

The New Monogamy

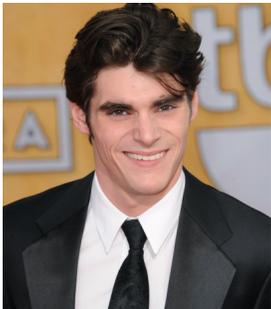
WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

“The past does haunt you, but it haunts you for a reason: to remind you of the mistakes and actions you’ve made along the way and you have to grow from those actions.”

RJ Mitte, actor who played Walter White Jr. in AMC’s “Breaking Bad” reflecting on his past and his real-life struggles with cerebral palsy, *Intelligencer Journal/New Era*, September 11, 2014



Last March, an article in *Rolling Stone* magazine caught my eye. . . and made me grieve. Alex Morris reported on “Tales From the Millennials’ Sexual Revolution” and some troubling values, attitudes, and behaviors that are becoming normalized among our kids as they transition into adulthood.

Unlike the traditional understanding of monogamy where a man and woman are joined together and pledge their faithfulness to one another in marriage, this new monogamy exclusivity really isn’t about exclusivity or faithfulness at all. Rather, partners enter into a marriage, or even cohabitation (who gets married anymore?), with a “primary partner.” Then, they share and even celebrate the understanding that there will also be one or more “secondary partners” who are willingly and openly embraced and acknowledged. Why? Because the “primary partner” will not be able to meet all of one’s emotional or sexual needs. Sure, a version of this has been around for a long, long time. But it used to be called an “affair,” “cheating,” “adultery,” or just plain old “sneaking around.” Now, it’s being called “normal.”

Our culture is moving closer and closer to full-scale acceptance and normalization of what’s known as “polyamory.” The word combines the prefix “poly”- meaning “many or several” - with the Latin word for love, “amor.” In other words, those who embrace polyamory believe in having several emotionally and/or sexually intimate relationships at one time, and doing it all out in the open, with the approval of everyone involved. After all, if no longer seen as a vice but now a virtue, there’s no

reason to even consider hiding anything. This takes the commonly accepted practice of premarital promiscuity and amps it up to new levels, where it’s not only something that’s expected and celebrated *before* marriage, but is now accepted and celebrated *after* marriage. In other words, your kids are now swimming in a cultural soup where relational and sexual faithfulness and exclusivity in marriage might soon be seen as an archaic throwback to a time that was . . . well. . . just plain old-fashioned.

Whether they call it polyamory or not, every one of your students will encounter this trend, and some will even embrace it. How can we equip our students to think about and respond to polyamory and the new monogamy to the glory of God through being faithful to God’s will and way?

First, you need to talk about the new monogamy. Don’t ignore it or hope it will go away. Engage with your kids as you label, define, and describe polyamory and the manner in which it is sneaking into our culture.

Second, set the bar high for marriage. As Christians, we must always return to God’s Word if we hope to understand his design and intent for the institution of marriage.

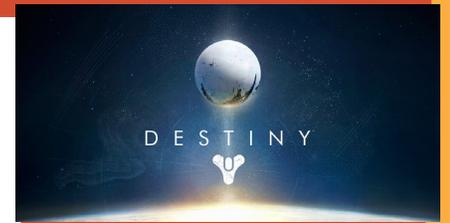
And finally, bring the light of God’s Word on marriage to bear on this new understanding of monogamy. Help them to critique the new monogamy to help them see how far it falls short of God’s design for love, sex, and marriage.*

Video Games Sold in the United States

Week Ending
September 20, 2014
source: VGChartz.com



1. *Destiny* - PS4
2. *Destiny* - Xbox One
3. *Destiny* - Xbox 360
4. *Destiny* - PS3
5. *The Sims 4* - PC
6. *Minecraft* - Xbox 360
7. *Madden NFL 15* - PS4
8. *Theatrhythm Final Fantasy: Curtain Call* - 3DS
9. *Madden NFL 15* - Xbox 360
10. *Minecraft* - PS3



QUICK STATS

52% of American teens between the ages of 15 to 17-years-old don't know how to change a tire. 32% don't even know how to check tire pressure.

(Study commissioned by Michelin)

Teens who smoke marijuana daily are over 60% less likely to complete high school than those who never use.

(The Lancet Psychiatry)

FROM THE NEWS:

COLLEGE MINDSET LIST

One of the annual reports that serves to remind us of our need to keep up with a rapidly changing youth culture is the *Beloit College Mindset List*. Each fall, Beloit issues a list of things that are cultural and historical markers for the incoming class of freshmen. Here are just a few highlights from this fall's list. Among those who have never been alive in the lifetime of the Class of 2018 are Tupac, JonBenet Ramsey, Carl Sagan, and Tiny Tim. They were in Kindergarten during the 9/11 attacks. The courts have always been over-turning bans on same-sex marriage. Hell has always been associated less with torment and more with nothingness. Pornography has always been available on the Internet. They have never used Netscape as their browser. And one route to pregnancy has always been through frozen eggs. The world is indeed changing fast. Parents, we must know both God's Word and the world, so that we can bring the light of God's Word to bear on these new realities.

