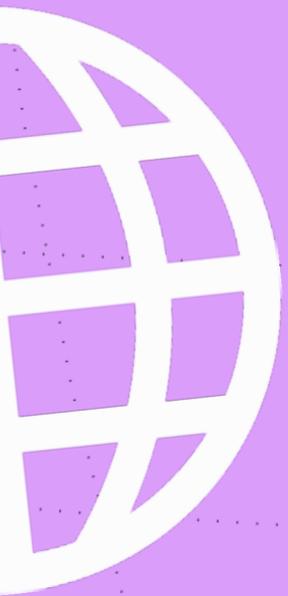


Youth & Young Adults



FUTURE SOCIETY

2020



CREW NOTES

HEY EVERYONE,

As social distancing rules are being relaxed, buildings are re-opening and we are beginning to return to a sense of normality, we want to look towards the future for this month's crew notes and talk about "Future Society". Embracing the new challenges ahead as we step up and shape the future of our society.

Months ago, we entered lockdown and for many of us, we spent the majority of lockdown craving the long-awaited return to the way things were, but as the Church we are called to pioneer a brighter and more Christ centered future for society and ourselves. Many of us were confronted and convicted by our own ignorance in this season and it is time to head into the future with an open heart and mind for God to shape and mould. The main focus for us as Christians is to love anyone and everyone. This includes treating them with respect and dignity regardless of their race, gender, or background but also knowing how to correct someone in love if they stray.

We want to encourage you to look at what the image of the Church was, as written in the Bible and size up how it compares to the way we operate today. We often look at so many problems in society like racism and sexism in a negative light, but in what ways have we allowed society to shape the Church instead of the Church shaping society?

Let's be conscious of not just making a checklist for our future endeavours and make consulting God in everything we do a priority. Sometimes we can even desire good things in life but end up idolising them instead of keeping God on the throne. One practical way to keep yourself accountable is having Godly counsel who can help keep you on track - and that's what crews are for!

Hoping you have a great month filled with encouraging conversations,

Hillsong YxYA Teaching Team

Takeaway Thought 1/2

Incoming understatement: 2020 has been a whirlwind year. It's put societies at the macroscopic level, and individuals at the microscopic level, to the test. Things have been difficult for so many of us. Losing loved ones to Covid-19, losing incomes to support our families, losing the hope that we had for the year. Some losses are positive: many of us will have lost veils of ignorance or lost a corrosive 'busyness' which did us no favours.

Society stopped in a sense for months on end during lockdown. There was nowhere to hide and many took the time to reassess what they truly want to be like, and in turn what they truly want society to be like. Society says a lot of about Gen Z and Millennials: we give up easily, we are offended easily and our attention spans are too short! Some of these may be true in their own ways, but we also deeply care and are willing to do make our voice heard. Young people led the charge in responding to racial injustices across the US, the UK and the rest of the world, and young people also played their part in keeping their communities safe during the height of the pandemic.

We don't have to be who society defines us to be; in fact, we shouldn't! We should be what God says about society! God's plan is for a society of believers who live according to his will. His will towards us is to do us good, and since he is the highest good, God wants himself for us. His commandments reflect his will, so we, by the help of the Holy Spirit, obey. Therefore, we can say God's plan for a society is obedience. Not obedience to a tyrannical human; obedience to the source of all good, truth and life. A society that is obedient to God works towards holiness. In 1 Peter 1:16, Peter quotes Leviticus 11:44-45, where God directly speaks to his people to say: be holy because I am holy.

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Takeaway Thought 2/2

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Israel as a nation was meant to obey God and set an example to all the other nations; the Church is to obey God and set an example amongst all other people in our societies. One of the primary ways to set this example is to love, and love deeply. This love is defined in 1 Peter 4:8-10, and is defined by God, not by people. It is a love that covers a multitude of sins. That's a big statement to make, considering we are all sinners and need daily repentance in our journey to justification and salvation. This love shows society how God works.

It is actually the Church's responsibility to shape society. If the Church allows others to shape it, it will not be shaped according to the Word of God. How are we to do this? Well, the Bible is clear and all the selected Scriptures echo something Jesus taught: we are not of this world, but we are sent here to spread the Gospel. We are not to seclude ourselves to a Texan ranch (Google it) on the one hand, or completely behave like society to the point of being indistinguishable from it, on the other. It's not that one is more admirable than the other; both are not God's plan for society. He wants Christians in healthcare, sports, and yes, even politics. He wants Christian street cleaners, Christian CEOs, Christian justice workers. But he wants Christians, not occasional attendees at a Sunday event.

So, let us work to not be defined by society, but to define it. Let us look at justice, love, truth, integrity all from a Biblical perspective and live our lives to bring that about. This is how we build the future that we want to see by God's grace.

JEREMIAH 29:11 (NLT)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NLT)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 (NLT)

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him”

COLOSSIANS 3:17 (NLT)

“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:4 (NLT)

“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8 (NLT)

“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 (NLT)

“So, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

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JOB 16:20–21 (NLT)

“My friends scorn me, but I pour out my tears to God. I need someone to mediate between God and me, as a person mediates between friends.”

1 PETER 4:8–10 (NIV)

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

HEBREWS 12:11 (NLT)

“No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.”

PROVERBS 29:18 (NLT)

“When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.”

Questions

What do we want our future society to look like, considering everything that is happening in our world right now?

There are many issues in our world, but we can't try to save the whole world by ourselves, so what part do you think YOU can play as a Christian in your spheres?

How does our faith in God play a part in this?

Do you have visions, goals (whether long or short-term) and dreams for your own future?

How preoccupied with your future do you think God is with your future? He's not worried or anxious. Rest assured for He has laid out the plans for your life a long time ago.

How do the voices in your life/community shape your future? With so much information being fed to us, who are you listening to? It is so important to surround ourselves with people who encourage us to have vision and goals that are Godly centred and for good.

Why is important to have the right voices around you?

What can you do practically right now to prepare for the future? Be disciplined? Applying yourselves? Writing Goals down? Etc

FUTURE SOCIETY

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