CHILDREN IN TODAY'S WORLD

I. We love and appreciate our young people, for the future of the church is in their hands.
   A. We <u>especially</u> appreciate the young people who are concerned about the future—even their ETERNAL future.
   B. Our hearts go out to those young people who were NOT warned, or else failed to HEED the warnings of the Bible, and are going headlong into the fires of eternal hell.
      1. Most young people are reared in non-Christian homes where the teaching of the Bible is absent from their lives.
      2. Even in homes where there is a hint of Christianity, there is enormous pressure for good young people to "follow the crowd";.
II. Now let's look at "Children In Today's World."

DISCUSSION
I. 1ˢᵗ, children in today's world are faced with GREAT TEMPTATIONS.
A. Basically, temptation has always been the same—through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life 1 John 2:15-17
      1. Adam and Eve we re faced with the SAME temptations—even in the lovely garden of Eden, in a time when evil did not abound on every hand.
      2. Jesus, the Son of God, was also faced with these same 3 areas of temptation.

B. However, with lax laws, lower moral standards, and media technology, today's youth are shot at with many poisonous arrows.
      1. With TV, computers and the I-phones, there can be an instant viewing on most any form of pornography and evil.
      2. The availability and easy access to illegal drugs and alcohol are everywhere.
         a. Two generations ago few committed fornication or took drugs, while now when young people go on a date, participation in any sexual activity is generally acceptable and expected.
         b. Social pressure abounds everywhere, as it is said, "everybody is doing it," and pressure is placed on Christian young people when they try to do the right thing.

II. 2ⁿᵈ, children in today's world are not expected to maintain high moral standards.
A. For EVERY action, we need to consider the **ultimate consequence,** whether it be good or bad, or whether it be the immediate consequence or the eternal consequence.
      1. Young people can die young, or they can grow old with the burden of mistakes they made while they were young.
      2. A few years back, some Olympians were asked if they would be willing to take illegal drugs that would give them the extra strength to WIN a gold medal,

even if they knew that it would cause them to die within 5 years, and MOST of the Olympians said they would be willing to do so.
    a. Sadly, too many young people are concerned about the here and now, and have parents who have hurt their own lives and do not encourage their children to do better.
    b. There IS an ultimate consequence for every action, whether it be good or bad, or whether it be temporal or eternal.

B. **[A good time to have some newspaper headlines of events that can be avoided].**

C. We have inspiring examples of young people who DID maintain high standards.
    1. Joseph refused to commit fornication with Potiphar's wife in the Old Testament.
        a. She put pressure upon Joseph to commit fornication with her. Gen. 39:7
        b. Joseph KNEW that such was sinful. vs. 8-9
        c. Joseph finally had to **run away** from the pressure. v. 12; cf 1 Cor. 6:18
    2. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not drink of the king's wine. Dan. 1:8
        a. As a result, he was "different", but his solid character led to his being highly exalted in the kingdom, as well as his maintaining favor with God.
        b. Today, after thousands of years, Daniel's action are encouraging to our youth.

CONCLUSION
I. Young people, there are millions of older people who are suffering tremendously because they did not maintain high moral standards.
A. Eternity is a lot longer than a few moments of sinful pleasure on earth. Heb,.11;25
B, Visualize yourself IN eternity—based on the way you are living—right now.
    1. If you don't like what you see, have the courage to do something about it.
    2. Make a promise to God **right now,** that you are not going to miss heaven.

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