

THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN TEEN NATIONAL YOUTH AWARENESS SUNDAY

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Introduction

(Video – The Enemy Underneath) – See the last page of this sermon outline for instructions on how to find and download these videos for your use with congregations.

Luke 12:54. – What time is it?

A. Time of Urgency

Do we understand the times Teenage America lives in? Do we understand what they are going through? It is easy to think teenagers all have problems. It is easy to think, “I have problems and I turned out ok. They have problems they will turn out ok.”

The world our teens live in is very different than the one we were raised in and we must understand it so we can respond appropriately. Our kids are in a real battle that is ripping the morals foundations right out from under them. There is also a spiritual battle, and cultural war going on. How many of you realize there is a cultural war going on?

To get a picture of the culture war lets look at what happened in San Francisco last march. Teen Mania was presenting a BattleCry event expecting 25,000 teens to attend. In a pre-event rally on the San Francisco courthouse steps, 300 teens came to voice their faith and their desire for a pure generation. They were met by 50 protester and news media all over the nation picked it up. We have a clip of the rally that illustrates the response the teens received for standing up for purity.

(Video – BattleCry in the News)

Isn't it great to see what can be done when only 300 teens stand up for their faith? One clear message here is "they don't care if we keep our Christianity in our church, just don't bring it to the public square" they don't want us there because secular people have dominated culture from there for so long.

On the very front page of USA Today there was a headline that stated, "Morning after pill closer to wider sales..." The culture war is everywhere right?

To illustrate this urgency let's remember Katrina, a year ago at this time when Hurricane Katrina obliterated New Orleans. Remember looking at the Doppler tracking the storm and watching it grow in intensity heading straight at New Orleans. Some decided not to pay attention to the warnings and lost their life as a result.

As I watched the relief efforts, I was saying, "This is exactly what the body of Christ needs to be." There is a catastrophe hitting this young generation, and we need to be the ones pulling them off the rooftops, and bringing them to the hospital. Our churches ought to be *a hospital for a broken hearted generation*.

Its hard to imagine anything worse than Katrina, but lets try. Imagine a storm like that hitting the whole nation at once every city, town, inner city and suburb under water. Would that be worse? Remember the 3 days of moral anarchy in the streets, what if that happened across America for more than 3 days, but 30 days, or 30 years, or 50 years? Would that be worse? Imagine that we discovered that it wasn't just a natural storm, but that somehow, somebody planned this destruction and harm because they figured out a way to make money off of other people's destruction.

Ladies and gentleman we are on the verge of a nation wide Katrina about to hit our younger generation. Lets look at the Doppler (as it were) for this generation.

Lets look at 4 different elements that have never happened to any generation before.

I. Only 4%

We didn't have to grow up with 96% of our peers not caring about the Bible. What ever they are when they turn 20 is what America becomes.

See Population graph in the PowerPoint.

What does America look like at 4%? Look at all the things here in society right now that we wouldn't agree with, you know, stuff on the internet, stuff on television, and you know the movies, and this is about 35% of the general population Evangelical Believers. What does America look like at 4%? Can anybody feel the wind yet of Katrina? She's blowing, she's on her way. We need to understand this 4%, never happened before.

In post Christian England you can go to a newspaper, a regular newspaper and see full nudity. Many say that in the Victorian age that they were the most Godly society ever in the history of the World, and look what's happened to them. In Scotland, the legal consenting age for sex is 14 years old. In the Netherlands, if you have a baby that has a life threatening sickness, you can take it to the hospital and they'll give it a shot and put it to death for you, because they're enlightened.

(Video – Passive Christianity: The 4% Church)

II. Media saturation

We have media saturation with this generation like no other time in the history of the world. New technology is not bad, but it's the media that comes through the technology that is making such an impact on our teens.

The family, Church, and the community have been surrounds the young person to protect them. Internet, television, music and advertising virtually by pass all these natural protection that the Lord built in, getting right to the kids most the time without the parents realizing what's affecting there kids. Josh McDowell says, "This is the first generation in the history of the World to be more influenced outside the home then inside the home."

We have so much media that by passes parents and gets straight to our kids because of the technology they use. They are shaping our kids with their values. It is not just entertainment, its "edutainment"

They are teaching them values, not just entertaining them. The average young person will spend about 35 to 55 hours a week between television and internet.

