

## Teens and Porn

WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



### YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

*“When you think about what TRL was, it was social media, in many ways, before social media existed. It was about creating those unique and iconic moments, whether it was Britney and Justin together, or whether it was Jay-Z and Beyoncé, whether it was shutting down Times Square with Eminem. It was these moments that you really couldn't be able to see anywhere else. I think at its core that's what the show is about. And that core, that's what we're looking to recreate.”*

MTV President Chris McCarthy, talking about the networks' attempt to reboot the show TRL, Billboard.com, September 29, 2017.



In a perfect world, God-honoring and loving Dads and Moms will lead their children into a healthy and balanced biblical understanding of their sexuality that will yield a lifetime of equally God-honoring sexual values, attitudes, and behaviors.

Sadly, we don't live in a perfect world. We live in a world that's now saturated with easily accessed pornography. The reality of this hyper-sexualized world is mis-shaping our kids in powerful ways. The reality is that the smartphone is fueling this trend. That said, what are some of the effects this will have on our kids and their culture?

First, we can expect a growing number of kids to be exposed to pornography at younger and younger ages, long before they experience sexual feelings and urges that come with physical maturation. Second, the envelope will continue to be stretched. Based on this pattern, tomorrow's porn will be unimaginably more extreme than today's. Third, the more they see, the more desensitized they will become. In fact, it will become an everyday reality that is not at all surprising to them. What will be surprising to our kids is that this stuff is alarming and surprising to us. Fourth, the sin of pornography use will increasingly be a matter of personal preference, and decreasingly be viewed as a sin. And fifth, the sinful values and practices promoted in pornography will become normalized. As time goes on, digital pornography will shape and normalize youthful behavior, impacting how young people view and treat each other.

What can parents do to stem this tide? Here are just a few suggestions.

First, talk openly about the reality, temptations, and dangers of pornography. Chances are, they are going to encounter the brutal

distortions of pornography sooner rather than later. If you haven't done so already, warn them about pornography's presence and prepare them to face the temptations they will no doubt encounter.

Second, shoot straight, letting them know that pornography is wrong. They need to know that pornography is a twisted and sinful distortion of God's wonderful gift of sexuality. We must give them reasons for why they must “flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor 6:18) and constantly remind them of their need to run.

Third, we must tell them how pornography *does not* depict and promote normal sexuality. As the envelope is stretched, the horrifying nature of online pornography will only get worse. Once kids get hooked, they are prone to spiral down further and further into forms and depictions of sexuality that exchange the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:25).

Fourth, we must tell them how the Bible *does* depict and promote normal sexuality. Our sexuality is a wonderful God-given gift to be experienced by one man and one woman within the committed covenant relationship of marriage. That's the best that sex can be as that's the way God originally planned it.

And finally, we should monitor our children's use of digital media. With the temptation so intense, any accountability measures are helpful.

Now is the time to prepare them for a lifetime of healthy sexuality by answering their youthful curiosity and naivete with nothing but the truth. ✨

## Video Games Sold for the Nintendo Switch Platform

During the Month of August 2017  
Source:  
The NPD Group



1. Splatoon 2
2. Mario Kart 8
3. The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild
4. ARMS
5. 1-2 Switch
6. Ultra Street Fighter II: The Final Challengers
7. Just Dance 2017
8. Lego City Undercover
9. Cars 3: Driven to Win
10. Minecraft: Story Mode The Complete Adventure



### QUICK STATS

The average U.S. household now owns 7.3 screens, with TV remaining the most popular. 93% of survey respondents claimed to own a television screen.

*(ReportLinker)*

Nearly 20% of American adolescents has suffered a concussion. Boys and girls who played contact sports were the most vulnerable.

*(Journal of the American Medical Association)*

### FROM THE NEWS:

## LATE NIGHT PHONE USE

For several years now, we've been encouraging parents to not allow their children to sleep with their smartphones. We are even more concerned about this matter now that the world's first long-term assessment of the mental health effects of late-night phone use has led to some discouraging results. The fall-out from using a phone late at night includes poor quality of sleep, poorer mental health outcomes, reduced ability to cope, and lowered self-esteem. Our teenagers need roughly nine hours and fifteen minutes of uninterrupted sleep for healthy growth and development of both their physical and mental selves. It's reasonable to assume that lack of sleep not only contributes to anxiety, stress, and depression, but that it results in challenges to spiritual growth and development as well. God created us as integrated beings. Compromising one aspect of our lives through unhealthy habits results in difficulties in all other areas of our lives. Your kids need their sleep.

TRENDS:  
GRAY DEATH

## LATEST RESEARCH:

## BELOIT COLLEGE MINDSET LIST

Here is a clear warning about a dangerous new drug trend that's sweeping through our nation along with the growing opioid epidemic. It's called gray death. It looks like a chunk of concrete and it can kill in just one small dose. Gray

death is actually a drug cocktail consisting of heroin, the painkiller fentanyl, and a powerful and deadly animal tranquilizer known as carfentanil. This drug concoction is so deadly that law enforcement and first responders have had to be trained in how to handle the drug so as not to cause their own death through simple exposure through

skin contact. Parents, we encourage you to love and nurture your kids in the faith, not only because that is right, but as a way to steer them away from substance abuse. Talk about the many dangers of illicit drugs. Talk specifically about the deadly nature of drug abuse. And above all, point them to Jesus Christ as the answer to their pain, heartache, and brokenness. Be aware, and teach your kids to beware.



