



Leading a Multi-Generational Church

What everyone needs to know about adolescent ministry.

Adolescent development has changed and has implications for ministry.

- Be willing to change your paradigm.
- Become a student of the hearts and lives of adolescents. Check out *Hurt* by Chap Clark
- Major in the things that haven't changed about effective youth ministry.
 - Real relationships between teens and adults are key to any effective youth ministry
 - Experiences outside of normal routine that allow students to see God moving in, through and around them have always been a part of effective youth ministry. ie: mission trips, adventure trips, retreats, special outings.

The do's and don'ts of isolating generations.

- Don't separate into generational (multiple) communities. - it's not biblical.
- Do create an (one) authentic Christian community that supports the unique needs of each generation.
 - Allowing autonomy and friction without abandonment. The Extended Church Family. Check out chapter 6 in *Family Based Youth Ministry* by Mark DeVries
 - It starts before adolescence.
 - The adolescent has to choose to be part of it.
 - It's got to be a value of the the whole church.
 - It starts with the Senior Pastor.
 - A place to belong and develop. You have the power to invite and include.
 - Develop a culture where teens and adults interact and develop relationships with each other.
 - Find natural ways to put adults and teens alongside each other in ministry.
 - Understand the nature of working with teens and call them to become adults.

The Youthworker your church needs

- Is an advocate to the church on behalf of youth
- Has the desire and ability to listen without having an agenda.
- Has the confidence and maturity to be an adult among teens.
- A solid scripture based faith and life (not to be confused with being perfect, scholarly or religious)
- Has the ability to play.
- Is described by those who know them as full of life.

Check out *Contemplative Youth Ministry* by Mark Yaconelli

