



Being a Christian Student in a Christian School

Have you considered that to be a Christian student means you are called to be a Christlike young person? And being in a Christian school means that in God's providence you have the responsibility to learn to walk as the Lord Jesus walked (1 John 2:6)? Being called a Christian, and being part of a Christian school community, you have a great opportunity to seek after true spiritual knowledge and holiness (2 Tim. 2:19). You have been separated from the world to live unto God by faith in Christ – to walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit in all fruitfulness (Gal. 5:16, 25; Col. 1:10). The Lord is calling you to walk with Him already in your teen years (James 4:8; Eccl. 12:1). Do not settle for making an outwardly religious appearance by attending a Christian school while your heart and mind is in the world.

Some young people will try to convince you through peer pressure to join in their sinful worldly talk and activities (1 Peter 4:4). They may make fun of you, exclude you, and bully you in various ways. This is not surprising as God's Word promises that *"...all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (2 Tim. 3:12). Your good conduct keeps their conscience active (Rom. 12:20). The Lord can use your witness to restrain them from certain sins, and He can even use it for their conversion as He did when He changed Saul the persecutor of God's children to Paul the Apostle and minister of the Gospel (Acts 9:1-5). The godly conduct, conversation and faith of Stephen, and the others whom Saul persecuted, later struck at his conscience. Like Elijah, you will become discouraged if you mistakenly think you are the only one serving the Lord (1 Kings 19:13-18). Elijah could not know how many other believers there were because only the Lord can see the hearts (1 Sam. 16:7). Seek the favour of God in Christ Jesus and to be known as *"the Friend of God,"* like Abraham (James 2:23; Luke 12:4; John 15:12-15).

The Holy Spirit can also use your chaste conversation to influence your peer group for the better, even for the eternal welfare of some (1 Peter 3:2). The Lord uses His children in the same way that salt preserves food from going bad. True Christians are called by their Lord to be a salt and a light,

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

(Matt. 5:11-16)

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

(1 Tim. 4:12)

As you delight yourself in the Lord, He will bless you with peace of mind, joy in the Lord, and increasing assurance of faith (Neh. 8:10; 2 Peter 1:2-11).

Isaac, Joseph, Samuel, David and Daniel are wonderful Scriptural examples of believers whose youth was particularly blessed with faith and godliness. Read the Bible accounts of their lives for instruction and encouragement for your walk. What is the key to growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord? In Psalm 119:9-11 David exclaims,

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy word. With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

Be much in prayerful Bible reading. Avoid worldly music (1 John 2:15), but *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Col. 3:16). Do good unto all, but especially those who love the Lord (Gal. 6:9, 10). Visit the elderly, shovel a driveway, or help at a street mission. Let your mind be occupied with the things approved by God's Word (Phil. 1:9-11 and 4:8).

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(2 Peter 1:8)

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