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Answers To Questions They Are Not Asking

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Acts 2:36-38  Acts 16:25-33

Interesting phrases floating around America and among some of our brethren today: A charge: "WE are answering questions THEY are not asking."

WE means: the churches of Christ or any fundamentalist group

THEY means: mostly college students who have little or no Bible background, but who are desperately seeking truth

OR:

I. PROBLEM: Are we giving the wrong answers? Same as always!


"Last year (1966) college students were still in the period I'd call the 'credibility gap.' They'd ask questions about and challenge, particular doctrines, things like the virgin birth, the Trinity and salvation through Jesus Christ. But now, I find questions are rarely asked. These young people really couldn't care less. We have entered the period of the 'relevancy gap.'"


"From Tradition to Mission" by William C. Martin. P. 39.

Par. 4 "The church often has a negative image with college students because it has spent FAR TOO MUCH TIME providing answers to the wrong questions and avoiding or giving wrong answers to the right questions. Until we find out what students are really asking, and then learn to deal with these questions in a sensitive, intelligent way, we cannot hope to have an effective mission."

DEDUCTIONS:

1. Most noise from Bible-less Protestant denom-ism. and few hyper-intellectual young brethren.

2. Interest is in reaching College level youth today and are grasping for bridge to cross over.

3. Some leaned so far have fallen into river of anchorless speculation. Adrift today.

4. Defense necessitates repudiation of Bible, scrapping the old and creating all things new. How?

III. PTA MAGAZINE. Sept. 67. "What adolescents should know about adolescents." "Listen World" by Ralph G. Eckert, Coordinator of counseling and guidance at California State College at Long Beach.

Comments on youth's current groupings.
A young person today has something important to say to the world. He says: I am myself. I am me. I am not another edition of my father and mother or somebody my teacher wants me to be. He wants to express himself. This is why he needs a group in which he can be heard—and understood. 

Youth today is creating their own peer groups. Then to make sure they are being heard, they feel IMPELLED to disagree with the adult world (even more vehemently that other generations have done.) TV and mass media find these rebellious youth interesting "news" and encouraged by the publicity, young people become more rebellious than ever. Mass media today is capitalizing, yea exploiting the normal rebelliousness of young people.

II. REASONS SOME YOUTH ARE NOT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.

A. Sophisticated to repudiate the VIRGIN BIRTH. "In-crowd.
B. Needless to ask about salvation. Swallowed UNIVERSALISM.
C. Putting religion FIRST is religious arrogance, and since there is no N.T. pattern for worship anyway instrumental music is not a germane problem anymore.
D. FREEDOM is the summum bonum of life and means: Doing what I like to do! No way to condemn social drinking, pre-marital sex, gambling or divorce. NO STANDARD!

III. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THEY ARE NOT ASKING.

A. Jesus was born of VIRGIN BIRTH. This I Believe!!!
   Serpent Israel Joseph Mary
   B. Salvation is for those who obey the gospel-only. Believe
   C. There is only ONE CHURCH and it is the Lord's. Believe!


What answer give for NOT being a CHRISTIAN? None good.
What answer give for NOT being FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN? R-P

IDENTIFY.