

## That's What Sex Is For

WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



### YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

*“We vastly undervalue God’s fatherhood as well as overvalue our own. When our children are out of our sight, they are not out of his sight. Right now, God is actively parenting our children. . . You don’t have to be a perfect parent, and in fact, you never can be. Your children, however, do have a perfect parent. He knows them better than you do and knows what they need more than you do. He loves them more than you do and has more power to act out of that love than you do. He has sacrificed more for them than you have and will be able to care for them beyond your limited lifetime.”*

Nancy Guthrie, “Praying Through The Bible For Your Kids,” p. 261



Taylor Swift’s latest musical message to the world about sex, sexuality, and gender brought home two big Moon Man awards at the recent MTV Video Music Awards. The pop star’s hit song “You Need To Calm Down”, is at its root Swift’s critique of what she sees as an old-fashioned and out-dated way of looking at sex, sexuality, and gender. When the song won for “Video of The Year” and “Video For Good”, it was once again clear that our culture has moved away from a God-centered sexual ethic to a self-centered sexual ethic. For those of us who hold to what the Bible clearly teaches about the purpose and place of God’s good gift of sex, Taylor’s lyrical message in the song is this: “You would rather be in the dark ages. . . You need to calm down. . . You need to just stop.”

As Christian parents, we’ve been called to nurture our children and teens into a God-glorifying understanding and expression of sex, sexuality, and gender. To accomplish that task, we must first understand what they’re learning about these matters that’s skewed, off-base, and in error. Taylor Swift’s song is just one example of what today’s culture is teaching our kids. They’re told that you must decide for yourself based on how you feel and what you desire. In other words, it’s all up to you to determine the place and purpose for sex. And, as you make your decision, there are no borders or boundaries. *You can do whatever you want, wherever you want, however you want, whenever you want, with whomever you want.* But that’s not all. You need to ignore any advice on sex and gender that comes from “the dark ages”. . . including anything your parents, youth worker, or church might teach you about biblical sexuality.

Because the culture is sending such strong and compelling messages to our kids, we need to ramp up our own efforts to tell our kids the truth about God’s good gift of sex. Two of the most basic and foundational truths we must

teach are that God has clearly established both a *place* and a *purpose* for sex. . . both of which have been given to protect us from harm and to provide for our human flourishing.

In the book of Genesis (the creation account in Chapters 1 and 2), God gives the good gift of sex to be experienced and indulged within the context of a life-long, monogamous, heterosexual, covenantal marriage between one man and one woman. That’s the *place*.

But the gift of sex is not about indulging and seeking to satisfy our own sexual appetites in self-centered ways. Rather, the Bible tells us there are four distinct purposes for sex, and we should go out of our way to teach the joyful wonder of each to our children and teens.

First, sex is a Divine-gift to consummate a marriage. It is about two human beings powerfully coming together in their totality which the Bible calls “becoming one flesh” (Matthew 19:4-6). Sex completes a marriage.

Second, sex is a Divine-gift which allows us to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28). God commanded humanity to procreate. Sex is how human life begins.

Third, sex is a Divine-gift which allows us to express our love in the most intimate of ways. The entire Old Testament book of The Song of Solomon expresses this in the most beautiful and poetic of ways.

Finally, sex is a Divine-gift which allows us to experience the greatest of physical pleasures. While the selfish pursuit of pleasure for pleasure’s sake is sinful (Proverbs 21:17), God has given us the gift of pleasure by His design.

Parents, the culture engages in the sex education of your kids 24/7. Give them a proper perspective on sex so that they might sexually prosper and thrive to the glory of God! ✨

## Songs on the Billboard Hot 100

Week of September 28, 2019  
Source:  
Billboard



1. *Truth Hurts* by Lizzo
2. *Senorita* by Shawn Mendes & Camila Cabello
3. *Bad Guy* by Billie Eilish
4. *Someone You Loved* by Lewis Capaldi
5. *Panini* by Lil Nas X
6. *Ran\$om* by Lil Tecca
7. *No Guidance* by Chris Brown featuring Drake
8. *Goodbyes* by Post Malone featuring Young Thug
9. *Circles* by Post Malone
10. *Old Town Road* by Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus



### QUICK STATS

Having acne in adolescence is associated with achieving higher grades in high school English, math, science, and social studies, along with an overall higher high school GPA.

