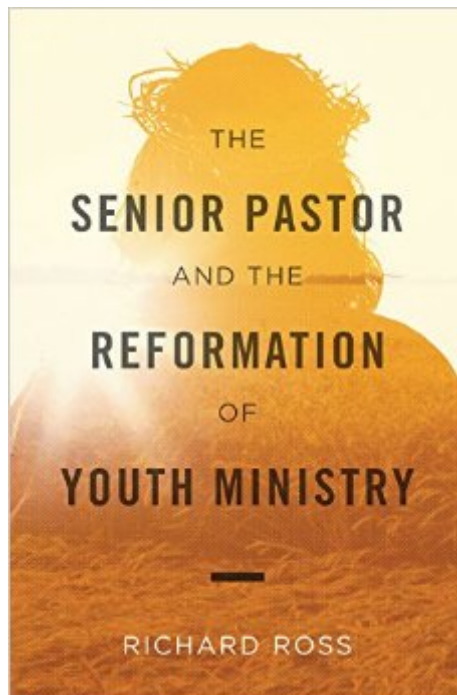


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The Senior Pastor And The Reformation Of Youth Ministry



Synopsis

The Senior Pastor and the Reformation of Student Ministry, written by Richard Ross, is a book written for pastors and those desiring to bring reformation to their youth ministries. Only 10 percent of church teenagers become world-changing disciples. Why is the senior pastor the only one who adequately can address this crisis? Because some of the adults who have the greatest impact on teenagers are spiritually shallow. Church teenagers don't have a case of Moral Therapeutic Deism because the pizza got cold, but because some adults have a case of MTD. Some of the most needed reformations involve systemic change that will ripple through the entire congregation. Even the brightest and most influential youth pastor cannot lead such change alone. Only the senior pastor can take the lead with a full reformation in youth ministry. If he doesn't, he likely will witness waves of successively shallow and impotent believers. If he does, he likely will witness teenagers, families, and future generations of his church carrying the aroma of Christ and impacting the world for the glory of God.

Features: Designed to help pastors and leaders bring reformation to youth ministry
Challenges leaders to come alongside students to help them grow and deepen their relationships with Christ
Via pastors, students will be challenged in their faith, as well as challenged to serve in ministry and to be more connected to their local congregation

Author: Richard Ross, Ph.D., has been in constant ministry with teenagers since age 19. He is a professor of youth ministry at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth and has written or compiled 23 books related to youth ministry, teenagers, and families. He served as a student minister for three decades and coordinated the training of a denomination's youth ministers, and he also cofounded the purity movement known as True Love Waits.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are not already familiar with Richard Ross's heart for Jesus and for ministry, you should read the epilog first. In it, you get the reflections of a veteran youth minister, author, speaker and professor which prompted the chapters that preceded it. Richard has stated bluntly what many youth ministers have sensed: "Senior pastors are uniquely positioned in the church to champion a biblical, disciple-making revolution in youth ministry that even skilled and well-educated youth ministers are unable to make. Senior pastors taking an active role in the reformation of ministry with the next generation can propel the American church toward renewal and expanding kingdom impact." (1) The audience of this book is clearly the senior pastor. The stakes are defined from the outset of the book as Ross challenges senior pastors to understand that, "A godly and skilled youth pastor is a treasure. But for the church to produce many lifetime disciples, the pastor must produce disciplinarians from the moms, dads, and volunteer leaders in the congregation. The youth pastor is not skilled, called, or leveraged to do so." (3) I have served as a Senior Pastor and if I am privileged to again be in that place, this book will be a point of conversation between me and the youth pastor. Richard even gives a template: I won't spoil it by giving the list, but the preface is, "The senior pastor and the youth pastor need a common perspective on this issue. They might discuss..." (45) The text then spends time with definitions and context. Adolescence as a phenomenon is discussed (ch.3) as is the partnership between parent and youth minister (ch.4).

From time to time a book comes along that not only makes you rethink everything, but gives you attainable hope for your ministry. The frustrations in disciple-making I have been unable to articulate, Richard Ross successfully has. Scriptural disciple-making of the adults who impact the next generation (parents and church adults) for the glory of God finally has a workable model that partners the church and the home. But I caution you, this is real, difficult discipleship. It's not a ministry gimmick you can plug in, set it, and forget it. But if you want your church to make disciples, biblically, who waft the aroma of Christ over the next generation in homes and at church, this is a can't miss resource. Don't just read it, draw from it the strategic insights that will equip you to evaluate and rebuild the framework of your ministry biblically, regardless of your church culture and traditions. In today's world there is just no other way to shape the next generation than church ministry teams able to make biblical disciplinarians of the adults in their church, who in turn will

make disciple-makers of the next generation. Each of our staff has a copy and we are holding each other accountable to growing together from the inside out, as a team of disciple-making leaders. Our staff and leadership team have been marked indelibly by the wisdom in this book. This book will raise the tide for the Sr. Pastor, staff and volunteer leadership, church adults, parents, and finally, the next generation of global disciple-makers. There are a lot of books out there calling people to disciple-making by some very worthy personalities, but very few who understand church, staff and family dynamics well enough to speak into the real messiness of ministry.

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