TRENDS: EXERCISE DEPENDENCY

Over the last several years, CPYU has researched the eating disorders known as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa on numerous occasions. While doing that research, we learned that there are all other kinds of disordered eating starting to sweep through our culture.

We live in a world where the pressure to be thin and to be perfect are overwhelming.

One surprising disorder is labeled hyper-gymnasia. It's an obsession with and addiction to exercise. It's now more commonly called exercise dependency. A recent study of 2,800 secondary school children found that as many as 8.5% showed some degree of exercise dependency.

While this behavior spans both genders, it tends to be young women who most often show signs of becoming obsessed with a gym perfect physique and then exercise as much and as often as possible. In a world where identity is found in appearance, we need to lead our kids to find their identity in Christ.



LATEST RESEARCH: SEXUAL ASSAULT

Earlier this fall, the United Nations released some alarming news regarding rape and sexual assault against girls under the age of eighteen. New research indicates that one in ten girls around

the world have been forced to have intercourse or take part in other sexual acts. This means that there are about one-hundred-and-twenty million girls who have been victimized, most commonly by former husbands, boyfriends, and partners. What is it that feeds this horrible scourge of sexual misconduct? First, the sin that has entered into and permeates the world has broken God's good gift of our sexuality.

And second, we live in a culture that continues to promote boundary free sexual expression and the objectification of people, which combines to send the message that people are not people, but sexual objects to be used. Parents, teach your children about God's design and order for sexuality. Teach them how to avoid being victimized, and how to view others with God-given dignity and value.

COLLEGE TRANSITION INITIATIVE

a resource of CPYU



Finding Community

by Derek Melleby



Christians need to intentionally seek out Christian community on campus. During the first few weeks of college, students are bombarded with different activities to fill their schedules. Everything is new: people, buildings, class, meal times. Many students are navigating these daily activities on their own for the first time. It's easy to drop worship and "Bible study" from an already hectic schedule.

What can be done to help students make wise decisions in how they spend their time and who they spend it with? Are there steps that can be taken by youth workers and parents to assist in this transition? What follows are five suggestions to help students connect to Christian community on campus:

First, teach the value and importance of community to the life of faith.

Second, make sure students know what Christian community is available for them where they are going to school.

Third, help students make connections to Christian community before they arrive on campus.

Fourth, host a panel discussion featuring current college students from your church.

Fifth, check in on college students during their first several weeks on campus.

Webinars

Did you know that CPYU offers webinars? Visit WWW.CPYU.ORG to learn more and to register.

October 2014 Webinars:

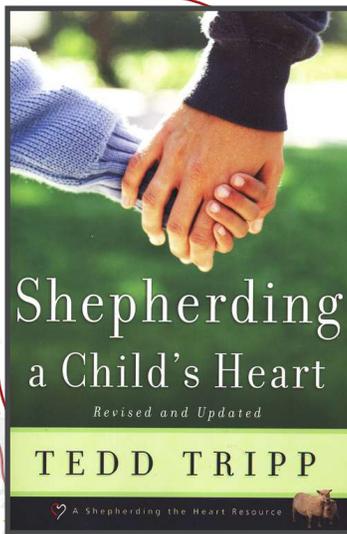
10 Ways CPYU Can Help You Minister to Parents

October 16, 2014

Five Pressing Mega-Trends in Youth Culture Every Youth Worker and Parent Must Address

October 23, 2014

Available in the CPYU Resource Center at www.cpyuresourcecenter.org.



FROM THE WORD

Growing up in today's youth culture means that our kids live their lives on a landscape filled with all kinds of pressures and choices. One of the most important lessons we can teach them is that whenever they make a choice, they are choosing sides. They either choose the narrow road that leads to life as they make their choice intent on bringing glory to the Kingdom of God, or they choose the wide road that brings glory to what the Bible calls the kingdoms of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Counselor Timothy Lane reminds us that the world, the flesh, and the devil are three basic elements to temptation. The world includes our past, our strengths and weaknesses, and our relationships. These things don't determine our behavior, but are our "bents" that lead us to respond and choose in certain ways. The flesh is our evil desires. And the devil is the one who uses the world and the flesh to set traps that lead us into sin. . . and then accuses us of being so rotten and evil when we do sin that we stand no chance before God.

But John reminds us that while we are to remain watchful because of the world, the flesh, and the devil, God has provided a way out. The Spirit tells us, "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (James 4:4). That's a message that we must embrace ourselves, and never stop teaching our kids.

"THE ONE WHO IS IN YOU IS GREATER THAN THE ONE WHO IS IN THE WORLD."

JAMES 4:4

HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

Shepherding a Child's Heart is about how to speak to the heart of your child. The things your child does and says flow from the heart. Luke 6:45 puts it this way, "... out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Written for parents with children of any age, this insightful book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child's heart into the paths of life.

In this revised edition, Dr. Tedd Tripp not only draws on his thirty years experience as a pastor, counselor, school administrator, and father, but he also shares insights gained in ten years of teaching this material in conferences worldwide, providing more valuable help for parents.

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