*(Do Pimples Pay? Acne, Human Capital, and the Labor Market study)*

Later school start times resulted in 31 more minutes of sleep per night for middle schoolers and 48 more minutes per night for high school students.

*(American Academy of Sleep Medicine)*

### FROM THE NEWS:

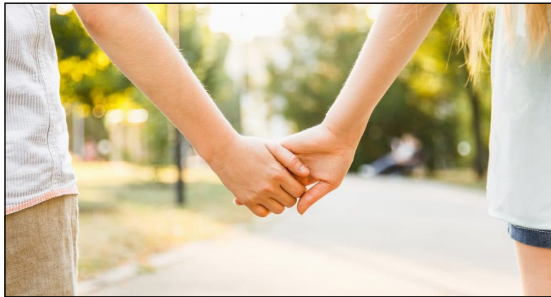
## VAPING

If you've been tracking at all with the news over the last couple of months, you know that Vaping has not only become more popular among kids, but it's also come under fire for the health risks. The CDC has documented a growing number of cases where kids have been placed in medically induced comas because of severe and deadly vaping related lung illnesses. Parents, pass on these words of warning from 18-year-old Maddie Nelson. "I thought vaping was fine. I used all sorts of different products, from all sorts of vape shops." On July 27, Nelson was admitted to the hospital with severe nausea, vomiting, chest pain, back pain, and fever. She says, "My temperature was so high, my brain just totally shut off. I had fat particles growing inside my lungs that were related to the glycerin in vape juice. My lungs were full of fluid and they said that my chest x-rays were some of the worst they'd ever seen. I will never touch a vape again." Let's pray that our kids will do the same.



## TRENDS: LGBTQ ACTIVISM AND MARKETING

At CPYU, we continually say that marketing is not only about selling product, it's also about selling a worldview. Ads tell stories that shape our beliefs, which in turn shape our behaviors. This is especially true for our children and teens who are vulnerable to marketing's pitch. Recently, the Converse sneaker company launched an ad campaign for their new Pride Collection of footwear designed to celebrate LGBTQ activism efforts. The footwear features things like glitter, pride flags, and rainbows. The campaign is centered around seven young people who identify as LGBTQ, some as same-sex attracted, and some as transgender. One of them is eleven year-old Desmond Napoles who self-identifies as gay, dresses in drag, and frequents gay nightclubs. .. all with his parents support and approval. Parents, as your children encounter these campaigns, be sure to respond by teaching how to engage with this cultural narrative in ways that are marked by Godly grace and biblical truth.



## LATEST RESEARCH: BENEFITS OF NOT DATING

As Christian parents, our greatest desire for our kids should be to see them flourish by living every square inch and second of their lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. One of the most common roadblocks to this kind of flourishing is the teenage dating, romance, and love scene. The pressure to be in a dating relationship can be strong. And for those who aren't, they can somehow come to the wrong conclusion that they are less than their friends. If you're a parent like me, you've pushed back on the pressure your kids feel to date. A new study from the *Journal of School Health* says that there are benefits to not dating. The study found that 10th grade students who are not in a romantic relationship have stronger social skills and are less depressed than their peers. In addition, those students exhibit greater leadership skills. Parents, let your kids know that they don't have to conform to the latest dating pressures. Relationships can become an idol that derails their love for Christ.

### COLLEGE TRANSITION INITIATIVE

a resource of CPYU

[www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com](http://www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com)



### Connecting College Students to Church

by Walt Mueller



Studies say that up to 65 to 80 percent of young people who grow up in the church drop out of church when they become college-aged. The reasons for this are many. They arrive on campus and get so busy that they don't make time for church or campus fellowship groups. Others cave to the peer pressure to immerse themselves in the campus social scene, and even may be ostracized if they choose church over what everyone else is doing. And, among a host of other reasons, a student might not know where to begin to find fellowship on campus.

