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# 1. 2015

## 1.1 October

### Lack of young adults practicing religion (2015-10-06 23:20)

In the past few decades, the church has seen a major decline in young adults practicing religion. There are many reasons as to why this is happening. When kids are young, they go to church with their parents mostly because they are forced to. When children are forced to go to church, they will be less likely to go on their own when they go to off to college and grow to be a young adult. Children are usually bored when they are at church because they do not understand what is going on. That usually continues when they get older too. The more they understand, the more they will participate in practicing their religion. The big problem of young adults not practicing religion is, when they grow up there will be no one in the church. If this pattern continues, churches are faced with a major problem. If you look around your church today, you will mostly see older people. Without young adults starting to go and practice, the church faces a scary future.

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jlcrow (2015-10-09 13:43:38)

Conner, great to see you have your first post up. You bring up a really interesting issue, the way older teens and young adults cease going to church, in general after growing up in a family that goes to church. Studies find, however, that when these young adults, begin having families, they often return to church, or at least that has been the trend in the past. However, more recently, fewer of these young adults find their ways back into the pews when start a family. Perhaps as you continue to explore this topic, you can touch on the factors that encourage or discourage young adults with families from going to church. The reason it is important is that as generations unfold, if fewer parents take their kids to church, then when those kids grow up and have families of their own, they don't go to church either, perpetuating the cycle. So understanding why that break happens at the beginning of new families is important to understand the cycle., Does that make sense?

connerhourigan (2015-10-09 19:23:59)

Yes, I will be looking into that and it will be in my next post.

John Crow (2015-10-12 10:55:13)

I look forward to your next post!

### The struggle (2015-10-14 00:01)

Many children grow up and attend church with their parents. Most children do not like going but they are dragged by their parents. As time goes on, and the children get older, they have even less motivation to attend church. There are many factors as to why they stop attending church when they get older. The most interesting reason I found is because they do not know or understand what is going on. It's like going to a class and not knowing what the teacher is talking about, you get very bored and confused. Well, in the church, if you do not understand the readings or teachings, it can also be very confusing and it can prevent young adults from going. Another reason why they may not want to go is, they have the option. As a child, they are forced to go with their parents, they get a bad taste in their mouth about it and they have no motivation to go when they have the choice. However, there are very few that continue to go back to the church as a young adult. That is great, they usually return because they enjoy it or they feel it is the right thing to do. Another reason why they may return to the church is because they have children of their own and want to set a good example. As time goes on, the church needs these young adults to keep coming back. If they do

not come back, that church or religion has the chance of slowly dying off. However, if young adults return, then the church would have a nice young of youth to adulthood in the church and remain stable.

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### **Causes of the lack of young adults in church. (2015-10-20 17:34)**

A major problem the church is facing is young adults leaving the church when they grow older. As children get away from their parents, they tend to stop going to church for many reasons. One reason is they that they wanted a break from the church. As a child, their parents are waking them up early in the morning and forcing them to dress nice, to go sit down for a while, and to be present when it's something they do not care about or know about. They feel like they need a break from that and since they are on their own, they usually do not end up coming back to the church. Another reason, or excuse is work. Since they are not living under the same roof as their parents anymore, they have to work. Many young adults claim they are too busy to go to church due to work. A few people claimed they stopped going to church as they got older because they did not like their pastor. Now that they have the choice of going to church, they would rather not go and listen to someone they do not like. A reason I found interesting is, many of them are not involved in the church. They do not participate in any groups or clubs the church offers, they do not know anyone in the church. They are simply bored and do not know what is going on. Another reason is being lazy. As young adults grow up and leave home, they would much rather stay in bed on sundays, sleep in, and watch football. It is a major problem today. We can not over look this problem that is occurring in the church. Next week I will be blogging about the effects of this major problem.

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### **The Impact of the Lack of young Adults in Church (2015-10-27 17:47)**

In the past few decades, the lack of young adults practicing religion has become a major problem. It seems, when children grow up and live on their own, they no longer feel the need to attend church. Many people may think this is no big deal. But, the effects of this can be huge. Regular attendance in church can lead to healthy lives, strong marriages, and well behaved children. If young adults stop going to church and do not come back, the results are terrible. If you look around you church, I can promise that the majority of people will be fifty years old or more. If young adults to not come back to the church when they have a family, then the church could soon die out. There needs to be a consistent cycle of bringing your children to church when you have a family. The church may be able to get by with have young adults not attend for years. Bit, they need to return when they have a family. If they do not return, they their kids will not go and that religion could slowly die off. Not to mention, studies show that the lack of practicing religion leads to an unhealthy family, domestic violence, and divorce. All of those are good reason asa to why you should go to church. So the bottom line is, you need to return to the church when you have kids, so the kids will do the same when they get older. If the trend gets worse and children to do return to the church, that religion faces problems that may close the church.

