

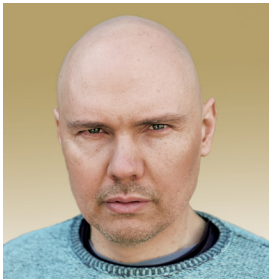
# CPYU PARENT PAGE

THE CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH  
UNDERSTANDING

Helping **parents** understand **teenagers** and their world

## YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

*“Make better music. Personally, my opinion – I think Jesus would like better bands, you know? Now I’m going to get a bunch of Christian rock hate mail... Christian rock, if you want to be good, stop copying U2. U2 already did it. You know what I mean? There’s a lot of U2-esque Christian rock. Bono and company created the template for modern Christian rock. And I like to think Jesus would want us all to evolve.”*



Billy Corgan, lead singer-songwriter of The Smashing Pumpkins, during a CNN interview for “Talk Asia” when asked “What would you say to Christian rockers?” August 23, 2013



WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



When Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke caught the attention of the world with their racy stage performance at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards a few weeks ago, parents were forced to respond. At one extreme, some parents decided that it was time to shield their kids from the negative effects of music and media by grabbing their children and teens in fear while screaming “Run for your life!” That’s tempting, I know. At the other extreme were the parents who simply looked the other way, assuming that music and media really don’t have any influence on kids. While there certainly are times when it’s appropriate to step in and shut it off and times when it’s appropriate to leave it on, neither of these extremes - when used exclusively - is helpful to our kids.

I would suggest that a more God-honoring approach is to teach children and teens *how* to think Christianly about music and media. Yes, when our children are young we should be doing a lot of thinking *for* them. They don’t have the cognitive abilities or the wisdom to make mature, Godly decisions. Setting boundaries is necessary. But because we want them to grow up into adults who are able to think biblically *for themselves*, it is important that we exert a deliberate effort to *think with* them about their music and media during the formative adolescent years. Sure, they think (or know!) that they are capable of making these decisions for themselves, but the reality is that their still-not-yet-complete cognitive development or spiritual maturity requires our continued, active and regular help.

The faithful follower of Christ is one who does “whatever” they do to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31). We want to nurture our kids into having and using “transformed” and “renewed” minds (Romans 12:2). This includes their engagement with music and media. In other words, we want to train them to be able to watch Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke in ways that lead them to make good decisions about what they are seeing and hearing in the moment, and for the rest of their lives.

Here’s a helpful little 3(D) paradigm for *thinking with* your kids about music and media:

First, **Discover** the underlying worldview and message of the media piece. In other words, dig deep to discover the message communicated through the media’s content.

Second, **Discern** by comparing what you just discovered with what God’s Word says on those matters. Discernment is the practice of looking more closely at what you’ve discovered and distinguishing those things God says are good, true, healthy, and right from those things God says are evil, false, dangerous, and wrong.

Third, **Decide** if the media is worthy of being used for your personal entertainment and enjoyment. If it reflects a biblical worldview (and it can do so without being overtly Christian!) and it draws you closer to the image of Christ, then celebrate and enjoy! If not, then you need to make the sometimes difficult decision to move on to something else.★

*For examples of how to think with your kids using the 3(D) method, visit us online at [cpyu.org](http://cpyu.org).*

## Social Media Tools Parents Need to Know About (beyond Facebook)

source:  
CommonSenseMedia.org



1. Twitter
2. Instagram
3. Snapchat
4. Tumblr
5. Google+
6. Vine
7. Wanelo
8. Kik Messenger
9. Oovoo
10. Pheed
11. Ask.fm

### QUICK STATS

In 2011, over 25% of high schoolers were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug at school.

(National Youth Risk Behavior Survey)

Youth exposure to alcohol ads on television rose by 71% in the period between 2001 and 2009.

(The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth)

The video game *Grand Theft Auto V*, released on September 17, brought in more than \$800 million worldwide in its first 24 hours on sale.

(www.gamesindustry.biz)

### FROM THE NEWS:

## WEAPONS, VIOLENCE and SCHOOL SAFETY

**School safety is an issue of concern for all parents.** We want our kids to attend schools where their physical and emotional well-being is shielded from physical violence and bullying. Recently, the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey released data on what's happening in our schools. In 2011, over sixteen percent of high schoolers carried a gun, knife, or club at least one time during the thirty days prior to the survey. Over five percent did the same on school property. Twelve percent report getting into one or more physical fights during the twelve months prior to the survey. We live in a violent and dangerous world. Sadly, this means that we have to go out of our way to equip our kids to function to the honor and glory of God in the midst of violence. Warn your kids against carrying weapons or getting into fights. Tell them to immediately report threats to school authorities. Model conflict-resolution skills. And nurture them into living a Christlike campus presence that is peaceful.

TRENDS:  
DIABULIMIA

This story is about the pressure all of our kids are feeling to be thin and to be perfect. Doctors are now dealing with a new diagnoses called diabulimia. It's a term for kids who have diabetes and who use insulin, but who deliberately skip insulin shots in order to lose weight. Doctors have seen the practice in patients as young as thirteen and as old as sixty. Once the insulin is stopped, the patient loses weight rapidly. Of course, the symptoms of diabetes then ramp up, along with all other kinds of side effects. While your kid might not have diabetes, your kid – like all kids – feels the pressure to conform to horribly unrealistic and unhealthy body image standards. Chances are, you feel those pressures yourself. We live in a day and age when we must fight these pressures to find our identity in our shape. Instead, we need to find a secure identity in Christ!



