

Some Biblical Passages Related to Aging

(Note: The questions listed with the following Biblical references are only suggestions. You will want to develop your own questions and comments. There are many Biblical passages you may prefer to use.)

1. **Genesis 1:16-28** – Man in Creation
 - What does the passage say is the truth about your life and every life you touch?
 - How are we to understand ourselves?
 - In the light of this truth, how are we supposed to look at these bodies of ours?
 - In the light of this passage, how are we to look at those who are aging around us?
 - What do you think the church might do to help?
2. **Philippians 2:4-13** – Aging is Becoming What We Are in Christ Jesus
 - This passage describes what life is meant to be like when it is in the image of God.
 - What do you think the focus of life should be at any age? (vs. 4)
 - What do you think it means to “empty oneself” when you are older in years?
 - Can the church empty itself?
 - Can you give some examples? Individuals? The Church?
3. **Galatians 4: 4-11** – Our Security in God
 - According to this passage, what is the relationship of Christians to God? (note “Abba” means speaking to your parent as though using the first name – i.e. with confidence)
 - What does this mean for those who are older adults?
 - What does the passage say about measuring life in terms of years?
 - What would you conclude should be the attitude of those who are sons regarding others?
 - Should it be on of security or risk? Paul gives us clues. How may this be expressed?
4. **Hebrews 2:5-9** – What is There About Us That Makes Us Great?
 - The focus of this passage is not on how great we are, but on Jesus Christ and His greatness through suffering.
 - What is the one insight that comes to you in studying this passage as you think of older people?
 - How is God best seen in Jesus? (note: perfected, humanity)
 - How does suffering reveal God? What do you think this says about the meaning of the cross?
 - What would this passage mean to you in meeting with a friend who is suffering?
5. **Philippians 4:10-13** – Taking Crisis in Strides (Growing through crisis)
 - In verse 11, the words “consent” means independent of external circumstances.
 - Do you think this passage means:
 - a. I am willing to put up with the status quo.
 - b. I am not controlled by circumstances and things.
 - Give reasons growing out of Paul’s life and writings to support your decisions.
 - What does this attitude contribute to our understanding of life in the later years?

How is a person to take the losses of life? What resources are there? Please base your responses on Scripture incidents, verses, etc.

6. **Philippians 3:3-11** – The Christian’s Orientation

Paul here gives his credentials, then moves beyond this to describe his orientation now.

What do you think this reveals about Paul’s attitude toward life? For whom does Paul say he lives? What does this mean in terms of his priorities, values, attitude, etc.?

What does “if possible” mean? Is there a risk in living out the life of faith?

What do you think this means for older persons such, as those soon facing retirement?

7. **Ephesians 3:14-19, 4: 13-16** – Paul Describes Christian Maturity

What words in these passages describes Christian maturity?

In your own words, describe an older adult who is a mature Christian.

How can the church help people to mature?

8. **Isaiah 41:17-20** – God Is Always Creating

What do you think this passage means about God’s creative activity?

What are some of the new things we have come to know? Is creation good or neutral?

What response is called for in terms of our attitude toward God? In terms of our attitude toward His creation?

What should be our response toward things? Toward persons?

9. **Isaiah 40: 28-31** – The Strength God Gives

What does this passage mean?

Do you think the order in verse 31 is correct? Wings, run, walk? Or is it in reverse?

Under that circumstances do older persons: (please illustrate each)

a. Mount up with wings as eagles?

b. Run and not be weary?

c. Walk and not faint?

How does God give strength?

10. **1 John 3:1-3** – What God Has in Store for Us

The word “called” means “named” – a reference to the kind of character we are.

What does the Apostle say will be our image in the future life?

What does God have in view for us?

How does life in this world and in the church help us toward that end?

How would you identify this hope for some older person facing death?

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