

CPYU PARENT PAGE

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"They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath." - I Thess. 1:9&10

TEACHING YOUR TEEN ABOUT ALCOHOL

BY WALT MUELLER

TOP 10 BRANDS WITH HIGHEST EQUITY AMONG 8-24 YEAR OLDS

SOURCE:

Harris Interactive

1. M&Ms
2. Google
3. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
4. Oreo's
5. iPod
6. Target
7. Subway
8. Hershey's Milk Chocolate
9. Doritos
10. Pixar

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

"I want to get her sheltered from the storm. Stop the insanity just for a minute. When you go through what she's been through, it takes a beating on you. And there comes a point where you just got to step back."

- Billy Ray Cyrus, father of Miley Cyrus, speaking about the recent actions of his daughter, *GQ*, March 2011.

Adolescent alcohol abuse has been a problem for all recent teenage generations. Teenagers' curious natures combine with a desire to have fun, a desire to escape from life's pressures, and easy availability in a mix that is always dangerous and sometimes deadly. Sadly, a new trend is fueling teenage alcohol abuse and its related problems. Many parents are actually encouraging their children to drink by providing alcohol to teenagers in their own homes. They assume that since their children are likely to experiment with alcohol anyway, it's best to give them both the alcohol and a place to drink "safely."

Our God-given responsibility is not to teach our kids how to abuse alcohol. Instead, our role is to teach our kids a lifestyle of obedience that brings honor and glory to God. Most teenagers are left to get their information about alcohol from unreliable sources. They learn from their friends, advertising, and what they pick up along the way. Only about one in three middle school and high school aged students say that their parents talk to them "often" or "a lot" about tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.

Alcohol education should start when we tell our pre-school children not to accept candy, gifts, pills, or rides from strangers. As they grow older, we should take the time to educate our children on the different types of alcohol they will encounter and the dangers and effects of each. Don't overstate the danger by

saying that everyone who drinks beer will die or other generalized nonsense. Rather, tell them about the potential short- and long-term harmful effects of alcohol abuse in a truthful and realistic manner.

Another way to teach your children is by seizing the teachable moment as they encounter alcohol use and abuse in the media. Teach them to discern the true and false messages on TV shows. Help them pick apart the ridiculous promises and nature of alcohol ads.

Teach them that it is against the law for minors to buy or drink alcoholic beverages. Teach them that God has given them the responsibility to obey the laws of the government. Take the time to read and study Romans 13:1-3, 6-7 with your kids. And if they get caught, be sure that they are given the wonderful opportunity to learn by suffering the legal consequences of their actions. Don't work to get any of the legal ramifications "fixed."

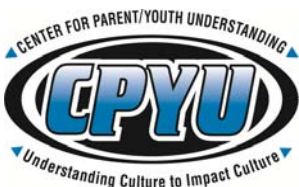
Study together what Scripture has to say about drunkenness in passages such as Proverbs 23:20-21; I Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; and I Thessalonians 5:5-8.

And finally, walk your talk. A code of biblical moral conduct lived out in the house is the most powerful shaper of your child's own spiritual values and behaviors.

CPYU TREND ALERT: ONLINE SHOPPING

Researchers at the Pew Research Center have been monitoring trends in online shopping among teenagers. They report that forty-three percent of teenagers with Internet access are now shopping online. Pew found that teenagers themselves say they're prone to go into deep debt because of how much they spend online. One reason kids overspend is that stores are always accessible as they are only as far away as your computer monitor and open 24/7. Todd Mark, of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, cites the use of

credit cards as a problem. He says, "If you go online and you have a credit card, you can spend, spend, spend, and you can continue to spend until you've reached your limit, which may be way more than you ever planned or budgeted on spending." Parents, it's our responsibility to teach our kids to be good stewards of their resources, helping them shop in ways that bring Glory to God. Take the time to teach your kids to develop healthy Internet shopping habits.



LATEST RESEARCH: EARLY PUBERTY

It is absolutely amazing how quickly children grow up. In recent years, young girls have been found to be hitting puberty at younger and younger ages. Now, researchers are saying that the same trend has been verified among our boys. A study in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* compared the rate of development among 6200 Bulgarian boys with a similar 1970s study. Both studies measured a variety of physical characteristics. The studies done in the 1970s concluded that the leap

forward occurred at ages thirteen to sixteen. The more recent study found that sexual development is occurring a year earlier, at the ages of twelve to fifteen.

The change has been precipitated by genetic, environmental, nutritional, and educational factors. Awareness of this trend is helpful, as it makes us aware of our need to prepare our kids for this transition at younger and younger ages.



FROM THE WORD

Once you become a Christian, what happens next? Or, to be more personal, once *you* became a Christian, what happened next? Researchers endeavoring to answer that question have taken a look at teens and adults in North America and have more or less come to this answer: "Not much."

Here's the problem – many of us have fallen into believing that becoming a Christian is about not much more than "getting saved." In other words, we raise our hand and say "yes" to following Jesus, but then we spend our lives waiting for Heaven. . . which we will experience when we die or when Jesus returns. But there's something more to being a follower of Jesus than just waiting. And that "something more" needs to be understood and lived by both teenagers and adults alike.

The secret can be found in what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians regarding what he had

heard about their faith: "They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath." (I Thess. 1:9&10). The Thessalonians were not only waiting for the return of Jesus and their entry into life eternal, but they spent their lives on earth *serv*ing God.

When Jesus calls us to "come and follow," he calls us not only into eternal life, but to a life on earth where we are committed to integrating our faith into every minute, nook, and cranny of our existence. Our service, like the service of the Thessalonians, should be motivated by gratitude to God for the grace we've been shown. And when we are committed to living that kind of life, our kids will learn to do the same.

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IN THE NEWS: SEXTORTION

The Associated Press recently reported on a new and developing type of cyber-crime that involves children and teens, but can be prevented. Labeled as "sextortion," this new phenomena enabled by the age of digital media is one that we must talk about with our kids from a very young age. Here's how it works – a child or teen – let's say a young girl – takes a sexually suggestive or compromising photo of herself and posts it somewhere online. She assumes that she's posting the photo in a place where

privacy settings will keep most people from ever seeing it. But somebody copies the photo and it gets distributed widely. The photo winds up in the hands of a person who contacts the girl to tell her that he has a copy of the photo, and unless she sends him more photos of herself in compromising poses, he will send the photo to her parents or the entire world. Parents, now is the time to say and do what you must to prevent your kids from ever hitting the shutter button in the first place.

