

HOT TOPICS LIST

Emotional Issues

1. Loneliness
2. Anxiety
3. Guilt
4. Anger
5. Depression
6. Unhealthy Self-Esteem
7. Facing Death
8. Grief
9. Suicide Thoughts
10. Perfectionism
11. Pessimism
12. Boundary Issues
13. Honesty Issues
14. Shame
15. Irresponsibility
16. Procrastination
17. Lack of Respect for Authority
18. Aggressiveness
19. Over-Competitiveness
20. Greed
21. Arrogance
22. Selfishness
23. Perpetual Adolescence

Relational Issues

24. Love
25. Dating
26. Choosing the Right Marriage Partner
27. Coping with Singleness
28. Handling Peer Pressure
29. Contending with Peer Rejection & Persecution

Familial Issues

30. Overprotective Parents
31. Inattentive Parents
32. Non-Christian Parents
33. Parental Divorce
34. Living in a Single-Parent Family
35. Dealing with Stepparents & Blended Families
36. Sibling Rivalry
37. Rebellion
38. Runaway Threats & Attempts
39. Hatred of Parents or Others
40. Incest

Sexual Issues

41. Lust
42. Masturbation
43. Pornography
44. Premarital Sex
45. Unplanned Pregnancy
46. Abortion
47. Homosexuality
48. AIDS
49. Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases
50. The Hookup Culture
51. Sexual Orientation
52. Gender Identity
53. Being Alone Together
54. Crushes & Daydreaming
55. Contraception
56. Sexting

Abuse

57. Sexual Abuse
58. Nonsexual Abuse
59. Rape
60. Ritual Abuse

Addictions

61. Alcohol Use & Abuse
62. Drug Use & Abuse
63. Gambling
64. Social Media
65. The Dark Web
66. Gaming
67. Tobacco: Smoking, Chewing, & Vaping
68. Sports
69. Performance-Enhancing Drugs

Disorders

70. Attention Deficit Disorder
71. Anorexia Nervosa
72. Bulimia
73. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Educational Issues

74. Dropping Out
75. Underachievement
76. Overachievement
77. Cheating
78. Dealing with Academic Pressure
79. Academic Failure
80. Darwinian Evolution

Physical Issues

81. Living with a Deformity or Disability
82. Coping with a Long-Term Illness
83. Bullying
84. Hazing
85. Cutting & Self-Injurious Behavior

Vocational Issues

86. Knowing God's Will
87. Choosing a Ministry or Career
88. Choosing a College
89. Preparation for College
90. Ethical Dilemmas in College
91. Ethical Dilemmas in the Workplace

Political Issues

92. US Immigration
93. Man-Caused Global Warming
94. Capitalism vs. Socialism
95. Big vs. Small Government
96. Gay Marriage
97. Transgender Rights

Spiritual Issues

98. How to Read the Bible
99. Why to Trust the Bible
100. The Right Kind of Pluralism/Tolerance
101. Spiritual Doubts
102. Anger at God
103. Frustration with the Church
104. Courage to Share Faith
105. Consistency in Devotions
106. Resisting Temptations
107. Feeling Forgiven

Other

108. Affluence and Consumerism
109. Entertainment
110. Racial Tension
111. Trouble with the Law
112. White Magic, Witchcraft
113. Vegetarian, Vegan

HOT TOPICS LIST

SOURCES

- [A Practical Guide To Culture \(Stonestreet & Kunkle\)](#)
- [Helping Teenagers In Crisis \(Van Pelt & Hancock\)](#)
- [Handbook On Counseling Youth \(McDowell & Hostetler\)](#)
- [Other Topics](#)

Commentary: Information Vacuum Left by Church and Parents Filled by Culture

Posted By Guest Author On September 18, 2013
by Nathan Cherry, for the Family Policy Council of West Virginia
<http://www.citizenlink.com/2013/09/18/commentary-information-vacuum-left-by-church-and-parents-filled-by-culture/>

Imagine my surprise when I read the headline “How the seeker-sensitive, consumer church is failing a generation.” I’ve long thought that myself, but to see it in a slightly more hipster publication like Christianity Today is a curious occurrence. But I nearly fell out of my chair when I read this line from the article:

“What does co-dependence look like within a church? Avoiding sections of Scripture out of fear that certain power pockets will be offended. Believing that repeat attendance depends primarily upon the staff’s seamless execution of Sunday morning—rather than the manifest presence of God. Eliminating doleful songs from the worship repertoire because they might contradict the through line that ‘following Jesus is all gain.’”

