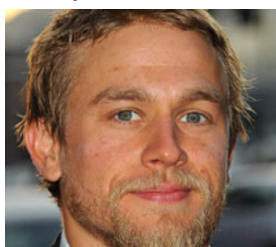


HE HATES THEM

YOUTH CULTURE
HOT QUOTE

“I’ve been with my girlfriend for 14½ years, I think, or 13½ years. ... She’s very eager [to get married]. I’ll do it because it’s important to her but I don’t have any great romantic feelings towards it.”

Actor Charlie Hunnam, admitting that he feels “sort of indifferent” to marriage, on Andy Cohen’s SiriusXM radio show, *Radio Andy*, January 13, 2020



Well, it’s back. The XFL rose and fell during one season way back in 2001, but the upstart professional football league begins its second attempt at success this month. I have no idea what kind of tricks the league has up its sleeve this time around, but one funny marketing scheme from 2001 has stuck in my mind. It happened when Las Vegas Outlaws running back Rod Smart ran onto the field wearing a jersey featuring Smart’s nickname – “He Hate Me” – rather than his actual name above his number. It still makes me chuckle.

During this month when we celebrate Valentine’s Day and the joy of romantic love, I’ve been thinking about love’s opposite – hate. The word consistently makes its way into the news with seemingly endless reports of hate speech, hate crimes, hate graffiti, and hate groups. As parents, we need to speak to our children and teens about hate. Proverbs 8:13 reminds us that there is no place for hate among the followers of God: “To fear the Lord is to hate evil.” And the Bible tells us that the father of evil and hate is Satan himself, who is on the prowl for the hearts and minds of all humanity, including our children and teens: “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). In effect, all of us need to be constantly reminding ourselves and our kids of the fact that he (Satan) hates us.

I recently took some time to read through *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices*, a book written over 360 years ago by the preacher Thomas Brooks. I realize that as a follower of Christ, I spend most of my study time in the Bible looking to know God’s will and way for how to live my life. But I need to also spend time understanding the playbook of the enemy who hates God, hates God’s people, and wants desperately to see us come undone.

Brooks lays out several strategies Satan uses to draw us into sin. There are three in particular that are essential to teach to your

kids as they navigate life in today’s world while resisting the hater.

First, Satan paints sins in bright colors to make them look attractive. In fact, he does everything he can to convince us that vices are actually virtues. For example, in today’s world our kids learn that human freedom and flourishing come through following one’s whims, wishes, and emotions. Rather than being obedient to God and finding our freedom in Christ, we are encouraged to be authentic to ourselves. Consequently, we must teach our kids about the many faces of sin.

Second, Satan convinces us that those who follow his path enjoy lives of great abundance and enjoyment. To follow Jesus is to miss out on all the fun. But what we fail to see is the brokenness and lost condition of those who are outside of Christ. In Psalm 92:7, David reminds us that “though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever.” The selfish pursuit of fame, followers, and fortune in today’s world looks attractive, but leads to nothing but a dead-end. Consequently, we must teach our kids to find their identity in Jesus Christ.

Third, Satan loves to lead us into keeping bad company. But God reminds us in Proverbs 13:20 of the infectious and dangerous formative nature of surrounding yourself with friends who follow the enemy rather than those who pursue Godliness: “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” It’s been said that if we look at our five closest friends, we will see a clear picture of who we are. Consequently, we must encourage our kids to pursue friendships with others who are pursuing Christ.

Parents, guide your kids into a deep knowledge of Satan’s hateful tactics and schemes in order to equip your kids to “resist him” and “remain firm in the faith” (1 Peter 5:9). ✨

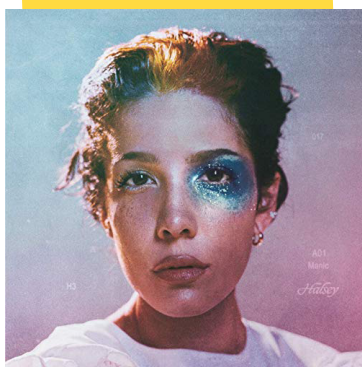
WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



TOP 10...