## LATEST RESEARCH:

## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Currently, there are thirteen million teenagers in the United States who drive. It's alarming to think that of those thirteen million teenagers, three million of them admit to driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or illegally used prescription drugs. And if that's not bad enough, consider this: almost twenty percent of those who drink and drive say that drinking actually improves their driving. Thirty-four percent of those who drive under the influence of marijuana believe that smoking pot improves their driving. These frightening new facts come to us courtesy of the folks at Students Against Destructive Decisions and Liberty Mutual Insurance. Parents, our teenagers think they are invincible and nothing can or will happen to them. We need to remind them of their God-given responsibility to obey the laws that have been established to protect them and to protect others. Take the time to talk to your kids about the destructive nature of substance abuse.

COLLEGE  
TRANSITION  
INITIATIVE  
a resource of CPYUPlanning for  
College

by Derek Melleby



I have been directing CPYU's College Transition Initiative since it began in 2005. I've had the opportunity to speak to many groups of students and parents about how to be spiritually prepared *for* and make the most of college. Over the past few years, I've recognized a growing need among families to address very practical and important questions related to college planning.

Many families are beginning to question the value and worth of a college education; I've heard countless stories of students going into crippling debt to obtain a degree; and I know many students who are unsure about where to go and what to study. I recently heard an economist say this on CSPAN: "Colleges are too costly; students are learning too little; and employment prospects for graduates are increasingly dismal."

Now, more than ever, families need to be willing to ask better questions about the culturally "assumed next step" for life after high school. Be sure to seek an abundance of wise counselors about college decisions. Financial debt, as Scripture reveals, can lead to spiritual consequences.



Want more information about your kids and their world? Visit us on the web at [WWW.CPYU.ORG](http://WWW.CPYU.ORG) or scan the code below with a smartphone to subscribe to our free weekly e-Update!



## FROM THE WORD

As Christian parents, we should earnestly work and pray that our kids would be spared from the spiritually deadly snare of “worldliness.” Oftentimes, our well-intentioned efforts to do so lead us to read John’s words - “Do not love the world or the things in the world” (1 John 2:15) – and then conclude that our parental calling is to pull our kids away from everything about life on this earth and then shelter them in a bunker. But is that what this verse is calling us to do?

It’s important to understand what is meant by the word *world* in John’s imperative. The Bible uses the word *world* in three different ways. First, to refer to the material earth that’s been made and filled by God. Second, to refer to human beings who inhabit this earth God has made. And third, to refer to any area of creation that’s been polluted by sin and is therefore moving in a direction away from serving and glorifying God. Theologian David Wells defines this as “the ways of fallen humanity, alienated from God and his truth.” Being *worldly* means to adopt priorities and allegiances that are ungodly. This is the way *world* is used in 1 John 2:15.

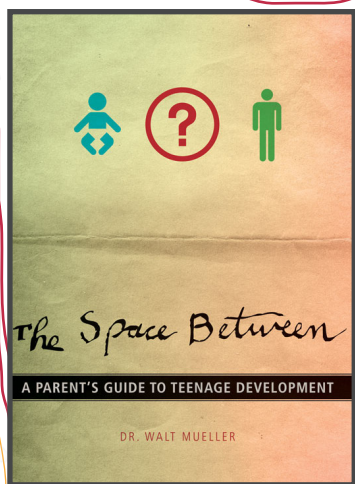
**“DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR THE THINGS IN THE WORLD. IF ANYONE LOVES THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.”**

**1 JOHN 2:15**

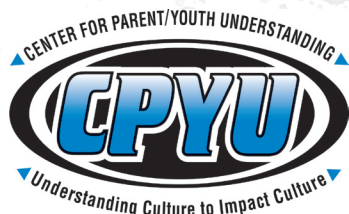
As you raise your children and teens, your goal should be not to separate them from the created order or from those who inhabit the world. We are not to lead our kids into a bunker. Instead, we are called to teach them to live in the midst of fallen humanity, enjoying the good fruit of the cultures that fill the earth. However, we are to teach them to wisely and with discernment avoid adopting ways of thinking and acting that reject the lordship of Christ over all areas of their lives.

## HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

The changes of adolescence, while normal for every teen, feel completely abnormal to parents of teenagers, often leaving you feeling like a helpless bystander. But you’re not alone and there is hope to help you (and your teen) get through these challenging, changing years. *In The Space Between: A Parent’s Guide to Teenage Development*, Dr. Walt Mueller brings wisdom from research and his own experience to help other parents through the tumultuous years of adolescence. With empathy and practical tools, this book will help you understand the changes your teen is experiencing, and help you effectively parent them and create a parent-teen relationship that helps your teen (and you) get through these change-filled years successfully.



Order in the CPYU Resource Center at [www.cpyuresourcecenter.org](http://www.cpyuresourcecenter.org) and use discount code **ppspace** to save \$1 off each copy until 10/31/2013.



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PHONE: (717) 361-8429 FAX: (717) 361-8964 EMAIL: [CPYU@CPYU.ORG](mailto:CPYU@CPYU.ORG)  
PO BOX 414, ELIZABETHTOWN, PA 17022 | [WWW.CPYU.ORG](http://WWW.CPYU.ORG)