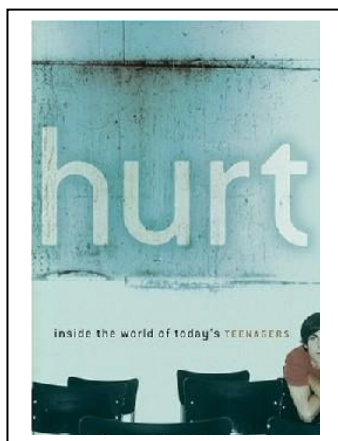


While the Student Ministries Department sees our role as significant, we understand that as a parachurch organization, we exist as a support to both the family and the church. It seems as though God has offered a structure of discipleship in a given student's life. The first place that discipleship should occur is in the family. Dunn suggests, "The influence of the student's family on his or her value system will exceed the influence of the teacher/staff member on most occasions." In *Souls in Transition*, Christian Smith summarizes his study by suggesting, "The most important factor is parents. For better or worse, parents are tremendously important in shaping their children's faith trajectories. That's the story that came out in *Soul Searching*. It's also the story that comes out here." Finally, Chap Clark echoes these thoughts when he states, "The problem is that adults have not invested the time, energy, and commitment to reach adolescents. Both practical and academic literature show strong evidenced that youth ministry in its current form makes little difference in the future faith commitment of the vast majority of adolescents, especially when compared to the overwhelming influence of parents."

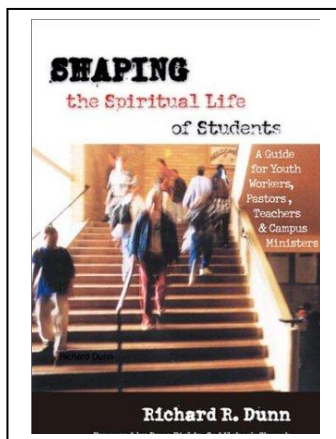
Therefore, CVCA and the Student Ministries Department desire to partner with parents in the responsibility of raising a generation for Christ. The purpose of this resource guide is to aid parents in the profound and weighty responsibility of parenting.



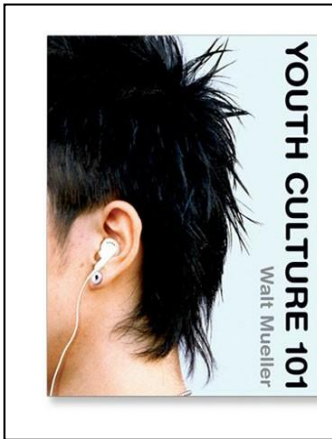
Hurt, by Chap Clark: If parents, educators, and youth workers were to read only one book about helping adolescence—this would be the one. Chap Clark managed to get inside the world of US teenagers and reveal the depths of angst, pressure and loneliness they feel. *Hurt* illuminates the under layers of teen culture, the places where adolescents are most honest and vulnerable, only to discover that today's youth are indeed a tribe apart—and it is the adults who have isolated them.

Most of Clark's research took place in Crescenta Valley High School in north Los Angeles County. One might wonder how a middle-aged dad could get inside the heads of so many teens from so many walks of life. He did this by doing what most adults are unwilling to do—spending time with teens and asking questions, by showing a genuine curiosity in their world and a willingness to hear their answers without judgment. The results are riveting.

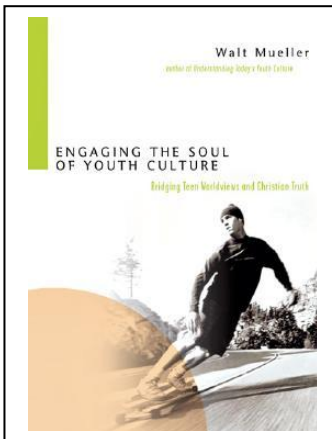
Ultimately this is an indictment of our increasingly adult-centric society that is more invested in adult interests than the individual needs of our youth. By the time adolescents enter high school, most have been subjected to at least a decade of adult-driven agendas. He slams coaches who are so invested in winning at youth sports that they leave mediocre athletes on the bench or pull them off the team. He points to the once playful dance classes that somehow morph into intensive dance training and regional competitions. Or the high school junior who faces a nightly four-to-five hour marathon of homework only to rise at 7 a.m. for morning band practice before AP calculus. We reward youth for their adult-pleasing achievements, failing to consider the price of isolation, stress and fear of failing that this generates.



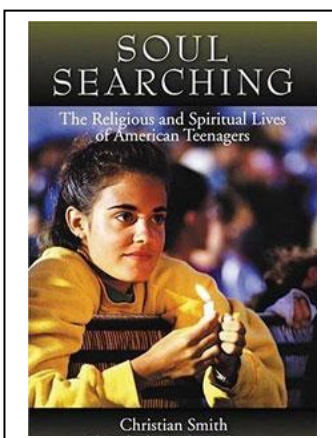
Shaping the Spiritual Lives of Students, by Richard Dunn: This generation is the first to travel a truly postmodern pilgrimage where religious pluralism and faddish spiritual experiences are in vogue while Christianity is considered out of style. You want to reach them. But how? Richard Dunn suggests that the key is to set the pace in their lives—physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually. Pacing takes time. It requires listening to youth and digging beneath the surface. But it pays off, because pacing allows you to enter the world of an adolescent and communicate caring. In this book, Dunn shows you how to set the pace with sensitivity to the unique spiritual issues that occur during each stage of adolescent development: junior high, senior high and college.