Albums on the Billboard 200

Week of February 1, 2020
Source:
Billboard Magazine



1. *Music To Be Murdered By* - Eminem
2. *Manic* - Halsey
3. *Circles* - Mac Miller
4. *Please Excuse Me For Being Antisocial* - Roddy Rich
5. *Hollywood's Bleeding* - Post Malone
6. *Rare* - Selena Gomez
7. *Time Served* - Moneybagg Yo
8. *KIRK* - DaBaby
9. *Fine Line* - Harry Styles
10. *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* - Billie Eilish



QUICK STATS

87% of female characters age 10-17 on the most popular kids' TV shows are below average in weight.
(Common Sense Media)

33-35% of boys age 6-8 indicate their ideal body is thinner than their current body.
(Common Sense Media)

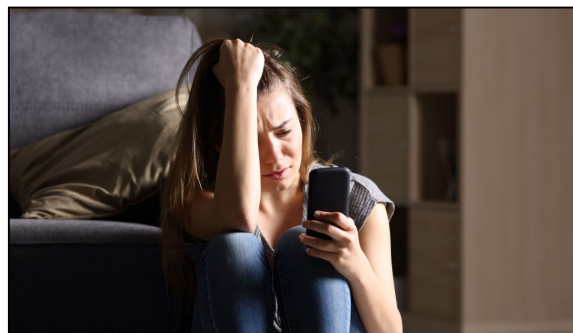
FROM THE NEWS:

YOUTUBE AND ONLINE VIDEOS

The recently released Common Sense Census offers helpful insights into the ways that our children and teens are using media. Perhaps you're wondering what kids are doing on those devices during the many hours that they spend on them each day. It seems that the number one activity kids engage in is viewing online videos, like those you find on YouTube and other video sharing platforms. In fact, in the four year period between 2015 and 2019, the percentage of kids watching videos every day has more than doubled, and the average amount of time they spend watching videos has doubled. Parents, we suggest that you spend time learning about what your kids are watching online, and interacting with them about developing skills of media discernment that lead them into engaging with online video content that is constructive rather than destructive. Teach them to filter all that they see and hear through the framework of a biblical worldview. Remember, what they see is shaping them.

TRENDS:
SADFISHING

The Bible records several times where Jesus says that it's out of the overflow of the heart that the mouth speaks. What we say, reveals the condition of our hearts. And just as spoken words offer a window into one's soul, so do the words and pictures that we post on social media. In today's social media saturated world, one of the best ways to learn about our kids is to monitor what they are posting online. Many kids engage in a practice known as sadfishing. In case you've never heard of it, sadfishing is the act of making exaggerated claims about one's emotional problems to generate sympathy. In many cases, these posts are an attempt to get attention. In other cases, kids who are struggling deeply are crying out for help.



In all cases of sadfishing, we need to follow up what we see online with questions so that we might determine if the poster is truly hurting and in need of help, or simply looking for affirmation. Monitor your kids in an effort to help them navigate their teen years in healthy, God-honoring ways.

LATEST RESEARCH:

LIFE EXPECTANCY AND DEATHS OF DESPAIR

If you go back to the year 1800, the average life expectancy was 37 years. By 1900, that had increased to the age of 47. And by the

year 2000, life expectancy here in the U.S. had risen to 77. That's certainly a testimony to things like better living conditions and improved healthcare. The number peaked at the age of 79 just a handful of years ago, but it has been on the decline over the course of the last three years. Experts site deaths of despair as a contributing factor to this decline. This includes

premature death due to drug overdoses, suicides, and health-related deaths caused by bad habits. We should ultimately be concerned for the spiritual health of our kids as they move through life, so that the hope of the Gospel does not lead them into despair. Instill the truths of Scripture in your kids.

