

We commend Brother Jerry Anderson for an outstanding lesson last Sunday, directed primarily to our youth. We deem it fitting to follow this up with a fine article by Brother J. Walker Whittle penned some 17 years ago. Indeed we think our teenagers here at West Side fall into the "Ideal" category.

The Ideal Teenager

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity.” (I Timothy 4:12).

From this admonition of Paul to young Timothy, the image of the ideal teenager emerges. There may be doubt in the mind of some that teenagers have any concept of the ideal. Suspecting this, I determined to find out from the teens themselves what characteristics would constitute the ideal. In vacation Bible schools and youth classes during gospel meetings in Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee this past summer, I asked teenagers to tell me what the ideal would be like. May I share with you the 22 positive characteristics suggested and recommend them to all teenagers.

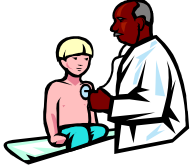
The characteristics have been divided into four categories. The first category consist of 7 characteristics relating to ideal daily living. They are *considerate* (Ps. 25:18; Prov. 6:6ff); *courteous*, meaning polite and good manners (Phil. 1:27; I Pet. 2:11,12); *thoughtful* (Ps. 8:4; 115:12; I Tim. 1:4; Eccl. 12:1); *friendly*, pleasant, cordial, and genial (Prov. 18:24); *kind* (Eph. 4:32); *happy* (Prov. 17:22; 3:13; 14:21; 16:20) and *helpful* useful and needed (Col. 3:23, 24; Eccl. 9:10).

The second category considers the outward appearance and the fewest characteristics were listed. To be *healthy*, *clean* and *neat* seems most important (I Cor. 3:16,17, 6:19,20; Prov. 18:20; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 9:14; I Tim 2:9; I Pet 3:3, 4). Teenager know the value of *good health* (I Cor. 3:16,17). *Cleanliness* is a desirable virtue (Prov. 18:20; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 9:14) and *neatness* was stressed (I Tim. 2:9; I Pet 3:3,4).

The third category has to do with inward virtues which are so important in facing the responsibilities of life. These teenagers emphasized the significance of being *respectful* (I Tim 5:1; James 4:7; I Pet 2:13-18); *obedient* (I Sam. 15:22; Col. 3:21,22; Eph. 6:1,2; Rom. 6:16-18);

- Continued

Sick Mary Anderson is at LGH, .



Betty Jenkins is at LGH,

Margie McCumbee is also at LGH,

Chyrl Pennington’s parents, Albert & Pauline, members at Rural Retreat, are both having heart problems.

Several of our members have been out with the usual seasonal ailments.

Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Steve Harrah, Ruth Boles.** _____

Happy Birthday this week to:

- Collin Gregory—4/7
- Tom Richardson—4/8
- Emily Gray—4/11
- Hazel McFalls—4/11



Happy Anniversary this week to:

- Joe & Amanda Brown—4/9
- Richard & Laura Simms—4/10



The Ideal Teenager—Continued

honest (Phil. 4:8; II Cor. 8:21; I Thess. 4:11,12); *trustworthy* (Prov. 25:19; II Cor. 8:22); *truthful* (Prov. 23:23; Acts 5:3; Col 3:9); and *industrious* (Matt. 25:14-30).

The fourth category list those characteristics which show one’s relationship to God. Consider these: *faithful* (Lk 16:10; James 2:24; Rev. 2:10); *self-controlling* (II Pet. 1:5,6; Gal. 5:22,23; Mt. 16:24,25); *generous* (Lk 6:38; II Cor. 8:3-5); *thankful* (Col. 3:15,17); *religious* (I Cor. 15:58; Mt. 11:28-30); and *loving* (I Cor. 13:2; II Pet. 1:5-7). Such characteristics would be sufficient to lead one from being a babe in Christ to that state of perfection (Heb. 6:1) which will make one a full grown man in Christ.

Being privileged to work with teenagers year after year causes me to be filled with much gratitude. This youthful generation is informed, courageous, dedicated, and spiritually inclined. The teenagers of today are looking for good examples, understanding and guidance on the part of those who are older and among their peers. Possibly this is why they turn more readily to their peers for answers. I have great faith in this generation and believe one day they will bring us much joy because of their accomplishments in our nation, state, community, and especially the church.