Parents, youth workers, and pastors should be working together to foster continued church involvement and spiritual growth long before a student leaves for campus. Here are some initial simple steps to take:

- Make the importance of a lifetime of involvement in fellowship a lifetime conversation. Don't wait until the day, week, month, or even year a student leaves home to have the conversation.
- Once a student leaves for college, check in regularly to encourage them to connect with a fellowship group and church. Use texts, calls, and even hand-written letters to stay connected.
- Finally, enlist the help of the College Church Connection ([collegechurchconnection.org](http://collegechurchconnection.org)), an organization that will research and recommend fellowship opportunities on campuses around the country.

## New Podcast

**Youth Culture Matters** is a long-format podcast from CPYU co-hosted by Walt Mueller and Jason Soucinek.



Listen at [www.cpyu.org/podcast](http://www.cpyu.org/podcast).

Be sure to check out Episode 89 titled "Beyond 7-11 Songs: Raising the Bar on Youth Group Worship"

## FROM THE WORD

In the opening chapter of his letter to the Galatian church, Paul speaks about the audience of One from whom he seeks approval. He contrasts his desire to preach, minister, and live in a way that pleases God, to being motivated by seeking approval from man. In fact, Paul tells us in Galatians 1:10 that people-pleasing and God-pleasing are actually mutually exclusive: "If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Since the time when our first parents fell into sin, the desire to please people has motivated humans to do much of what we do. Our default setting is to seek approval in any way possible. This reality has ramped up for our kids thanks to the presence of social media in their lives. They fabricate, curate, and promote their online persona. . . which can be considerably different from who they *really* are. . . in order to accumulate the currency of "likes." In fact, we adults engage in this empty pursuit way too often ourselves.

Seeking approval is not in and of itself a bad thing. When we are motivated to find approval from our Creator, our approval-seeking is a good thing. But when we seek approval in the eyes of the world we will never have enough. . . and we will wind up spiraling down into the never-ending rabbit hole of spending more time and effort on our search for significance.

Like Paul, we should seek the divine approval that we already have in Christ. And, we must make every effort to steer our kids in the same direction.

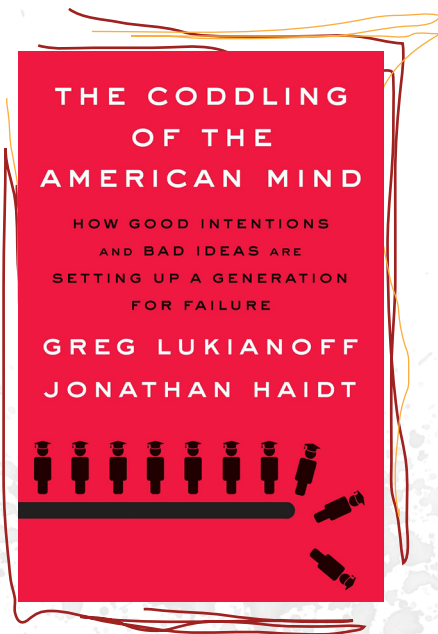
**"OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT TRYING TO WIN THE APPROVAL OF PEOPLE, BUT OF GOD. IF PLEASING PEOPLE WERE MY GOAL, I WOULD NOT BE CHRIST'S SERVANT."**  
**GALATIANS 1:10 (NLT)**

## HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

Something has been going wrong on many college campuses in the last few years. Speakers are shouted down. Students and professors say they are walking on eggshells and are afraid to speak honestly. Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are rising. How did this happen?

First Amendment expert Greg Lukianoff and social psychologist Jonathan Haidt show how the new problems on campus have their origins in three terrible ideas that have become increasingly woven into American childhood and education: What doesn't kill you makes you weaker; always trust your feelings; and life is a battle between good people and evil people. These three Great Untruths contradict basic psychological principles about well-being and ancient wisdom from many cultures. Embracing these untruths—and the resulting culture of safetyism—interferes with young people's social, emotional, and intellectual development. It makes it harder for them to become autonomous adults who are able to navigate the bumpy road of life. Lukianoff and Haidt investigate the many social trends that have intersected to promote the spread of these untruths.

*The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions And Bad Ideas Are Setting Up A Generation For Failure* is a book for anyone who is confused by what is happening on college campuses today, or has children, or is concerned about the growing inability of Americans to live, work, and cooperate across party lines.



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