CPYU'S
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www.DigitalKidsInitiative.com

**Kids and
Hearing Loss**

by Walt Mueller



In his new book, *Volume Control: Hearing In A Deafening World*, David Owen reveals a youth culture reality that parents should notice and address: "When we talk about age-related hearing loss, the assumption is that this is something that happens to old people. It *is* something that happens to old people – but it's something that's caused by the things that we do when we're young." Hearing loss currently afflicts nearly 38 million Americans. Research shows that hearing loss is a factor in developing dementia, depression, balance issues, and cardiovascular disease. Owen issues caution regarding a younger generation that's spending lots of time with ear-buds in their ears starting at earlier and earlier ages.

Here are some intervention steps parents can take to prevent the long-term consequences of hearing loss in their kids:

- Don't allow younger children to use ear-bud technology.
- Take steps to make your home a quiet place that's free of sustained loud noise.
- Discuss the long-term effects of high-volume music with your kids.
- Take your kids for regular hearing screening examinations as a way to set a base-line and monitor potential damage.

New Podcast

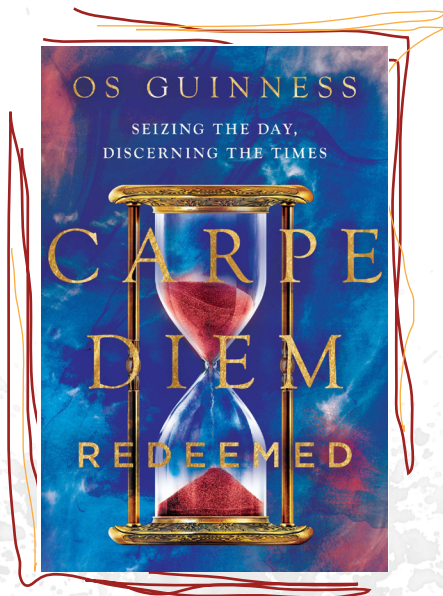
Youth Culture Matters

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



Listen at
www.cpyu.org/podcast.

Be sure to check out
Episode 96 titled
"Seizing The Day,
Generationalism and More"
with Os Guinness



FROM THE WORD

Perhaps one of the most misunderstood words in the English language is "love." Somehow, our culture has progressively drained the word of its meaning to the point where even though it's still one of the most used words, its mention sparks images, thoughts, and ideas that are anything but accurate. Consequently, our kids grow up with deep and harmful misunderstandings of what "love" *really* is.

The place to begin in our recovery of an accurate understanding of "love" is with the God who we are told *is* love and is the author of love. In I John 3:11-24 we find that love is something we're commanded to do to each other, something we are to do even when it's not done to us, and something which if missing. . . leads to death. The passage says that love is something Jesus does, that it's costly, and that it's only possible when Jesus lives in and through us.

The Greek word used in the Bible for this kind of love is *agape*. Understood correctly, *agape* is not a feeling, but a commitment. It gives of itself without ever expecting anything in return. It is unconditional. It expresses itself fully, even to those who are unworthy. Thanks be to God for Jesus Christ, who loves us unworthy people in this way. And thanks be to God for showing us how to truly love each other. . . especially our spouse and kids.

**"BUT GOD
DEMONSTRATES HIS
OWN LOVE FOR US
IN THIS: WHILE WE
WERE STILL SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED FOR US."**

ROMANS 5:8

HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

One of my tried-and-trusted go-to's for insightful social commentary from a theologically-rich perspective has been Os Guinness. I read anything and everything the man writes. He is one of the most astute social critics of our day. This past year, Guinness released a little volume entitled *Carpe Diem Redeemed: Seizing The Day, Discerning The Times*. In the book, Guinness offers a us chance, as he usually does, to step back and see ourselves for what we've become. . . the good, the bad, and the ugly. And, when we face ourselves, Guinness invites us out of the dangerous paths we are walking and into a life lived rightly as we discern the times and redeem the day. In a world where adults and kids alike are encouraged to live for themselves in the moment and the moment only, this book reminds us of the need to remember the past while living in the hope of the future. For me, the short section on "generationalism" was pure gold. Guinness shows us how we've morphed into a generationally segmented way of living in home, community, and church. . . all to our demise.

- Walt Mueller

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