In Grand Theft Auto, a popular video game, teens learn how to murder they teach kids how to get prostitutes. 3 teenage guys in Michigan playing this game for hours hopped into their car and purposely ran over a guy they did not know (as players do in the game) After going to breakfast, they came back and found the guy and beat him until he went into a coma (as players do in the game). They went home and played the game some more. They call this "fun"

This game has an imbedded sexual program. If you find the secret code then you can have actual simulated sex with the video game. The creators of the game didn't even tell anybody that it was there. When it became public, a mature rating sticker was placed on the game in stores. 12 million teenagers already have the game. See these people do not care about our kids All they care about is making money.

Have we become used to the dark. How many of you are familiar with Seventeen Magazine? One issue of Seventeen Magazine that had pornography, pictures of female genitals pictures, and photographs with the intimate questions a girl should be asking her mother. Yet another issue had the following headlines, 'How to tell if you're a lesbian', the second article is 'How to tell your parents you're a lesbian', and if that wasn't bad enough, the third article was 'How to have safe lesbian sex'.

At the BattleCry stadium event in Spring of 2006, in San Francisco Teen Mania decided to hold a rally on the court house steps. This rally was official condemned by the city officials.

III. Sexualized Culture

Have you noticed there has been a lot more sexual content than there used to be? 6.7 times an hour there is a sexual innuendo on TV during the family viewing hour. How many times have you watched a good movie that could have been complete with out a sexual scene and then asked yourself why they had to do that?

MTV is of course the worst culprits . **Three thousand times a week there's a soft core** porn image that comes across MTV. Let that settle in for a second. You think you are just watching a program, flipping through the channel just watching a little music video, soft core porn again and again and again. There are many more examples to refer to in popular culture such as VH 1, Desperate Housewives, and movies like Broken Back Mountain?

The media people say 'we don't shape society, we only reflect society'. There are studies out now that show the more kids see this sexual stuff, they are actually twice as likely to have sex.

These people are terrorists, virtue-terrorists. They are ripping and pillaging any kind of moral virtue from this young generation and they don't care what it does. Back in the sixties and seventies they had that big second hand smoke debate and they outlawed smoking in undesignated areas. Now we have people saying 'freedom of press', 'freedom of speech'. We now have what I call secondhand sex.

- Average age of first sex: 15.8 years old
- Average length of first sexual relationship:3.8 months
- 24.3% of adolescents report having first sex during the same month as the start of the relationship.
- 70% of teens ages 13 to 16 know what oral sex is, and more than 6-10 of them say they know at least a few 13-14 year olds who are having oral sex. (NBC and People Magazine)
- Every day, 8,000 teenagers in the US become infected by an STD
- This year, nearly 3 million teens will become infected.
- About one quarter of the nation's sexually active teens have been infected by an STD.
- Each year, approximately three million cases of sexually transmitted diseases are contracted by teens. (U.S. Center for Disease Control)
- Every year, approximately one million teenagers become pregnant. (U.S. Center for Disease Control)
- In 2000, some 240,000 children were born to girls age 18 or younger. Nearly all these teenage mothers were unmarried.
- More than 1/3 of all teenage pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion. (C Trends Data Bank)

IV. Point & Click Pornography

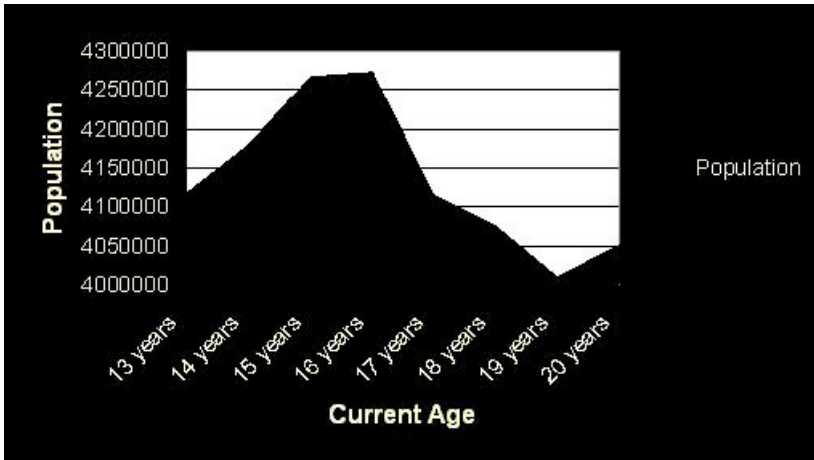
- The largest group of Internet pornography consumers is the 12-17 age group
- 80% of 15-17 year olds have had multiple hard-core porn exposures

- 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed porn online (Most while doing homework)

What is stopping us from making laws about not dumping garbage into the minds of our kids? Many in our society are trying to use freedom of speech as a right to get away with anything. One Christian democratic senator submitted a bill to get age verification software blocking underage teens from porn sites. We would not let a 13 year old go to a porn store. Why would we let them go to a porn site? Right now the bill is in the senate to have age verification software for every porn site required even if it's a free site.

