

Equipping Youth with a Biblical Worldview

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I. INTRODUCTION: The Importance of a Biblical Worldview

A. Between _____ - _____ of Christian youth leave the church by college graduation.

B. The most common answer for why young people lost their faith:

_____.

C. WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?

1. A worldview literally means a “_____ of the world,” a biblically informed perspective on *all* reality.
2. **J.P. Moreland**, “This is why truth is so powerful. It allows us to cooperate with reality, whether spiritual or physical, and tap into its power. As we learn to think correctly about God, specific scriptural teachings, the soul, or other important aspects of a Christian worldview, we are placed in touch with God and those realities. And we thereby gain access to the power available to us to live in the kingdom of God.”

D. Quiz over beliefs of Conservative Protestant Youth:

1. _____ believe God created the world but is not involved today
2. _____ believe God is not personal, something like a cosmic force
3. _____ either “definitely” or “maybe” believe in reincarnation
4. _____ are not assured of the existence of miracles
5. _____ are not assured of the existence of evil spirits
6. _____ believe many religions may be true (*How can a young person live a committed and courageous life following Jesus when he is not even convinced Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life”?)

D. David Kinnaman, *UnChristian*, “People who have a biblical worldview are much more likely to act like Jesus because they see such things as life, people, and crises differently than most people do” (81).

II. OUR TASK TODAY

A. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**: Our job is to train kids to think so they can to *know that they* _____.

III. THE CHALLENGE OF A DIVIDED CULTURE

A. Problem today: religion and morality are not considered objective truths to which we *submit*, but only matters of personal taste which we _____.



B. **President Barack Obama:** “I’m a Christian and I believe in parents being able to provide children with religious instruction without interference from the state. But I also believe our schools are there to teach worldly knowledge and science. I believe in evolution, and I believe there’s a difference between science and faith. That doesn’t make faith any less important than science. It just means they’re two different things.”

C. Youth have bought this view of divided truth:

- i. _____% of youth say religion is “very” or “somewhat” important in their lives.
- ii. ***Soul Searching***: “What a number of teens apparently mean in reporting that religion is very important in their lives is that religion is very important in the strictly *religious* sector of their lives. Religion influences them *religiously*—that is, when it comes to church attendance, basic beliefs, prayer, and so on—but not necessarily in other ways” (p. 138)
- iii. ***Soul Searching*** (Christian Smith): “The language that dominates adolescent interests and thinking about life, including religious and spiritual life, is primarily about personally feeling good and being happy.”

V. WHAT DO WE DO?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE: *Apologetics for a New Generation*, edited by Sean McDowell (Harvest House, 2009).