



PARENTS AS PROPHETS

I learned many years ago that my calling as a parent includes a calling to be a “prophet.” Of course, the word “prophet” might conjure up a certain negative image in your mind. I would venture to say that for many in today’s world, the image isn’t one that’s very positive. Some immediately think of crazed and socially awkward religious zealots that stand on busy street corners holding homemade signs and muttering about the impending end of the world. What I’m pointing you to here is something markedly different.

Those who have read and understood the Bible know that throughout the course of biblical history, God called certain people to speak his truth in his name. The Bible includes both a written record of the utterances of these prophets, along with several books of prophecy. When these divinely called and inspired prophets spoke, their words were the commands and revelations of God. Their words were meant to keep God’s people on course

in their lives, mapping out the right road to travel while offering life-giving correctives when they would wander onto dangerous paths.

When I suggest that our approach to parenting our children be “prophetic,” I’m saying that our relationships with the kids we know and love should be marked by an intentional effort on our part to know and communicate the truths of God’s Word, along with how those truths speak to every area of their lives. In effect, it is the intentional process of looking for opportunities to speak biblical truth into their lives, showing how God’s Word and the Christian faith speaks and relates to all of life. It is the process of imparting Godly wisdom to our children and teens. It is all about making the conscious and deliberate effort to lay out God’s will and way for their lives, and issuing clear guidance and correctives when they. . . just like us! . . . stray from that path.

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE →

YOUTH
CULTURE

HOT
QUOTE

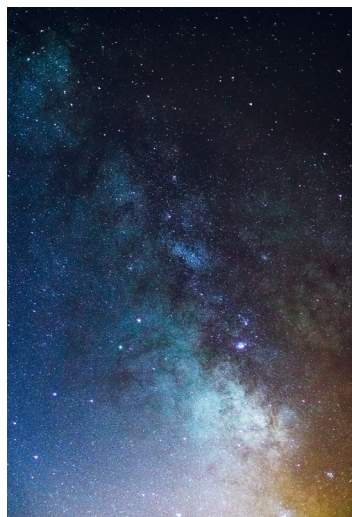
Suzanne Garfinkle-Crowell, a psychiatrist writing about how so many of her patients, particularly adolescent girls and young women, lean on Taylor Swift as a kind of big sister through the daily agonies of being a teenage girl.

“What would Taylor Swift do?” is a refrain among certain patients in my practice. Teenagers suffer for many reasons. One is being fragile and in formation — a human construction site. Another is being surrounded by others who are fragile and in formation. Ms. Swift articulates not only the treachery of bullying but also the cruelty just shy of it that is even more pervasive: meanness, exclusion, intermittent ghosting. She says: Borrow my strength; embrace your pain; make something beautiful with it — and then you can shake it off.”



The New York Times
opinion column,
June 17, 2023

DON'T EVER FORGET, THERE'S NO NOOK OR CRANNY OF OUR LIVES THAT LIES OUTSIDE GOD'S RULE AND REIGN.



How do we do this? It begins with asking God to guide us in what, how, and when we communicate his truth. Unlike prophets of biblical times, this does not mean that we wait for God's Spirit to move in our lives in a way that provokes an utterance or new revelation. Instead, we should ask God to guide us to the truths he's already spoken in Scripture, along with how and when to communicate those truths to our kids. Of course, this means that we make it a priority to carve out time for daily Bible study, prayer, and meditation. We will read books in an effort to learn God's will and way for our lives. And, we will sit under good preaching and teaching in a church that is committed to knowing God and His Word.

In addition, our prophetic parenting role requires that we keep abreast of changes in the youth culture soup our kids are swimming in every day. Once we discover a trend that's shaping or mis-shaping our kids, we need to put that trend under the illuminating light of the Bible. We need to listen in order to know what **the world** is teaching our kids, how **God's Word** speaks to that trend, and how to converse with our kids in ways that guide them to obediently **walk** through life to the glory of God.

