

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the reflected experience of young adults growing up in a Christian community. It focuses primarily on the impact of Christian education and community on the adolescent, specifically on the formation of the individual. The goal of the research was to better understand the specific paradox that, although theory suggests that Christian community should be a source of support for the adolescent and should contribute to a healthy self-concept, adolescent often experience negative emotions such as feeling of anxiety, failure and inadequacy in the context of community. Theory was based on the concept of God's grandchildren and the research question asked whether, if so how specifically, this concept is reflected in the experiences of these adolescents. To obtain answers to this question, seven semi-structured interviews were conducted with young adults who had grown up in a Christian community. Thematic analysis enabled themes that more deeply revealed the specific experience of the respondents. The themes were compared with the characteristics of God's grandchildren and the concept proved to be a largely useful tool for understanding the complex impact of Christian education on the adolescent. The conclusions of the thesis call for sensitive approach and support of teenage believers by parents and the community in Christian education.

KEYWORDS

Christian community, teenagers, God's grandchildren, anxious feelings