

Three Stages Of Life

Each stage of life has its special faults.

The dangers that threatens life do not remain constant.

The temptations which come to us do not remain the same.

The fault of youth is to be in too big a hurry –

The consequence of this haste is that youth finds it very difficult to take the long view of things.

Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14 [New King James] *“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” ... “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

Although I have a good relationship with all of my grandchildren, whenever my faith becomes a subject of conversation, they all feel they are too young to consider such things as sin, death and life after death.

In spite of my first grandchild dying at the age of 18 years.

“Granddad,” they say, “we need you around for many years to come to help and encourage us,” and I’m blessed to see them all far more often than most grandparents.

Inevitably youth is a time when feelings are intense and when passions run high.

Youth is a time when the moment can be precious, and when next year can seem a very long way away.

Therefore youth is apt to live for the moment and to clutch at every moment.

Youth needs to learn to wait.

Youth needs to learn to look ahead.

Things can look very different when we take a long view of them, and the long view is always the best.

The Christian view is the longest of all, for it sees everything in relation to eternity.

The fault of middle-age is likely to be over-cautious –

The trouble is that by middle-age, people have achieved certain standards of living which they would hate to lose.

People will therefore consent to do or to tolerate things because it is too dangerous to resist them.

The tendency of middle-age is to set security in the highest place.

Many people in middle-age jog along as they always have, simply because they feel the “*devil they know is a lot better than a devil they don’t know.*”

The middle-age person is afraid to change, they feel they cannot afford the risk of being adventurous.

They feel it is much safer to be a conformist than a non-conformist.

They feel that they are much more likely to keep their place in society and their job if they accept things than if they protest against things.

The danger of middle-age is that we may well, in our desire for security, lose life with a capital ‘L’.

The fault of age is that it has come to a stage when it prefers things as they are –

Age is a little tired and maybe a little disillusioned.

It is sadly true that the only lesson a great many people have drawn from life is that there are a great many things that cannot be done, and which are not worth trying.

Often age is critical of youth for no other reason than age wants to be left alone, because it does not want to be disturbed.

This is sad because in the Creator God’s eyes children are our reward and heritage, [Psalms 127:3].

Proverbs 17:6 [New King James] “*Children’s children are the crown of old men,*”

In my life this is very true, the days that any of my grandchildren visit are “*high*” days.

When we are aware of the dangers that each age of our life has we do well to be renewed by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 [New King James] “*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

In every age of our lives we need to be looking beyond this life to a future life for which we are now being prepared by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Only then can the faults of each age be overcome.

Just one more thing –

A person will never grow old so long as they continue to wonder at the greatness of God’s creation, both His physical creation we see all around us and His spiritual creation as we see lives changed for the better.

However long such a person lives, life will always be new to them.

To stop learning is the surest way to become old.

This is why some people are old, tired and weary long before they are sixty, and other people are still fresh, vivid and vital of mind if not body long past the three score years and ten, [**Psalms 90:10**].