Don't ever forget, there's no nook or cranny of our lives that lies outside God's rule and reign. The Scriptures speak to every teenage pressure, choice, problem, or situation we face in life. Part of our God-given responsibility is to communicate what God has said regarding these matters. In this way, we become prophetic in our parenting as we help our kids hear and understand God's revelation and commands. You *are* God's mouthpiece to your kids.

It's to this end that here at CPYU we have launched a brand-new weekly resource that we call our CPYU Parent Prompt. Each week we will post a new CPYU Parent Prompt designed to help you know what's happening in the world of children and teens, along with how to lead, guide, and converse with your kids in ways that will nurture them into a life of faithfully following Jesus in this rapidly changing culture. Simply go to cpyu.org and click on "Parent Prompt" under the "CPYU Resources" drop-down tab. We are committed to working with you as you prophetically speak truth into the lives of your children and teens.

WALT MUELLER
CPYU President



FROM THE NEWS

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

The American Psychological Association has released a new set of recommendations regarding teenagers and their use of social media.

Likening social media use to getting behind the wheel of a car, APA President Thema Bryant says that "just as we require young people to be trained in order to get a driver's license, our youth need instruction in the safe and healthy use of social media." The APA recommends that this training should not be a once and done thing, but rather something that is revisited from time to time to reinforce best practices in an effort to protect kids from potential harm. Parents should also be setting borders and boundaries, along with monitoring their child's social media use. Parents, this is a wise step to take as you fulfill your God-given responsibility to nurture and parent your children. Taking these steps might limit their exposure to content promoting self-harm, disordered eating, bigotry, sexual license, and gender fluidity. Be diligent with your kids.



TRENDS:



Situationships

Recently, there's been a lot of conversation centered around the CDC's latest edition of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The conversations are focused on the findings related to teenagers and sexual behavior. The long-standing biannual survey continues to ask teens, "Have you ever had sexual intercourse?" The reality is that fewer teens are having sexual intercourse. But that does not mean that fewer teens are engaging in sexual activity. In fact, the kids themselves find the question to be out-dated, as there are many types of sexual activity and hook-ups that have become more and more common among our kids. For example, some kids talk about short-term hook-ups that are known as "situationships." These are low commitment high-risk activities that might not be sexual intercourse. All this reminds us that our education regarding biblical sexuality is much-needed, perhaps now more than ever. Teach your kids God's good design.



LATEST RESEARCH:

Media Influence, Music Lyrics, and Sexting

Several decades ago there was a growing movement in the church to steer kids away from popular music that referenced things like drugs, sex, and violence. Many parents and youth workers were criticized for

monitoring what their kids were listening to, as some believed that music lyrics were benign in influence. But research began to show that their concerns were justified, as what we listen to does influence our beliefs and behaviors. A new study measuring the associations between listening to sexual music lyrics and the influence on adolescent behavior has found that boys are more likely to participate in sexting in the

future when exposed to sexual music lyrics. Parents, we need to be gatekeepers for the minds and hearts of our kids. Psalm 101:3 says, "I will set no wicked thing before my eyes." We need to teach our kids to have that same resolve. Our entertainment time should be, like all other times, about pursuing that which is good, true, right, and honorable.



QUICKSTATS



Taylor Swift holds the record for the most Hot 100 Top 10 records of all time for women with 41. Drake holds the overall record with 68.

(Billboard)

Meta's text-based platform Threads surpassed the 100 million sign-up mark only 5 days after making its debut. Threads reached the 100 million milestone even faster than OpenAI's generative chatbot ChatGPT, which surpassed 100 million monthly users in two months. The app has yet to launch in Europe. Threads is considered to be a competitor to Twitter.

