

Student Assessment of Enduring Faith Factors

Dr. Paul Kelly

In a recent preliminary study on Christian adolescents in evangelical churches, it was discovered that many are growing in a rich faith. Yet, for the Bible teacher it is also imperative to be attentive to the large minority that are not connecting to church, youth leaders, or the Word of God.

Those included in the study:

- Response from 600 youth
- 100 from California
- Church Affiliations
- SBC or Non-Denominational
- Covid-19 Kids

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Here are some critical numbers that were calculated based on these questions.

Why I attend church?

- 52% - Grow Spiritually
- 27% - Learn about Jesus
- 14% - To be with Friends

I love Jesus but don't really like church – 80 % disagree

More than 3 adults in our church are interested in me – 80% agree

More than 1 in 4 say they normally leave youth group without learning anything

My youth leaders help me feel loved and valued – 94% agree

I am part of a small group that challenges me to live for Jesus – 75% agree

I talk to my parents about spiritual issues – 65% agree

Some teens would not be welcome in my church – 37% agree

Two Youth Groups

- 75%-ers
- 25%-ers

With some of the numbers in view, what are some key factors to consider in the way we teach?

How can we effectively focus on building enduring faith?

How can we better reach those who feel unconnected to church, the youth leaders, and the Word of God?

Luke 15

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."