

# Listening To & Learning From **Young Athiests**



**I Corinthians 15:12-22**



**What did the young atheists tell  
Larry Taunton during his study?**

They had once been church going people.

The connection between the mission of the church  
and the messages they were hearing were vague.

They felt their churches were giving superficial  
answers to life's most difficult questions.

They expressed respect & appreciation for  
ministers who took the Bible seriously.

The high school years were decisive.

The decision to embrace unbelief & atheism was  
often driven by emotions.

The internet played a strong role in influencing  
their conversion to atheism.

Listening To &  
Learning From  
**Young Atheists**





# What can we learn from Taunton's study of young atheists?

Simply going to church does not guarantee that young people will become disciples.

The true mission and uniqueness of the church must be emphasized in our teaching.

Church cultures & environments matter.

- We must create church cultures & environments where the Bible is taken seriously.
- We must create church cultures & environments where questions are encouraged.
- We must create church cultures & environments where young people feel valued.
- If we don't, they'll find somewhere else to go.

# Listening To & Learning From Young Atheists





*"I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. But if I should be delayed, I written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great:*

*He was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
preached among the nations,  
believed on in the world,  
taken up in glory."*

*(I Timothy 3:14-16)*

# Listening To & Learning From **Young Athiests**