(NBCNews/Meta/Similarweb)

TOP 10



HIGHEST-GROSSING CONCERTS OF 2023 (SO FAR)

Through June 26, 2023
Source: Pollstar

1. Taylor Swift 'Eras Tour'
2. Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band '2023 Tour'
3. Harry Styles 'Love On Tour'
4. Elton John 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road Tour'
5. Ed Sheeran '(+--÷x) Tour'
6. Red Hot Chili Peppers '2023 Global Stadium Tour'
7. Coldplay 'Music of the Spheres Tour'
8. Daddy Yankee 'La Última Vuelta World Tour'
9. Kevin Hart 'The Reality Check Tour'
10. Bad Bunny 'World's Hottest Tour'



THE NEED FOR SABBATH REST

by WALT MUELLER

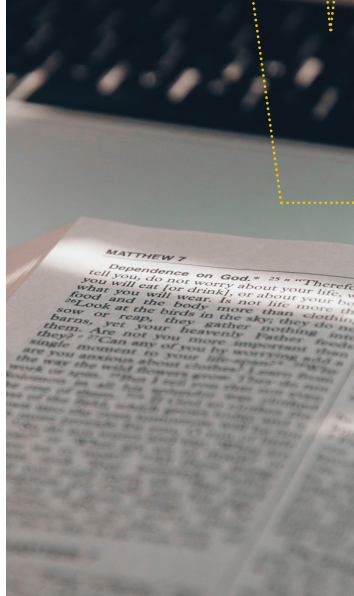
Recently, I've been taking some time to read through, study, and consider the ten commandments. One of the commandments that I believe it is important for us to revisit ourselves and with our families is the fourth commandment:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

(Exodus 20:8-10)

In today's world, we are so frantically busy that we don't take the time to rest. God made us for a rhythm of work and rest. Even the animals need to rest, a reality I see on our local Amish farms as the large work horses do nothing but graze on Sundays. When France experimented with a ten day work week, extreme fatigue and high death rate was seen among their draft animals. Parents, teach your kids to shut down for a sabbath rest.

FROM THE WORD



When

Jesus was bringing what's known as "The Sermon on the Mount" to a conclusion, he presented those present with a choice. It's a choice that he lays before all people in all times and places who listen to his teaching. The choice is between obedience and disobedience. The obedience that Jesus calls for is not an obedience that results in our *being* saved, but an obedience that flows out of our gratitude for *having been* saved.

We sometimes erroneously come to believe that what a person says about themselves lines up with the reality of who that person really is. In Matthew 7:21, Jesus warns us that *saying* is not the same as *being*. To call him "Lord" is not necessarily a sign of living under His Lordship. Intellectual knowledge is not

enough. We must endeavor to be truly transformed by Christ, a reality which is evidenced not only by the words we utter, but by the minute-by-minute choices that we make each and every day.

The reality is that every time we make a choice, we are choosing sides. We either choose *for* Christ and His Kingdom, or we choose to go *against* Christ and His Kingdom. Take stock of you life by looking at your lifestyle and choices. Does your life indicate that you are a *sayer*? Or, are you a *sayer* and a *doer*?

"Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21

PODCAST




The WORD
in Youth Ministry

A CPYU PODCAST

The Word in Youth Ministry

is a podcast from CPYU for youth workers by youth workers.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT EPISODE 52:

**"A ROAD TRIP THROUGH
SCRIPTURE" WITH JONATHAN
PENNINGTON**



LISTEN AT WWW.CPYU.ORG/TWIYM

CPYU PARENT PROMPT

A weekly resource to spark biblically-centered conversations with your kids about the issues they face in today's youth culture.



WORLD



WORD



WALK

HELPFUL RESOURCES



FREE
HANDOUT

CPYU Parent Prompts are a regularly released resource to spark biblically-centered conversations with your kids about the issues they face in today's youth culture. Each Parent Prompt tackles a cultural or theological issue and works through what the **World** is saying about the topic, what God's **Word** says about the topic, and includes discussion prompts parents can use with their families to help them navigate what it all means for their Christian **Walk**.

These resources are available to download for free from CPYU's website. Simply visit cpyu.org, click on the "CPYU Resources" tab, and then click on "Parent Prompt" or scan the QR code below.

Written by CPYU Staff and CPYU Research Fellows, a growing number of these resources are available with a new addition being added each week. Topics already released include, gambling, ChatGPT, modesty, grief, social media and more.

Keep visiting regularly to access and download new Parent Prompts as they are released.



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