

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

“Could you stop filming me with that video camera? Because I’m really here in real life, you can enjoy it in real life rather than through your camera. This isn’t a DVD, this is a real show. And I’d really like you to enjoy my show because there’s lots of people outside that couldn’t come in.”

Singer Adele, talking to an audience member at a concert in Verona, Italy on May 29, 2016.



Parents as Prophets

WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



I learned many years ago that my calling as a parent includes a calling to be a “prophet.” What image does the word *prophet* conjure up in your mind? I would venture to say that for many in today’s world, the image isn’t one that’s very positive. Some immediately think of crazed and socially awkward religious zealots that stand on busy street corners holding homemade signs and muttering about the impending end of the world.

Those who have read and understood the Bible know that throughout the course of biblical history, God called certain people to speak his truth in his name. The Bible includes both a written record of the utterances of these prophets, along with several books of prophecy. When these divinely called and inspired prophets spoke, their words were the commands and revelations of God. Their words were meant to keep God’s people on course in their lives, mapping out the right road to travel while offering life-giving correctives when they would wander onto dangerous paths.

When I suggest that our approach to parenting our children be “prophetic,” being prophetic in our relationships with the kids we know and love is an intentional effort on our part to both know and communicate the truths of God’s Word and how those truths speak to every area of their lives. In effect, it is the intentional process of looking for opportunities to speak biblical truth into their lives, showing how God’s Word and the Christian faith speaks and relates to all of life.

It is the process of imparting Godly wisdom to our children and teens. It is all about making the conscious and deliberate effort to lay out God’s will and way for their lives, and issuing clear guidance and correctives when they. . . just like us! . . . stray from that path.

How do we do this? First and foremost we should ask God to guide us in what, how, and when we communicate his truth. Unlike prophets of biblical times, this does not mean that we wait for God’s Spirit to move in our lives in a way that provokes an utterance or new revelation. Instead, we should ask God to guide us to the truths he’s already spoken in Scripture, along with how and when to communicate those truths to our kids. Of course, this means that we make it a priority to carve out time for daily Bible study, prayer, and meditation. We will read books in an effort to learn God’s will and way for our lives. And, we will sit under good preaching and teaching in a church that is committed to knowing God and His Word.

Don’t ever forget, there’s no nook or cranny of our lives that lies outside God’s rule and reign. The Scriptures speak to every teenage pressure, choice, problem, or situation we face in life. Part of our God-given responsibility is to communicate what God has said regarding these matters. In this way, we become prophetic in our parenting as we help our kids hear and understand God’s revelation and commands. You *are* God’s mouthpiece to your kids. ✨

General Entertainment TV Brand of the Year

Source:
2016 Harris Poll EquiTrend



1. AMC Television Network (American Movie Classics)
2. FX Television Network
3. A&E Television Network
4. TBS Television Network
5. ABC Family Television Network
6. TNT Television Network (Turner Network Television)
7. USA Television Network
8. BBC America Television Network
9. Comedy Central Television Network
10. Hallmark Channel



QUICK STATS

In 1966, 96% of teens said they believe in God. Now, 50 years later, 83% of teens say they believe in God or other divine beings.

(Newsweek)

65% of Americans either strongly agree or somewhat agree that it's a good idea to live with one's significant other before getting married.

(Barna Group)

FROM THE NEWS:

POPULARITY TRAP

The Atlantic magazine recently featured an article that read "Popularity is a trap. The research is overwhelming." But try telling that to your popularity and celebrity-obsessed kids. Perhaps sharing some data with them might serve to convince them of the popularity trap. A study tracking 200 13-year-olds over the course of ten years found that kids who are labeled as popular and cool by their peers have a 45% greater rate of problems due to substance abuse by age 22, and a 22% greater rate of criminal behavior than teens who are considered "average." In other words, popular kids become far more socially unacceptable by the time they reach young adulthood. It seems that popularity fades quickly over time. Because our kids may seek popularity through association with those that are considered popular, we should remind them of these words from Proverbs: "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

TRENDS:
CAR SURFING

Because of where they're at developmentally, adolescents are by nature more prone to risk-taking behavior than are adults. That reality hit home once again through the tragic story of 18-year-old Kyle Scholla. Kyle was killed in the parking lot of a Colorado Wal-Mart when a dangerous and risky game of car-surfing went wrong. As indicated by its name, car-surfing is a thrill-seeking activity in which a person rides outside of a vehicle by standing on the hood, roof, trunk, or bumper. While we don't know the details of what happened in this case, stories like these usually result from an in-the-moment impulsive decision to take a dare or show-off. Perhaps you remember how this would play itself out in your own adolescence, impulsivity and foolishness. Parents, it's important that we think out-loud with our kids, warning them about the dangers of risky behavior. And, we must remind them of the importance of thinking before acting.

