

## **“IT IS GOOD FOR A MAN THAT HE BEAR THE YOKE IN HIS YOUTH”**

### **Lamentations 3:27**

As the young ox has to be brought under the yoke, and as the young horse has to be accustomed to the bridle and bit, so the young person must learn the practical and valuable lesson of submission and endurance. In life the ðyokeö is to be imposed for the good of man. It is good for young people to learn to bear this yoke in youth. One of the problems of this generation is that parents have not imposed the yoke upon their children. Let us study some of the ðyokesö that young people need to learn to bear.

#### **THE YOKE OF SUBJECTION TO AUTHORITY**

One who does not learn this lesson early in life will suffer for it in time to come. Young people need to learn to obey their parents (Eph. 6: 1 ö 2), it is a sin not to (Rom. 1:30); they need to obey the laws of the land (Rom. 13: 1 ö 7); and they need to learn to obey the laws of God (Eccl. 12:1). The young man or woman who does not learn to bear the yoke of subjection to authority will find life filled with unhappiness.

They will have an unhappy home life. Many women cannot bring themselves to submit to their husbands (I Pet. 3:1) because they never learned to submit to their fathers when they were at home. They are rebellious, and this brings great unhappiness and (many times) the breaking up of homes.

They will also have an unhappy spiritual life. Many cannot deny themselves and bring themselves into submission to God’s law because they never learned submission to anyone in their youth.

#### **THE YOKE OF SELF-DENIAL OR SELF-RESTRAINT**

Jesus said, ðIf any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.ö (Luke 9:23). Paul said that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts in Titus 2: 12. Youth needs to learn self-control.

Young people need to control their sexual desires. This is done by NOT petting, NOT dancing, NOT dressing immodestly, and by NOT listening to music that glamorizes fornication. Young people, keep your body in subjection, because fornication will destroy your ability for a happy marriage. Your body and mind needs the security of belonging to another for life in order for the sexual expression of love to have its full meaning and beauty (Heb. 13:4).

Learn to control your desire for material things. Jesus said, ðFor a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.ö (Luke 12:15). People who live their lives for ðthingsö have a very empty life because the acquiring of ðthingsö cannot satisfy the longings of the soul.

Learn also to control your temper and your thoughts (Prov. 4: 23). Think on good, pure things (Phil. 4:8).

## THE YOKE OF DIFFICULTY AND TOIL

It is good for us all to have to work for our bread ( 2 Thess. 3:10). God intended us for labor, not for indolence. Before the fall of man God has assigned physical work for him to do (Gen. 2:15). God did not place man in a ðsleeping hollowö to fatten in idleness, but in a large garden to dress and keep it. Young people need to learn to work while they are young, if they do not they may never be good workers. A young person who will work will always have a job.

## THE YOKE OF LIVING GODLY LIVES

Youth is to ðFleeí youthful lustsö ( II Tim. 2:22). The young are to follow righteousness, faith , love, peace, and have a pure heart. They are to be an example (I Tim. 4:12). You don't have to dance, smoke (tobacco or pot), drink, dress immodestly, or commit fornication just because you are young! In your youth is the time to start abstaining from all forms of evil (I Thess. 5:22) and to strive to live ðsoberly, righteously, and godlyí ö (Titus 2:12).

## THE YOKE OF PERSONAL SUFFERING AND AFFLICTION

Many of the most noble characters have known trouble in early life. There is a marked need in those who have never suffered. In the afflictions of youth one learns the limitations of his own power and his need for God. By the endurance of suffering and affliction, patience is worked in one's life (James 1: 2 ó 5; Rom. 5: 3 ó 4).

## THE YOKE OF SERVICE TO THE LORD

Paul said, ðí always abounding in the work of the Lordí ö (I Cor. 15: 58). This passage applies to the young as well as to the old. Young people need to be engaged in real labor for the Lord. They need to learn early in life to put the kingdom first (Matt. 6: 33). You need to learn in your youth to put the Lord and His church before your own pleasure (II Tim. 3:4). You need to be striving to convert souls to the Lord.

It is the responsibility of parents to ðput the yokeö upon their children (Eph. 6:4). Parents must insist upon conformity to good rules in the home. They must see that they bear the ðyokeö of attending Bible study, being in worship, and attending gospel meetings.

Children who do not learn to bear the yoke in youth bring sorrow and shame to their lives in their maturing years. Yes, ðIT IS GOOD FOR A MAN THAT HE BEAR THE YOKE IN HIS YOUTHö.

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