

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: The Glory of Gray

Sermon Series: Growing Older: Better With Age

Sermon Texts: Proverbs 16:31; 17:6; 20:29

OPENING QUESTION

1. What are some phrases or connotations that come to your mind when you think of “elderly” or “old people”? Write them up on a board for your group to see.

INTO THE BIBLE

Read the proverbs listed above.

2. In these proverbs, how does the description of old age (gray hair) compare or contrast with our culture’s view of old age?
3. What is the connection in these proverbs between becoming older and becoming wiser?
4. Read Job 15:7-10. In this passage, we see how three friends of Job tried to use their age to get Job to listen to them. Does the attitude of these three friends seem commendable or not?

Read Job 32:1-9. The background is that Job has had many calamities befall him. He doesn’t think he’s done anything wrong, but his 3 friends insist God must be punishing him for some sin. Elihu has been quiet up to this point. He’s younger than all of the other characters. After hearing Job and his 3 friends talk, he finally says what’s on his mind.

5. Does Elihu show proper respect to these older men? Why or why don’t you think so?

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

6. What areas of your life can use adjusting your view of old age? You career, your family, your singleness, your health? How do these proverbs apply specifically to your situation?
7. If you are older, who are the children (biological or spiritual) that you want to be proud of, and that you want them to be proud of you? If you are younger, name someone older that you can cultivate a relationship with to show them respect and learn from their wisdom.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Gray hair is a crown of splendor;

It is attained by a righteous life. (Proverbs 16:31, NIV)