

John Stonestreet Challenges Youth and Adults

Spiritual Emphasis Day

John Stonestreet of Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, CO, was the guest speaker for Spiritual Emphasis Day and the Fall Banquet on Sept. 18. He began the day by asking the question, “What does the heart mean?” and read Proverbs 4:23 which says to “guard your heart.” In our culture the heart is just another word for feeling but in the biblical context it means orientation of life. He pointed out that we are in a battle for our heart and mind. If we are swayed by the many ideas fighting for our attention, our hearts have been orientated in a direction that may be wrong. The point Stonestreet stressed was that **ideas have consequences**.

Through thought-provoking questions John had a way of making students think hard. “How would you respond to a person who says, ‘I am an atheist, prove me wrong?’ or ‘Why do you believe in God?’” Students were made aware of how well they could or could not defend their faith and belief in God. When they responded, John played the advocate forcing them to dig deeper in their thought process to prepare their next answer.

A considerable amount of time was spent dealing with the subject of entertainment and how Christians ought to approach it. “The entertainment we are exposed to everyday is loaded with ideas,” he said. Entertainment changes how we think and it even comes at us so fast that we don’t think. “In the culture we live in, it’s normal not to think,” John commented. “We are kept so busy going from one activity to another, from one T.V. program to the next without a break, that we have no time for quiet. We are fooled into thinking and caring about things that are not important and not thinking or caring about things that are important.” He challenged the students to take time every day to think—to have quiet in their lives.

Two JVCS juniors shared their thoughts about the day.

“I never really thought of this before, but many people think that love is nothing more than just a strong feeling. If that is the mindset that people have when they get married, their marriage will collapse. That’s why divorce is so common in our society. People think love is just a strong feeling and when the strong feeling disappears, they get divorced. One of the major things to do is guard your heart, know that love isn’t just a strong feeling. True love will make a couple’s marriage last forever.”

Nicholas Holzemer

“John Stonestreet really challenged me to think outside my usual thoughts. He asked us a question, “How do we know God exists?” I realized that my normal answer of “because the Bible tells us” would not be enough to prove to a nonbeliever the existence of a universal, all-powerful God. Mr. Stonestreet taught us different arguments to prove God’s existence to a nonbeliever and challenged us to find evidence to back up our arguments. He also taught us six very important questions that are essential if you ever get in a conversa-



Top: Mr. Stonestreet takes a break from lecturing to interact with students.



Left: Challenging questions keep the students focused and listening. Below: John speaks at the banquet.



tion with an unbeliever. He encouraged me to pay attention to things going on in the world today and to take a stand.

Morgan Kleinsasser

JVCS Fall Banquet Highlights

About 180 people attended the fall banquet. Following a delicious meal, the student ministries team presented two musical numbers. Samantha Kleinsasser shared her appreciation for what she has learned while attending JVCS. She thanked supporters for what they do to make Christian education possible in this community.

Guest speaker John Stonestreet talked about the battles facing the next generation of adults—the millenials as he calls them. He challenged those that

attended with three things that need to be done to help this generation. The first is to train them to see the world from God’s perspective. The second is to connect them with a community that values a biblical worldview and finally we are to provide mentors who have embraced a biblical worldview.

He encouraged supporters of JVCS that their investment in Christian education is worthwhile. We are training students to not merely **survive** but to **thrive** and become champions for the cause of Christ.