



Lack Of Self-Control Leads To Destruction

MAIN THING

Immaturity Says, 'Do What Feels Good;' Maturity says, 'Do What Honors God'

SCRIPTURE

Judges 13:1-5, 1 Corinthians 13:11, Acts 20:4, Philippians 3:19, John 10:11-15, 1 Timothy 5:8, Philippians 4:9

ICEBREAKER

I knew I had passed from childhood to adulthood when

OPENING THOUGHT

The story of Samson is one of the most tragic in the Bible. He had unlimited power and strength, yet without self-control, he was easily defeated. His inability to delay gratification and his penchant for going with impulses, especially with the opposite sex, led to ruin and disaster. We contrast Samson with Jesus who, having even more power and strength than Samson, kept that power under control and accomplished what God had for Him to do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. Our society seems resistant to moving into adulthood. Why, in your own opinion, do you think people are wanting to stay in childhood/adolescence as long as possible and delay adulthood as long as humanly possible? What things about adulthood are people not wanting to engage in?
3. The sermon identified five changes that need to take place from childhood to adulthood: 1) Follow through on commitments, 2) Delay gratification, 3) Sacrifice for a greater purpose, 4) Ability to provide, and 5) Reproduce your character in others. Which of these is the easiest or most natural for you? Which is the most difficult?

LIFE APPLICATION

"Children do what feels good. Adults devise a plan and stick to it." This statement is very true. Our culture constantly tells us to "go with our heart," "be happy," "do what makes you feel good." None of those statements are Biblical or even wise. Instead, the Christian is called to do what honors God. God desires us to reach full maturity in life and faith so that we can be productive in His kingdom. Jesus Himself was our example- He did all five things listed above. If any one of those five things is missing from your life, you are missing out on something that God has for you.

CHALLENGE

The fifth change, "Ability to Reproduce Your Character In Others" is one that is sorely lacking in the church right now. We have very few people who are intentional about making disciples. This week, will you begin praying about who you will disciple? There is someone, most likely in our church family, who needs to grow and needs a mentor like you who will pass on their faith, their wisdom, and their understanding of God. The challenge is this- begin to make disciples as Jesus commanded us to do in Matthew 28:18-20. You aren't a disciple until you can make a disciple. Start this week.