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2-5-1922

Questionnaire Responses, "Young People: Why go to Church?"

Earl Clement Davis

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Questions to be answered by Young People, and the answers to be made the basis of sermon to be preached on Sunday Morning, Feb. 5, 1922. No names or particular quotations to be used.

Question 1-- Why do young people go to Church ?

1. Home influence.
2. They feel the need of the association with such people as are found there.
3. For social guidance.

Question 2-- Why do you go to Church ?

I go to church in order to get some help, guidance or inspiration from the teachings and preachings given there.

Question 3-- Do you know any young people who do not go to Church ?

Yes, I do.

Question 4-- Why do such young people not go to Church ?

Their conscience has not yet told them of the need for church relations. They have not yet come in contact with persons whose ideas are wholly theirs, being free from superstition.

Question 5-- How does ~~such~~ the Church service as a whole appeal to you?

Question 6-- What criticisms or suggestions can you make that would seem to you to make the service more appealing to young people ?

Let the young people take an equal part in each service. Make them feel that their work and interest are valued.

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Question 1-- Why do young people go to Church ?

*Some for the sake of the service and the good to be obtained,
Others go from -- habit*

Question 2-- Why do you go to Church ?

Question 3-- Do you know any young people who do not go to Church ?

No

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Question 1-- Why do young people go to Church ?

Generally because their parents go and because they have been brought up to do so; often because of the social pleasure they get from it; many times from a spiritual need.

Question 2-- Why do you go to Church ?

Because it is a personal, spiritual necessity.

Question 3-- Do you know any young people who do not go to Church ?

A few.

Question 4-- Why do such young people not go to Church ?

Because they do not belong to families that are in the habit of going or because they do not see any reason why they should go.

Question 5-- How does ~~xxxx~~ the Church service as a whole appeal to you?

As a whole the church service is a great deal of satisfaction, both intellectually and emotionally. There are a few parts that might be improved.

Question 6-- What criticisms or suggestions can you make that would seem to you to make the service more appealing to young people ?

If the morning opening service were changed or if the congregation would read it as if they meant it instead of something that had to be done I would feel as if there were more sincerity of faith in the service.

1 The associates are very
desirable and one finds
a different atmosphere than
~~there~~ elsewhere.

2 I go to church because it
is the best place to meditate,
think and reason with
your own self and go away
feeling as tho life were
worth while.

3 yes.

4 They do not realize
the value of a Church in
connection with their life

The old idea of orthodoxy
has no influence and if
it has died (as far as they
are concerned) they think
all churches teach the
same doctrines.

5 The service as a whole
is very appealing.

6 One suggestion would
be to have a variety of
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Questions to be answered by Young People, and the answers to be made the basis of sermon to be preached on Sunday Morning Feb. 5 1922. No Names or particular quotations to be used.

Question 1-- Why do young people go to Church ?

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Questions to be answered by Young People, and to be used as basis of sermon on Sunday morning, Feb. 5, 1922. No names or particular quotations to be used.

Question 1--Why do young people go to Church? The reasons why young people go to Church are as many as there are young people. Some of the common reasons are:

1. Because they are compelled by parental authority to go.
2. " " wish to see their friends and enjoy the social life of the church.
3. Because they feel it the right and proper thing to do.
4. " " need the spiritual strength and peace which true worship gives.

Question 2-- Why do you go to Church?

I am not sure why I go to church. I know that I feel the need of going. It here I do not go it seems as if there was something lacking in my life. To worship with other believers gives me strength to go on and do the work before me. It gives me rest and repletion and acts as a stimulus to all that is good and true in me.

Question 3-- Do you know any young people who do not go to Church?

I know of too many young people who do not go to church.

Question 4-- Why do such young people not go to Church?

Because they see in it only a tiresome ceremony. They have not yet felt the touch of God's spirit, nor experienced any union of their soul with the Infinite. They are content to go on in an easy frame of mind, which does not challenge them to think of other than material things, or else they fear that going to church will make them lose their material joys and pleasures.

Question 5-- How does the service as a whole appeal to you?

The service appeals to me only as a means to worship. It is not worship in itself. It gives me joy because it affords the opportunity of joining with other souls in reverencing a supreme Deity.

Characteristics

Question 6-- What criticisms or suggestions can you make that would seem to you to make the service more appealing to

young people? I do not think any service no matter how attractive nor how appealing could long hold young people. The desire to worship can not be installed by ceremony, or else we would all belong to the Catholic Church. The impulse must come from the heart, and be born of an experience of the soul with God.

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Earl C. Davis

Lancaster, PA

February 5, 1922

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[No answer provided.]

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