Pornography changes your brain vectors so you think differently. There's an erototoxin that goes off in your brain when you look at this so you can actually get addicted so it makes you sort of high so you want to do this all the time. And now there's data that shows that once someone is exposed to all those thousands of pictures of pornography and they get married, many of them cannot have a normal sexual relationship with the person that they marry. So now they need Viagra and all their brothers just to have a normal sexual relationship even though they're young.

WE HAVE 5 YEARS!



Since most people come to Jesus before they are 20 (2/3 before 18 years old) we only have 5 years before most of this generation in their 20s. What they are when they get there, is what America becomes. We all need to care about what they become, they will set the trend for our culture, make the laws, write the books, run the companies, etc.

As a nation, the train is almost ready to leave the tracks. We've got 5 years to turn it around. Once they get to their 20's, whatever we are, that is what America becomes. We have 5 years to change the 4%. If we don't it's plan B, it's a different season in America. We can't watch the enemy continue to steal our teens one by one.

B. It is time for a battle Plan

We need 100,000 churches that will double and disciple their youth group each year for the next 5 years. If we do we will be discipling 33 million in 5 years if the average church starts with 10.

We can do this. We can turn in around. We call these churches BattleCry33 churches (since there are 33 million teens now in America. Could we be on of those churches? The center of this whole battle plan revolves around equipping churches with every tool every strategy to effectively reach this generation.

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Phase One – Massive Awareness and Engagement

- ***National Coalition***

Over 40 national ministries have enlisted to use their influence (list some of them) they are using their TV programs, radio programs, and the resources they have to let people know that kids are in trouble. In a real war like WW II, before the paratroopers come in, they'll bomb all the tanks and the guns so these people can land. National ministries are the air cover. When you start talking about this with lay people in your church they'll say, "I just heard my favorite radio teacher, radio preacher and it's amazing at the broadness of the different ministries that have actually engaged and leaders

For Example, The National Association of Evangelicals led by Ted Haggard is made up of fifty four different denominations, forty five thousand churches and represents thirty million people. A few months ago, they realized what was going on with teenagers and passed a resolution saying "we are going to focus on kids these next five years. We are going to set September aside a National Youth Awareness Month. The last Sunday in September, September twenty fourth is going to be national youth Sunday."

(Video – Allies in the War)

- **Local Coalition**

We need to start by forming a coalition in our church. We as a church need to have a deep understanding of exactly what the media is doing to our teens and what we can do about it here in our community.

We are asking you to sign up today (at least 33% of our church) to be part of a BattleCry small group for the next 6 weeks. You can easily lead a group if you can punch play since it is a DVD study series. We will read through the BattleCry for a generation book by Ron Luce. We will not be uniformed. We are a church are going to get prepared to rescue this generation. Will you consider now either leading or joining one of these groups for the next six weeks? We must respond to what the enemy is doing to our kids. This is a practical way to begin to take some action. Instead of saying "the devil is stealing our kids, and just throwing our hands in the air" we can take some action. Let me see the hands of everyone willing to be a part f a battle cry study group this fall?

As a church we must all rally around these teens. Just like in WW II where everyone got involved. Men went to the front lines, women went to the factories to worked, and everyone bought war bonds. Today rescuing our teens demands the same kind of response.

It's going to help our whole community. Wouldn't it be great for the over whelming pressure in high school to be, be on fire and Godly?

Phase 2- Youth pastor Training

- **Double and disciple**

We are beginning to put plans in place to double our youth ministry this year. Already hundreds of churches are doing it all over America and we can do it too! We have received the training materials on how to do this

(Pastor you can order the Revolution YM book by Ron Luce and the "double vision" workshop in a box that including 6 DVD session to go thorough with your youth group leadership team that will help you put a whole 12 month plan together just by spending one day together...it really works!)

Our youth pastor cannot do it by himself. We are all going to have to rally behind them! It is not his job to rescue this younger generation alone, it is our job! The church to pass on our faith to the younger generation! Can I have an amen? There will be a place for all of us to participate in this plan. That is why we must all prepare by getting together for the next 6 weeks for the BattleCry small group series.