LATEST RESEARCH:
PORNOGRAPHY AND MASCULINITY

What does it mean to flourish as a human being? This is a question worth pondering as we consider where young men find their value and worth in life. In other words, what is it that they aspire to? In Mark 12:30, Jesus gives us a clear statement on what we are to aspire to. He says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." In other words, every nook and cranny of our lives must be directed towards faithful obedience to our Lord. But in today's culture, researchers are telling us that young men who regularly use pornography are more likely to measure their masculinity, social status, and self-worth by their ability to score with, as the research states, "hot women." What we think about and how we spend our time, effort, and money indicates who or what we worship. What are you doing to steer your kids away from these lies and into a life of allegiance to God?

COLLEGE
TRANSITION
INITIATIVE

a resource of CPYU



www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com

Is College the
Right Choice?

by Walt Mueller



My wife and I have raised four kids. All of them are now young adults. Our first three children faced the same unspoken expectations that Lisa and I faced when we were finishing our high school years. An immediate transition to college to pursue a Bachelor's degree was the expected path. But as the college landscape began to change quickly, we began to think twice about communicating with our fourth child the same expectation that had been communicated to us. We began to ask, "Should an immediate transition to college be his next step?" We decided to work with him to weigh his options and come to a wise decision that matched his desires, his gifts, and his abilities. Consequently, he is working while taking classes part-time at a local community college.

As you prepare your kids for life after high school, consider these realities:

- College is not for everyone. Perhaps your child has been given a bent towards a vocational calling that doesn't require a college education. Would a trade school or an apprenticeship be a better option?
- A gap year is a great way to gain life experience and hone one's understanding of gifts, abilities, and calling. Taking a year to sort things out might be a good idea.
- Community college education is a great option. Students can save money on tuition while living at home and avoiding the pain of college debt.

New Podcast

Youth Culture Matters is a new long-format podcast from CPYU. Co-hosted by Walt Mueller and Jason Soucinek, each episode features an interview with an expert in a youth culture related field.



Listen at
www.cpyu.org/podcast.

FROM THE WORD

When Jesus was bringing what's known as "The Sermon on the Mount" to a conclusion, he presented those present with a choice. It's a choice that he lays before all people in all times and places who listen to his teaching. The choice is between obedience and disobedience. The obedience that Jesus calls for is not an obedience that results in our *being* saved, but an obedience that flows out of our gratitude for *having been* saved.

We sometimes erroneously come to believe that what a person says about themselves lines up with the reality of who that person really is. In Matthew 7:21, Jesus warns us that *saying* is not the same as *being*. To call him "Lord" is not necessarily a sign of living under His Lordship. Intellectual knowledge is not enough. We must endeavor to be truly transformed by Christ, a reality which is evidenced not only by the words we utter, but by the minute-by-minute choices that we make each and every day.

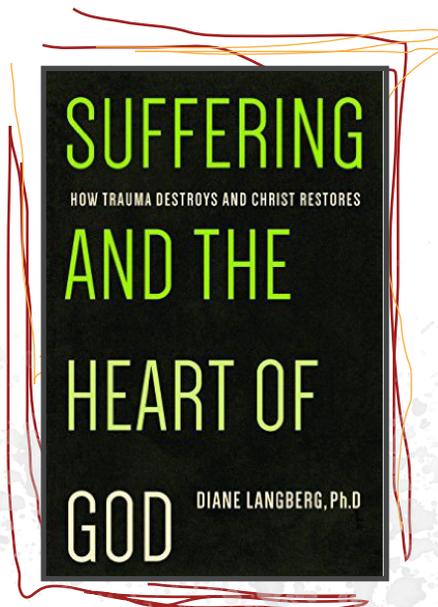
The reality is that every time we make a choice, we are choosing sides. We either choose *for* Christ and His Kingdom, or we choose to go *against* Christ and His Kingdom. Take stock of your life by looking at your lifestyle and choices. Does your life indicate that you are a *sayer*? Or, are you a *sayer* and a *doer*?

**"NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS
TO ME 'LORD, LORD,' WILL
ENTER THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN, BUT ONLY HE
WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY
FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN."
MATTHEW 7:21**

HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

When someone suffers through trauma, can healing happen? And, if yes, how does it happen? Dr. Diane Langberg tackles these complex and difficult questions with the insights she has gained through more than forty years of counseling those whose lives have been destroyed by trauma and abuse. Her answer carefully explained in *Suffering and the Heart of God* is "Yes, what trauma destroys, Christ can and does restore."

But it's not a fast process, instead much patience is required from family, friends, and counselors as they wisely and respectfully help victims unpack their traumatic suffering through talking, tears, and time. And it's not a process that can be separated from the work of God in both a counselor and counselee. Dr. Langberg calls all of those who wish to help sufferers to model Jesus's sacrificial love and care in how they listen, love, and guide. The heart of God is revealed to sufferers as they grow to understand the cross of Christ and how their God came to this earth and experienced such severe suffering that he too is "well-acquainted with grief." The cross of Christ is the lens that transforms and redeems traumatic suffering and its aftermath, not only for the sufferer, but it also transforms those who walk with the suffering. This book will be a great help to anyone who loves, listens to, and seeks to help someone impacted by trauma and abuse. There is no quick fix, but there is the hope for healing through the love of God in Christ.



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