Reply to the two discussion questions below.The replies must be at least **150** words each. Each reply must interact with a minimum of **2** academic resource published within the last 5 years.

Posts must be completed in current **APA format.** The emphasis will be placed on the mechanics of citing information. For example, cite information in the body of the post as well as listing sources in the reference section. Properly cite direct quotations and include the page numbers at the end of the quotations.

**How can you qualify for a 100?**

1. Address the Discussion Board Forum topic thoroughly. Provide support for your comments through interaction with information from course resources or other academic resources in all posts.
2. Interact with information from the course resources or other academic sources in support of your comments and opinions; do so in **all** posts.
3. **Correctly** cite sources used in the posts **both** inside the body of the posts as well as list source citations alphabetically at the end of the posts per current APA formatting guidelines.

**Reply 1 Aaron**

The issues pertaining to juvenile justice have long been a thorn in the side of the criminal justice agencies across the United States.  These matters are only further complicated by the apparent increase in the frequency of juvenile offenses.  Nearly 16% of all violent crimes and 26% of all property crimes are committed by people under the age of 18 (Schmalleger, 2017).  In light of these increases and the burden it puts upon the court system, the department of corrections, and the tax-payers who bare the financial burden, many states have taken steps to rectify the increase of juvenile offenses and make fundamental changes with legislation pertaining to juveniles and justice.

      Georgia, for instance, has offered new reform laws which strive to bring about positive changes within the department of juvenile justice for offenders by emphasizing educational reforms within youth detention centers (Fernandez, Doyle, Koon, & McClain, 2015). Another key component of the Georgia initiative is to change the culture and dialogue between youths and staff within its facilities (Fernandez et al., 2015).

     The majority of states today define a child subject to juvenile court jurisdiction as to someone under the age of 18.  A few states set the age at 16, and some use 17 (Schmalleger, 2017).  Whether or not a minor should be tried as an adult continues to be a matter of serious debate among the states.  One key concern that has been raised by some states is that of the ability of jurors to approach convictions of minors in an unbiased manner (Semple & Woody, 2011). Studies have concluded that jurors were less likely to convict 13-to-15-year-old defendants than 17-to-19 year old defendants (Semple et al., 2011).

      As is often the case with adult offenders as well, substance abuse is often a key contributing factor to juvenile delinquency.  Therefore, some states have shifted their primary focus with offenders to limiting and treating substance abuse addictions (Institute Programs, 2016).  Juvenile justice systems in states such as Oklahoma have recognized the direct potential between recidivism and rehabilitative services (Mason, 2015). This focus is similar to other transitions in the correctional system which tend to emphasize rehabilitation and transformation of offenders rather than simply the punitive nature of corrections.

     There are few easy answers or remedies pertaining to juvenile justice.  From a conservative Christian perspective, there is the need for a "tough on crime" mentality but also that of mercy, especially upon a minor who undoubtedly makes a foolish decision which could potentially have life-long consequences.  Speaking from experience, I made poor choices in my early twenties (when I was far from being considered a minor) which continue to effect me to this day, despite having achieved multiple graduate and under-graduate degrees and being involved in full-time ministry for over a decade.  From that perspective, I understand the need to demonstrate mercy and grace upon the individual who, in their immaturity, make poor choices and violate the law.  Pertaining to violent offenses, these matters are only further complicated.  I understand the need for retributive justice, but I also think the primary focus of the correctional system, particularly regarding juvenile offenders, should always be on restoration and rehabilitation.

                                                     References

Fernandez, M.A., Doyle, C., Koon, R., & McClain, D.  (2015).  Managing disruptive and violent juvenile offenders in the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.  *Corrections Today, 77*(5), 16.

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Schmalleger, F.  (2017).  Criminal justice today: An introductory text for the twenty-first century.  Boston, MA: Pearson.

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**Reply #2 Britney**

The Juvenile Justice System has a lot on their plate when it comes to dealing with the juveniles in today’s society. The juvenile system is considered to be an institution that was developed to deal with juveniles when they are caught become convicted of crimes. The juvenile justice system is at times undermined and unappreciated when in all reality they have the most important task when it comes to guarding and restructuring the troubled youth in community. Dealing with the youth these days can be complicated being there are so many other things that youth have to deal with amongst the peers.

For example juveniles in today’s society have to deal with cyber bullying, cyber-stalking, sexual oriented texting, school violence, substance abuse, and mental health concerns. According to Angela Bernstein (2017), “mass media can significantly affect juvenile behavior. This assumption highlights the possibility that violence and aggression in the mass media potentially lead to juvenile delinquency (p.1). Juveniles are introduced to more violence now days through the media and even social media outlets. A lot of these social outlets did not exist twenty years ago therefore it was less juvenile crime.

The array of social media outlets help contribute to a lot of juvenile issues as well. According to Michel Martin (2013), social media is encouraging bad and sometimes violent teen behavior (p.1). It is believed that without social media outlets a lot of crimes or violence probably would not happen. Social media outlets allows for information to spread to everyone on social media quickly, it allow juveniles to be able to interact with their bullies more compared to if the only communication was by phone, it allows for others to be involved to instigate, and it allows public humiliation. Social media has a large effect on today’s generation of youth.

However, as juveniles or teenagers mistakes are going to be made. It is a part of growing up and becoming an adult. A lot of outside resources contribute to the decisions that juveniles make and their peers have an effect on their decisions as well. When juveniles make these mistakes they should not be tried as adults or punished as an adult would. However, an age limit must be present. A lot of times juveniles make a lot of decisions when they are younger that as an adult they look back on and wish they had never done.

Juveniles should be given the opportunity grown and learn from their mistakes. Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (ESV)”. Today’s juveniles need guidance, direction, and parents that are willing to invest positive vibes into their lives. However, there will be those juveniles unfortunately that will not have that guidance and may make worst decisions than others. The juvenile justice system should work with those juveniles and help the change their lives around so that they don’t make the same mistakes again. Adultification is not always the answer.

References

Bernstein, A. (2017, March 25). Mass Media Effects on Juvenile Delinquent Behavior - Panmore Institute. Retrieved from http://panmore.com/mass-media-effects-juvenile-delinquent-behavior

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