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## **1.2 November**

### **Church explanation (2015-11-03 15:27)**

On Monday, November 2nd, I had the opportunity to meet with someone of a church. I went to the church and met with someone in an office. The person I met with asked that I keep the church Un-identified. The person I met with was very passionate and concerned about this problem. The lack of young adults in the church is scary. When they

young adults have families and still do not return, is even more scary. If people stop coming to the church when they have kids, then the kids will not grow up with a religion or be motivated to attend church when they get older. The person I met with told me that the church committee talks about this very frequently. As of right now, they are not sure what to do when they leave. They are un-sure if they will return. The person told me that about 70 % of the church is over the age of 50. One reason she said is, since modern technology is so good today, people are so busy with watching T.V. or on their phones working, that they forget about the church. She also said many young adults do not like waking up early to go to church. Although there is multiple times to go, the majority of the times is before noon which is considered "early" to young adults. Another reason the person have me is work. Many people work on sundays. Decades ago, working on sundays was rare, not it is common. The reason why you see a lot of older people at mass is because they could be retired. Another reason as to why work is an excuse is because, people travel a lot for their job now. The person told me that years ago traveling was not as popular as it is today and that is a reason why numbers in young adults have declined. The person said another reason is because they have the option to not go. Since they are living on their own, they make their own choices and usually they choose not to go to church. These were the main reason as to why the church is seeing less young adults in church. The person says they are trying to work on things that appeal to young adults and children so they will continue to go to church.

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### **Church Visit 11/10/15 (2015-11-10 18:24)**

Today, I met with a church about five minutes away from Florida State. The church wants to be anonymous so I will leave it at that. However, the man I met with was more than happy to talk about this. He also works as an usher for the church and notices the lack of young adults. Being that the church is so close to campus. He said it is definitely noticeable that there is very few young adults in the church. One reason he said is that, usually children have 18 years to decide whether they like the church or not. Most of them do not. Since they do not, they have no motivation to come back. He said that he thinks that the children and young adults are bored and do not understand what is going on. They end up going and sitting their for an hour and not getting much out of it. Another reason he said is technology. Today, most churches post the songs and the homily online and people are able to access that. He also gave reasons about how since they have the option and live on their own, they do not want to go. The most interesting reason to me is when he told me that young adults feel like they don't belong. They feel like everybody is starring at them because their is not many other young adults there. The last reason he gave me is, he thinks this generation of young adults is lazy. He said, they do not want to get up on sunday morning and go to church. They want the few extra hours of sleep. I agree with all of these reasons. This generation of young adults is used to having things handed to them. They are spoiled. Now that they have the choice, few will continue to keep going. Next week I will be writing about the similarities that both churches see and my view and try to form a solution.

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### **Similarities (2015-11-17 18:11)**

After meeting with two local church's around the Tallahassee area, it is clear that their is a lack of young adults in church today. Every young adult has their own reason for not going to church and practicing their own religion. However, after meeting with both church's, their is a few things they both have in common about the problem. Both of the church's think that technology plays a huge role in going to church. For many different reasons, technology can disrupt young adults going to church. Today, many church's post their homily online, or you can watch the entire service online, meaning that young adults do this at home and do not actually go. Another reason as to why technology can hinder young adults to going to church is, people are obsessed with technology now. People are constantly on their phones or watching T.V. that they may get distracted and lose time and not go to church. Both of the two church's thought that being lazy is a huge reason why people to not go. Since it is usually early, people would rather not wake up and go. Finally, the last reason was that they have the option to go. Just like being lazy, if they can sleep in or go to church,

they will usually choose sleeping in. Since they were most likely dragged their for 18 years of their life, they would rather not go in participate in something they do not enjoy. As sad as these reasons are, both church's see the same result. Less young adults attending church.

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### **1.3 December**

#### **My View (2015-12-04 17:28)**

In my opinion, the lack of young adults in the church today is a big issue. If young adults do not return to the church, then their children will be less likely to as well, leading to a downward spiral of young adults and children not attending church. This is a major problem, a church can not function if there is no one that attends. I think that there are multiple reasons why young adults to not return. The first reason is, now that they are own their own, they have the option to go or not to go, most young adults would rather stay home then go to church on sundays. Which leads me to another point, being lazy. Most young adults become very lazy when it comes to attending church. Being lazy is a major reason why they do not attend church. The laziness usually does not go away, meaning that they will not return to the church when they get older and their kids will not grow up in the church. Young adults also do not understand exactly what is going on, they seem to be bored and do not want to understand. Another reason is because young adults feel they do not belong there. Since young adults do not go to church, if there is some young adults there, they feel like get starred at. Another reason is jobs. Young adults sometimes travel a lot in the beginning of the job, so when they are home on the weekends they would like to relax. Another reason and I think may be the biggest is technology. Many churches have their mass online or there homilies, which means that young adults can watch it or read it on their computer and not actually have to attend the church.

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#### **Overview (2015-12-04 17:45)**

In the past few months I have learned many interesting things on reasons young adults to not attend church or practice their religion. The main reasons are they are lazy and that technology is become so advanced they can watch everything online without having to physically go. Young adults, since being on their own, are not forced to go to church anymore, therefore, they do not want to go. This is an ongoing problem that keeps getting worse. The church tries prevent this by happening by setting up programs and events for teenagers in hopes that when they are own their own that will return to church. Young adults need to come back to the church. The church can not go on if young adults to not come back. They need to come back so that they bring their kids who hopefully will continue to go to church. It is a never ending spiral that can not be stopped. Young adults branch out and do not return. We need them to come back so they can raise their kids in the church in hopes that they will continue to go. Hopefully these young adults can grow up and not be lazy and continue to go to the church so they can bring their kids. If they show their kids the right way and do not force church on them so much. Then they should continue going.

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