

**“SCOUT SUNDAY 2008”  
MARCH 2008**

Loud music. Skate-boarding on the sidewalk. Too much time in front of a computer. Impolite language. They are lazy. Show no respect. They don't study. The list goes on and on. These are just some of the many complaints voiced against today's young people. All of us have heard such comments. There are even some that we cannot print in a church newsletter.

As the father of three boys, I have heard many, many loud complaints about young people. In all honesty, I have even voiced a few complaints myself. It's easy to hop on the bandwagon and join the chorus of those who aim their verbal fire at the newest generation. In some groups, it's the popular thing to do.

Does such criticism and complaining improve the situation? It is this question that keeps nagging me. Oh yes, we might feel good for a moment after “blowing off some steam.” Does such emotional venting change the lives of kids? I doubt it. The bottom line is that while it is easy to criticize, it is much more difficult to do something constructive.

The writers of the Bible affirm the value of human life and the dignity of every one of God's creatures. Each child is seen as a special gift from God with his or her unique talents and potential. The challenge is to patiently guide and nurture them. I like the clear advice given to us in the Good Book,

*“Train children in the right way,  
and when old, they will not stray.”  
(Proverbs 22:6, NRSV)*

What good advice. It makes so much sense. As adults, we need to pray that God will give us the grace to act in such a constructive way.

What can we do? I have one suggestion. I invite you to join us on March 9<sup>th</sup> for Girl Scout Sunday. The session of our church is again hosting this annual community event for scout troops in Pinellas County. By organizing this service, we are trying to follow Proverbs 22:6 and be part of the solution. We have invited several community leaders to participate. Every one that we have contacted has been eager to be involved. How about you? Your presence will be a vote of confidence in the scouting program of our area. The kids of our community will be glad to see you there.

Pastor Robert Wierenga  
Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church  
[www.lakeseminolepc.org](http://www.lakeseminolepc.org)