

CPYU PARENT PAGE

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*"A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions."
"He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame."*

— Proverbs 18:2, 13 (NIV)

BIBLICAL LITERACY AND COLLEGE

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YOUTH CULTURE HOT LIST

TOP TEN GLOBAL BRANDS IN 2006

SOURCE:
BRANDCHANNEL.COM

1. **Google**
2. **Apple**
3. **YouTube**
4. **Wikipedia**
5. **Starbucks**
6. **Nokia**
7. **Skype**
8. **IKEA**
9. **Coca-Cola**
10. **Toyota**

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

"Sometimes, honestly, I feel we're moderating [a support group]. We tap into dark stuff from the high school years, and it's our responsibility to bring kids a positive, nonviolent solution."

- My Chemical Romance front-man Gerard Way

Spin, February 2007, pg. 54

Students who desire to transition smoothly from high school to college should read and understand the Bible. You probably expect this kind of advice coming from me. In my work with CPYU's College Transition Initiative, I have written and spoken often about the need for students to go to college for biblical reasons. As Christians, the Bible is our authoritative, "life-shaping" story that should dictate the decisions and direction of our lives, especially as it pertains to attending institutions of higher education. A working knowledge of the Bible and a daily practice of devotional Bible reading are essential for this major next step in students' lives. Christian parents need to continually instill the value of biblical literacy into youth.

This is not uncommon or surprising advice coming from a confessing Christian who believes the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. What is surprising is that results from a study conducted by the Bible Literacy Project (BLP) reveal that I am not alone in offering such guidance. According to the BLP's results, English professors from leading colleges and universities all agree: "Knowledge of the Bible is a deeply important part of a good education." Overwhelmingly, their survey indicated that a lack of basic Bible literacy hampers students' academic ability.

TREND ALERT: EXTRAVAGANT BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Thanks to shows like MTV's "My Super Sweet 16" teens are desiring elaborate and expensive birthday parties. The MTV show highlights wealthy teens as they plan for their big day. The parents are, of course, expected to pay tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars for this one event. The parties usually have sophisticated themes, expensive gifts, and often even live concerts from some of today's most popular music acts. There is also a lot of bickering and pouting between the birthday girl/guy and their parents as they attempt to get whatever they want.

College bound students need to be aware of the significance of the Bible historically as well as devotionally. Not only do students need to meditate on and better understand the Bible for discipleship, they also need to realize that to be an educated person and responsible citizen requires biblical literacy. Christian students may have an educational advantage here, but we should never assume that because a student attends church he or she is biblically literate. Students need to be honest about how well they know the Bible *before* heading off to college.

This is not a problem that is "out there," only affecting "secular" society. Biblical illiteracy is also affecting the church and our families. What are you doing to raise up a biblically literate generation? Do your teens have a working knowledge of the biblical text? In what areas is your family weak and need to improve? Continually asking these kinds of questions, and responding to them by reading the Bible together as a family and encouraging personal devotions can help to ensure your teens will be biblically literate before reaching the "world of the university." While it is admittedly impossible to prepare students completely for the college transition, there are steps that can be taken to help students transition more smoothly. Begin by helping your teens plant their faith firmly in God's Word.

Throwing parties like this have become a way to flaunt status for both parents and teens. Some parents have been known to "break the bank" in order to give their son or daughter the kind of party they "deserve."

There is now a backlash from parents who recognize that this form of one-upmanship breeds a sense of entitlement amongst our children and teens. As the effects of extreme parties and the desire to throw them trickle down to middle-America, parents need to work harder than ever to instill a sense of God's values regarding money, wealth and status.

IN THE NEWS: JOB STRESS

Today's children and teens are being affected by their parents' job stress. The average number of hours worked each week has increased significantly over the past 30 years, and as a result, stress levels are increasing as well. Sometimes it's near impossible to leave work at the office. However, though many parents do not realize it, when they come home from work stressed, it can also stress out their children.

Spending quality time together with our teens is important, but just as important - if not more - is the mood we are in. Ellen Galinsky, president of the

Families and Work Institute, says "If all else fails, talk to your children and let them know you had a bad day at work. The most important piece of information to impart to kids is that your bad mood isn't their fault."

Teens are already in the midst of the turbulent years of adolescence marked by emotional highs and lows. Parents must strive to put them first and find healthy ways to relieve their work related stress and not let it hinder their relationships with their children.

Source: MSNBC.com, 1/25/2007



FROM THE WORD

The Proverbs are a collection of wise sayings that offer us sound advice and guidance on life. Taken together, the Proverbs begin by telling readers that wisdom is rooted in the fear and trust of God and God alone. Nothing else. Then, this great Old Testament book moves to offering practical help on choosing between good and evil behaviors and what it means to live a full and God-honoring life.

Have you ever taken the time to read the entire book of Proverbs? For parents, this book is filled with helpful and thought-provoking content that can be applied to the parent/teen relationship. Proverbs chapter 18 contains two words of advice to parents. In verse 2 we read: "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions." Verse 13 hits the same theme: "He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame."

The two biggest complaints we hear - over and over again - from teenagers about their parents and other adults are these: "They don't listen to me" and "they don't understand me." Perhaps we should heed the wisdom of Solomon in order to prevent the ugly progression that happens in far too many parent/teen relationships. You see, if we don't listen to them, we can't understand them. If we don't understand them, they realize they haven't been listened to and understood. And if we haven't heard them, they are more likely to tune us out when it's our turn to speak. Solomon knew quite a bit about good communication and preventing communication breakdowns.

How's the communication been in your house lately?

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LATEST RESEARCH: MATERIALISM

Results from several different studies conclude that today's teens are perhaps more materialistic than ever before. Getting rich is seen as a top life goal for nearly 80% of 18-25 year-olds in this country, says a recent Pew Research Center poll. In 1966, 42% of college freshman thought it was either essential or very important to be "very well-off financially." UCLA's annual survey of college freshman shows that 40 years later this number has jumped to nearly 75%.

Harris Interactive's January 2007 *Trends and Tudes* newsletter also researched teens and materialism. Among the findings: 66% of tweens and 74% of teens agreed with the statement "I would be happier if I

had more money to buy more things for myself." The good news is that this same survey also showed a high level of generosity and thankfulness among today's young people. They were not only thankful for material things, but for the people in their lives as well.

The editors of *Trends and Tudes* go on to suggest that the data reveals that "teaching appreciation diminishes the impact of materialism." Our role as parents then should be to teach and model an appreciation for the gifts God has provided for us. Let's make serving and pleasing God the number one priority in our teens' lives.

