

National Youth Sunday 2023

Romans 12:2, NLT: Stand Up, Even If You Stand Out

Music suggestions by National Youth Cabinet

While discussing the topic for Youth Sunday, 2023, we strove to find a topic that clearly addressed questions and/or issues relating to this generation's youth. After reviewing and breaking down multiple ideas and opinions, we settled on the theme "Stand Up, Even If You Stand Out," which comes primarily from Romans 12:2 (specifically the New Living Translation and The Message).

For us, this verse references the trials and temptations directed towards kids in today's culture, especially after growing up under the influence of constant pressures from social media, school peers, and social norms. With little guidance from parents and adult role models (as the times have changed), teens struggle with trying to navigate themselves through the objective, single-minded, and harsh realities of the "here and now." As the verse says, "Do not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Every day, youth are forced to make the choice on whether to abide by these worldly customs, or whether to stand firm in their faith and lean on God.

Recognizing this, we want to focus our attention this year on providing direction by saying, "Stand up for what God has gifted you through His Word and remain strong in your faith - even if you stand out."