The writer goes on to state something I’ve been trying to yell from the rooftops for a while now, that Jesus simply didn’t care if He offended someone with His Gospel. Having been part of churches that avoided particular topics like the plague for fear, I assume, of being deemed too something-or-other, this truth has become dear to me.

The reality that the church is flailing and failing younger generations has never been more obvious than it is today. While neo-evangelicals like Rachel Held Evans tells the blogosphere that Millennial’s don’t like the traditional church and want it to be more modern to fit their social worldview, the church continues to sink. As the church sinks, so do families. As families sink, so does the country.

The battle to win the day over social issues revolves around winning the hearts and minds of Millennial’s and younger generations. When combined with a church that avoids any topic remotely considered “political,” we are losing the battle to a connected society that is streaming content to our kids 24/7. Rather than being a counter-cultural voice for biblical truth in the lives of students and young professionals, many churches have simply skipped over critical issues such as abortion, homosexuality, and gender roles.

But that doesn’t mean those who oppose the biblical position on these moral issues are doing the same. A recent article says that the key to winning over young voters is to support gay marriage. Homosexual advocates believe that younger generations are more supportive because they have gay friends and seek to capitalize on the emotionalism of the issue to win key legal victories.

A separate article quotes President Obama back in 2007 when he said teaching sex education to kids in Kindergarten was “the right thing to do.” The public education system believes teaching 5 year olds about sex is “right”? As students progress through public education they are indoctrinated into a worldview that believes casual sex, sexual experimentation, blurred gender lines, homosexuality, and arbitrary morals is normal. Of course this leads to a belief that abortion is also morally acceptable.

Yet another article shows the opposition to home schooling. Or perhaps it is better stated the opposition to anything other than public education. Atheists decided to protest a home school convention in Texas because the convention hosted creation speaker Ken Ham. The atheists believe it is anti-science, abuse, and immoral to teach Creation to students. I suppose the irony of the fact that Christians and creationists believe it is anti-science, abuse, and immoral to teach evolution to students is lost on them. They are essentially demanding that people be made to conform to their worldview.

But that’s the point. We are losing a generation of kids to a worldview that embraces casual sex, cohabitation, homosexuality, blurred gender lines and roles, abortion on demand, and even evolution. We are losing them not because our arguments are not sound. Not because we don’t have truth on our side. Not because our opposition is “hipper” than we are. We are losing them because churches have failed to teach and train the next generation.

As churches have remained silent on these issues, so too have parents. The disconnect between the home and the church has grown to the point where children are walking away from their faith after high school to embrace a humanistic worldview of pleasure. Parents have assumed that if the church doesn’t talk about an issue, they don’t need to talk about it either. The silence from both the church and parents has created an information vacuum being quickly filled by the culture.

The truth is, seeker sensitive, consumer churches are indeed failing a generation. They are failing to properly equip students, parents, and families with the necessary resources and knowledge to stand firm against the slings and arrows of a culture that seeks to destroy. The result is a conscience seared by the hyper-sexualized entertainment culture that says moral absolutes doesn’t exist.

We are at a point in church and national history where the need for strong, biblically based, Gospel centric voices speaking truth to the critical issues of our culture is sorely needed. Pastor, you know the truth, share it fearlessly. Parents, those are your kids, take responsibility for educating and training them according to the values of the Bible. Let the offended be offended. But let us never compromise the absolute truth of Scripture to win people, or votes.