

B. What Do You Need? A safe place to do 3 things: (Especially for Parents)

- 1) **Share:** Share your heart with people who love and care about you and your children.
- 2) **Cry and laugh:** A place to let the pain out. That means all the feelings of failure, confusion, anger, frustration and being misunderstood.
- 3) **Pray:** God has allowed this to come upon you. Seek His face. Be intentional, assertive and submissive. Do it individually and with others.

V. Perspective:

- A. **Proper assessment:** Take responsibility for what you are responsible for, not for what you are not responsible for.
- B. **Your Life Example Matters:** Real faith, life changing faith is difficult to explain away. Don't let discouragement erode your witness.
- C. **The Story Isn't Over Till It's Over:**
The last chapter has not yet been written
- D. **Your Hope Is In God:**
Not in yourself
Not in your children
Not in your circumstances

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**Message: "Why Young Adult Christians Walk Away"
(And How We Should Respond To Them)**

I. Introduction:

Increasing numbers of young adult believers are walking away from the faith. It is a disturbing and deeply painful trend.

II. When It Comes To The Mind and Heart There Is Mystery:

Psalm 64:6, Jeremiah 17:9-10, I Chronicles 28:9

The hearts and minds of human beings are deep and unsearchable. There are limits to what we can understand about ourselves and about others.

The good news is God has no such limits. He plumbs the depths of every heart and mind.

III. Five Reasons Why Christians Walk Away:

A. Disappointment with God:

We believe happiness is our birthright even though this world is not a happy place. When our belief system does not account for pain, evil and death, it denies reality. We get disappointed with God when He doesn't do what we want Him to do and we can see no good reason for why He doesn't do it. The pain and confusion of this disappointment are very real.

B. Unresolved Personal Pain:

The pain of life has a way of finding us both within and without: In our inner life it can take the form of fear, anxiety, depression, obsessions, addictions, loneliness, grief and more. In our outer life, it comes to us by way of relationships, circumstances and losses.

The anguish that we feel either drives us to God or from God.

C. Willful Ignorance:

A big category that ironically is most prevalent among intelligent, educated people. True intellectual struggles demand a search for truth. When we refuse to engage the truth on a deeper level it reveals a more visceral reason for walking away from God.

D. No Experience of the Reality of God:

Sometimes an insulated Christian experience can lead to this problem. Oftentimes, the very adversity that could make God real is the very thing we hold against Him.

E. The World System We Live In Everyday:

World system defined: A system of thought, word and deed that exists completely apart from the will and wisdom of God. It is fueled by the enemy and our own fallen condition of sin and rebellion. (1 John 2:15-17) It validates and appeals to our appetites, our desires and deeply ingrained willfulness. It presents itself as attractive, beautiful, reasonable and powerful. Truth seems strange and God seems irrelevant.

IV. How Should We Respond: Let's approach it from 2 perspectives

A. What Do They Need?

- 1) **Love and Acceptance:** Love and acceptance consists of words, touch, attitude and actions. Love always initiates and never gives up. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
- 2) **Honest Communication:** It starts with listening in order to understand. It includes thoughtful questions and acknowledgement of legitimate issues. It also includes being able to say what you will and won't do because of what you believe.
- 3) **Respect:** Young adults expect to be treated as adults. We must take their concerns and objections seriously.
- 4) **Truth and Wisdom:** This needs to be presented thoughtfully and calmly in the context of love, respect and listening. God's truth has its own power. We also need to do our homework!
- 5) **A Mentor:** They need another voice in their life that is safe, wise and believes in them. A voice that can say what you cannot!
- 6) **Prayer:** This is a spiritual battle that will be won here more than anywhere else. The Apostle Paul spoke often of the power of prayer to rescue, protect and transform.