow where you are, not where you want to be.
- Philippians 4.11 tells us to be content in whatever state we're in.
- Right now is when they need to be growing. So that when the time comes that we need them as teachers, they have the knowledge and wisdom and ability to teach.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You are the church of right now. And there's a lot of things you can do. But be content where you're at and grow.**

MY NOTES