



TOPIC: CHALLENGES FACING OUR YOUTH

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 (NIV): "You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless."

INTRODUCTION

The challenges facing today's youth are diverse and influenced, shaped by various social, economic pressures to navigating a rapidly changing world, and environmental factors. Some of the key challenges include:

Lack of vision, social media, immodesty in dressing, sexual immorality, and scandal, drug addiction, poor attitude to education, low Self esteem, cybercrime, unemployment, my life, my rules attitude and many others.



CHALLENGES



CHALLENGES



LACK OF VISION

Lack of vision" typically refers to a situation where individuals or groups do not have a clear idea or plan for the future. It can manifest in various contexts:

- ❖ **Personal Goals:** When someone lacks vision in their personal life, they may struggle to define what they want to achieve or experience in the long term. This could result in a lack of direction, motivation, or sense of purpose.
- ❖ **Career:** In a career context, lack of vision means not having a **clear career path or goals**. This might lead to job dissatisfaction, lack of ambition, or difficulty making decisions about professional development.
- ❖ **Relationships:** In relationships, lack of vision refers to not having a clear understanding of what one wants in a partner or in a long-term relationship. It can result in uncertainty, indecision, or challenges in maintaining meaningful connections.



SOCIAL MEDIA:

- While social media offers connectivity, it also brings challenges such as cyberbullying, unrealistic comparisons, and addiction, impacting mental health and self-esteem.
- Addiction: Social media platforms are designed to be addictive, with features like notifications, likes, and shares triggering dopamine responses in the brain. This can lead to compulsive checking behaviors and addiction-like symptoms.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Youth substance abuse refers to the pattern of using addictive substances (such as alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or illicit drugs) by individuals who are younger than the legal age of adulthood, typically under 18 years old. This issue is a significant concern globally due to its potential long-term consequences on physical health, mental well-being, academic performance, and overall development of young people.
- **Factors contributing to youth substance abuse** include peer pressure, curiosity, family history of substance abuse, availability of substances, societal attitudes toward drug use, and underlying mental health issues like depression or anxiety.

SAY NO TO DRUG ABUSE!!!



UNEMPLOYMENT

- Unemployment among youth is a multifaceted issue that affects societies globally. It refers to the situation where individuals in the younger age brackets (typically aged 15-30 or sometimes extended to 15-35) are actively seeking employment but are unable to find suitable jobs. This problem is influenced by various factors:

- **Economic Conditions:**

- **Education and Skills Mismatch:** Many young people face challenges in aligning their education and skills with the demands of the job market. This mismatch can lead to higher unemployment rates among educated youth who struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications.

- **Labour Market Policies:** Age restriction widens unemployment queues as labour market shrinks. _



SEXUAL IMMORALITY

- Sexual immorality is a complex and sensitive topic that encompasses a range of behaviors and attitudes perceived as deviating from accepted moral standards within a society. When discussing sexual immorality facing youth today, several key aspects and challenges can be identified:
 - Early Exposure to Sexual Content
 - Peer Pressure and Cultural Influences
 - Lack of Comprehensive Sex Education
 - Pornography Consumption



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Mental Health and Well-being: Addressing mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and stress among youth is crucial. The church can play a vital role in providing support, understanding, and resources for mental health challenges.

Here are some things you can try that may help to look after your mental health and wellbeing:

- Spending time with family or friends and meeting new people
- Do something creative.
- Take care of your physical health.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the challenges facing today's youth are impactful, and influencing their development, well-being, and future opportunities.

Moreover, addressing these challenges requires a collective effort from families, educators, communities, government and the church to create inclusive spaces where youth feel empowered, valued, and equipped to navigate and overcome these obstacles.



Thank You!