(Video – Pastor Testimonies)

C. TIME FOR ACTION

Would you do something to help?

- Can you mentor?
- Can you bake cookies?
- Can you invite kids over to your house?
- Could you adopt some to be your grand kids? A lot of kids don't know their grandparents. We are mission the older generation poring into the younger generation in our society. Can you do something?

A lot of kids don't even know their grand parents. We are missing the older generation poring into the younger generation in our society. One set of grandparents wanted to help and came up to an evangelist and said, "We don't know what we are doing? but we had these kids come across the street from us and they started riding their skate boards across the street we didn't know what to do so we just started bringing them food and talking to them." Food is like the international love language. So then we find out about this DVD that shows Christian skate borders and invite them over to watch it.. They start watching it and start giving their hearts to Jesus. We were not cool or relatable. We don't know what we are doing. We just love these kids. Every body can do something."

Maybe you can give like never before to our local youth ministry. So what if you have all your expensive toys but we lose our Christian foundation in America. Imagine getting to the end of life after purchasing all your modern conveniences, and you think, maybe I could have prevented post Christian America “if we only would have known. If I only would have invested in reaching them before they turned 20, maybe we could have prevented this!” We know! We know now! We can do something!

What about all the kids who don't have Godly parents? Could you challenge your parents and say “Before we go to church today, we're picking up five of your friends on the way. I don't care if they're in their pajamas; we're picking them up anyway.”

You could join the battle cry national coalition right now and stay updated on what is going on with tens all over America. You would be uniting with parents and caring adult Christians from all over who are putting their name on the line and willing to stay the course to rescue this generation.

If fact if you pull out your cell phones right now and text the word **ENLIST** to the number **77812** BattleCry will text you back with instructions on how you can join the BattleCry Coalition. I know usually we are telling you to turn your cell phone off in church but right now pull it out, if you don't know how to text just ask your teen. Let's be apart of a massive army of adults that are coming together to rescue our teens.

Again, using your cell-phone, text-message the number **77812** and type in the keyword **ENLIST**. You will get back a text message with what to do next.

Or, if it is easier to remember, just use your web browser at home and log onto www.battlecry.com. Again, that is www.battlecry.com

Teens especially, write down **battlecry.com**. There is a place for you there to join with thousands of other teens who want to take back your generation. We are going to put out youth ministry battle plan there, and you can go there to put your own plan to grow in God and share your faith. It is like MySpace...but with a purpose to change your generation. Get to battlecry.com today...and start putting your plan together of how you are going to step up and reach your generation.

Conclusion

I need to know who is in. Who will help rescue this generation in our own community? If you are here today willing to do something to help teens that you are not already doing volunteer in the youth group as a helper, or any of these other suggestions we have heard today, would you please stand right now. We are going to commit this to the lord in prayer.

Could I see your hand if you are willing to lead or participate in one of these BattleCry small groups to get deeply informed. (Pastor if very few respond...say “Come on folks we cannot be all talk and no action, we need to start at least ____ (insert the appropriate

number of groups for your church here)...we need to step up....only six weeks of your life to rescue a generation....who is in?") Pastor the goal is to get at least 33% of your congregation in a group for the first round)

Okay, lets pray.

Now please pick up your bulletin and fill out the form we included this morning. Please be seated and fill it out right now. Ushers will be picking them up shortly.

Together as a church we are going to make a huge impact on the youth of our region!!

RESOURCES

RISE UP: BASIC TRAINING FOR WARRIORS

A no-nonsense, no-compromise kit by Ron Luce and Cook Communications Ministries. Includes 10 student training manuals, a DVD, leader's guide, and a sample student discipleship book. (Additional student training manuals and self-discipleship books available separately.)

VIDEOS

All of the videos mentioned in this sermon outline are available as Podcasts on iTunes. Using your web browser, go to *itunes.com* and download and install *iTunes* on your computer (or ask your nearest teen for assistance). Then, using the search tool in iTunes, enter the keywords *BattleCry For A Generation*. iTunes should take you directly to the directory where you can download these free resource tools. Save them to your computer's hard drive and using a projector or directly on your computer, you can show these videos to audiences of all sizes.

BATTLECRY.COM

Battlecry.com has a "Resource" section that will give you many of the tools you will need to reach your teen, parents and community leaders. Log on and take a look.