Did the parents of yesteryear live up to this ideal? Are parents even closely resembling it today? If the ideal is good enough for the teenagers, would it not be helpful to parents? I am convinced that a generation gap is a figment of the mind among those who are so inflexible that they refuse to respond, except to condemn.

“Aged men be temperate, grave, sober-minded, sound in faith, in love, in patience: that aged women likewise be reverent in demeanor, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good; that they may train the young women to love their children, to be sober-minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, ... the younger men likewise exhort to be sober-minded: in all things showing thyself an example of good works; in thy doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned.” (Titus 2:2-8a)

- the elders

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Jeff & Tammy Reed, Caleb, Tanner & Erika
(Address removed for privacy) See paper bulletin.

APRIL ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Instant Grits and Oatmeal (plain). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

John Duran—overseas.

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq.



April 2008

Announcements Charlie Gwaltney

Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham

Opening Prayer (AM)

4/6 Barry White

4/13 Charlie Maness

4/20 Wayne Dixon

4/27 Tom Duff

Preside at Communion Fred Altizer

Serve Table Herb Baker Jim Bush

AC Janney John Black

Closing Prayer

4/6 Jim Cooke

4/13 Jerry Anderson

4/20 Bob Garby

4/27 Bob Martin

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (PM)

4/6 Don Pettit

4/13 Danny Guard

4/20 Jeff Durham

4/27 Mike Durham

Scripture Reader Bradford Durham

Closing Prayer (PM)

4/6 Ethan Rogers

4/13 Eric Earnhart

4/20 Squeaky Valentine

4/27 Sam Valentine

Serve Table (PM)

Tom Duff Preston Duff

Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow

Prayer (Wed)

4/2 Jim Harrington

4/9 Richard Simms

4/16 Tom Rogers

4/23 Jeremy White

4/30 Glenn Hartman

Open/Close Bldg Mike Durham

Greeters Neighbors Evelyn & Gloria White

Nursery Attend

Dee House Shree Lowe

Ushers David Mc Falls Norris Gearhart

Handouts Sam & Squeaky Valentine

Mark Brooks Glenn Hartman

Alternates

Prepare communion

Judy Durham Lori Cook

Cards & Pencils

Dylan Tyler Jimmy Harrington

Last weeks attendance 3/30 & 4/2/08

Bible Class—124 Worship Service—157

Eve. Worship—119 Wed. Service—151

Contribution—\$6087

“The Sow That Was Washed”

On March 25th Frank Singleton was released from a West Palm Beach, Florida jail. He had been incarcerated on a misdemeanor trespassing charge. Within minutes, and before leaving the jailhouse parking lot, he attempted to steal a woman's car. She was still inside. So, he pushed her out of the way, grabbed her keys and proceeded to start the engine. The only problem was that he did not know how to operate a manual transmission. He couldn't flee. Police arrested him on the spot, this time on car-jacking charges- a felony. He went right back into the jail from which he had only moments before been freed.

Like Frank Singleton, many people turn right back into sinful lifestyles once they have been released from their grip. Think of the drug users who free themselves of their addictions only to turn right back to their habits again. Think of the alcohol users who finally rid their lives of its cruel hold only to be found bowing at its altar once more. The list of such actions is virtually endless. The court dockets and prison cells are filled with repeat offenders.

The apostle Peter penned these words: “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (II Pet. 2:20-22). Peter, too, spoke of “repeat offenders.” Many appropriate to themselves the grace of God through obedient faith (Eph. 2:8; Heb. 5:8, 9) and then fall right back into sin. We shake our heads at the actions of one like Frank Singleton. But then, perhaps we are at times just like him. We ask God's forgiveness for certain sins in our lives and then, before the day is over, we go right back to doing those things again. Peter's point is that if we continue in such matters after having been delivered from them, we will be worse off than if we had never been released. Frank Singleton went back to jail; this time on a greater charge with a more severe penalty- a classic illustration of “the sow that was washed.”

-Eddy