For the last twenty years, Beloit College has put together an annual mindset list. The list shows us how much our culture has changed by helping us see the cultural context of this year's incoming class of college freshman. The class of 2021 can't remember when a phone wasn't a video game or research library. They are the last class to be born in the 1900's. *Peanuts* comic strips have always been repeats. They have always had emojis to cheer them up. Jet Blue has always been a favorite travel option but the Concorde has been permanently grounded. By the time they

were entering school, laptop computers were outselling desktop computers. Ketchup has always come in green. They've only been able to see a Checker taxi cab in a museum. Justin Timberlake has always been a solo act. Bill Clinton has always been Hilary Clinton's aging husband. And electronic signatures have always been as binding as the pen and paper kind. Parents, the world is changing. You need to know youth culture.

COLLEGE  
TRANSITION  
INITIATIVE

a resource of CPYU


[www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com](http://www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com)
College Isn't  
For Everyone

by Walt Mueller



Rising college costs, a struggling post-college job market, and a changing culture have combined to wake us up to the fact that college isn't for everyone. Here are three optional paths kids can choose in an effort to serve and glorify God through the exercise of their gifts and abilities.

*Move immediately into the work force.* This allows our kids to gain experience, save money, and begin to test and discover gifts and abilities they never knew they had.

*Attend a trade school.* All work matters to God and is an act of worship. There are no jobs or vocations that are more important than others. God has created and prepared some of our kids to serve Him and others through the trades.

*Enroll in a Gap Year program.* These in-between programs are designed to equip students for life after high school by helping them discover their calling and prepare them for the next step in life.

## Podcast

Youth Culture Matters is a 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](http://www.cpyu.org/podcast).

## FROM THE WORD

What narrative are your children and teens choosing to embrace and live? When push comes to shove, all of us choose to live by one of two narratives. On the one hand, there is the *cultural narrative* which tells us what to believe and how to behave. This narrative shifts with the times and is incredibly disjointed. At its' foundation is the belief that I can be the captain of my own ship, steering my life in a direction determined by whatever or wherever feels right at the time. The book of James describes this narrative as a "wisdom" that is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic (James 4:15).

On the other hand there is the life-giving *biblical narrative*, which James refers to as "wisdom from above" (James 4:17). Seeing and living life from God's perspective changes everything. Rather than being shifty and disjointed, this narrative is consistent and unchanging. Given to us by God in the revelation of Himself in Jesus and the Bible, the

*biblical narrative* not only points to how to have eternal life, but how to live in this world without becoming a friend of the world. James goes on to say that we can live this way not by our resolve and grit-it-out power, but by the grace of God which He gives to those who humbly choose to put themselves aside in order to follow Jesus (James 4:6).

Parents, God's desire for your children is clear. He wants them to grow up finding themselves in His story rather than in the world's story. And the most powerful way for you to point them to a life lived in God's story is to live your own life in God's story as well.

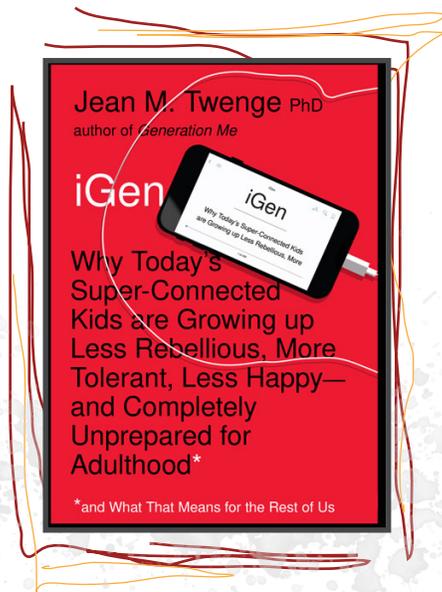
**"DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT  
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS  
ENMITY WITH GOD? THEREFORE,  
WHOEVER WISHES TO BE A  
FRIEND OF THE WORLD MAKES  
HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF GOD."**

**JAMES 4:4**

## HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

With generational divides wider than ever, parents and educators have an urgent need to understand today's rising generation of teens and young adults. Born after 1995, iGen is the first generation to spend their entire adolescence in the age of the smartphone. With social media and texting replacing other activities, iGen spends less time with their friends in person – perhaps why they are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

As this new group of young people grows into adulthood, we all need to understand them. Friends and family need to look out for them and colleges and universities must know how to educate and guide them. Drawing from nationally representative surveys of 11 million young people as well as in-depth interviews, *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy - and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood\** (\*and What That Means for the Rest of Us), by Jean M. Twenge is the first book to document the cultural changes shaping today's teens and young adults, documenting how their changed world has impacted their attitudes, worldviews, and mental health.



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