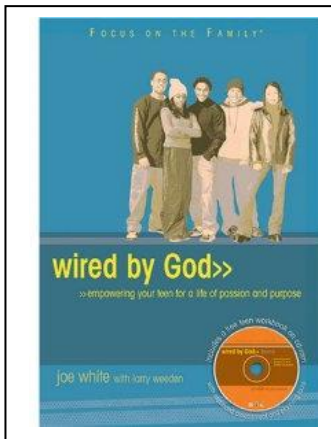
Youth Culture 101, by Walt Mueller: CPYU President Walt Mueller's critically acclaimed book, *Understanding Today's Youth Culture*, is widely recognized as one of the most thorough and comprehensive overviews of youth culture today. This Gold Medallion Book Award winner is used as a seminal text in colleges, universities, and seminaries around the world, but is especially noted for its honest and easy to read style. The book approaches youth culture from a distinctively Christian perspective and contains chapters on a variety of topics including: music, media, sexuality, materialism, drugs and alcohol, and spirituality. A great resource for parents, educators, youth workers, and pastors.



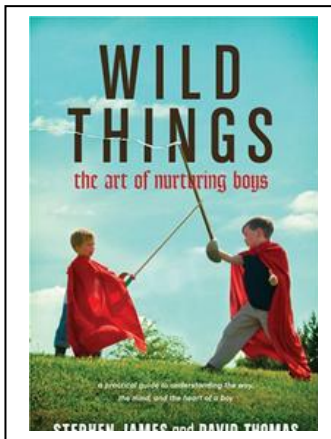
Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture, by Walt Mueller: Before we can reach adolescents with the truth of the gospel, we need to see what they see and hear what they hear. We need to catch the messages encrypted in their culture and understand what's really being communicated. In *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture* Walt Mueller, founder and president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, helps us to navigate the troubling and confusing terrain of teen worldviews so that we can effectively and compassionately pass along good news: our God is their God, our Savior can be their Savior.



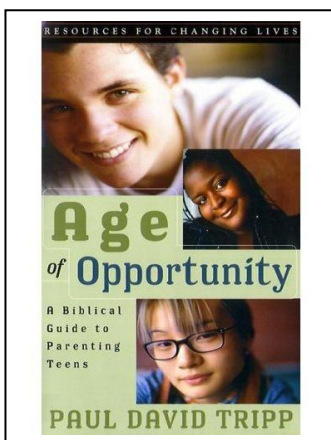
Encyclopedic in scope and exhaustive in detail, this study offers an impressive array of data, statistics and concluding hypotheses about American teenage religious identity, with appendixes explaining methodology and extensive endnotes. Sociologists of religion at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Smith and Denton cover a range of topics: e.g., "mapping" religious affiliations, creating new categories to describe teenage spirituality, exploring why Catholic teens are largely apathetic. All the book's findings derive from interviews conducted with teenagers for the National Study of Youth and Religion. Interestingly and against popular belief, Smith and Denton conclude that the "spiritual but not religious" affiliation thought to be widespread among young adults is actually rare among Americans under 18, and that the greatest influence shaping teens' religious beliefs is their parents. Despite the personal tone adopted in the first chapter and the topic's wide appeal, readers should be prepared to wade through lengthy presentations of research findings. Most helpful are summaries appearing in bullet form within several chapters, providing accessible and succinct overviews of the raw information and statistics. Regardless of whether this research will be "a catalyst for many soul-searching conversations in various communities and organizations" among parents and pastors, scholars will surely agree that this study advances the conversation about contemporary adolescent spirituality.



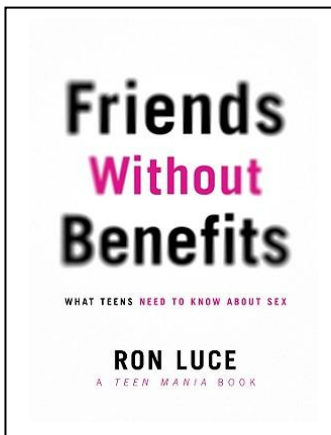
For most teens, life can be like a roller coaster, and it's easy for them to lose sight of the future. *Wired by God* gives parents the tools to inspire their teens to get excited about the future and tackle new dreams with confidence, passion, and purpose! *Wired by God* is packed with hands-on self-assessments, tests, and exercises to help parents steer their teens into a discovery of their God-given, unique-in-all-the-world blend of talents, personality, and interests. Helping teens to dream is a fun, exciting, and natural part of coaching them through adolescence.



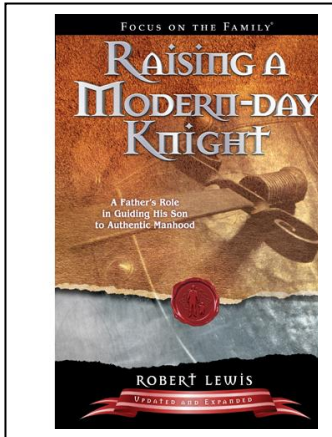
This is a MUST read for every parent with sons! After reading *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boy*, you'll have a rich understanding of the role development plays in the life of a boy from birth through college. All stages and phases of development are covered - emotional, physical, biological, and spiritual. The book contains helpful sidebars addressing specific topics to discuss with your son such as sex, drugs, homosexuality, pornography, and masturbation. Each chapter ends with a section called "Putting It into Practice" that gives practical directions on how to successfully interact with boys at each respective level of development.



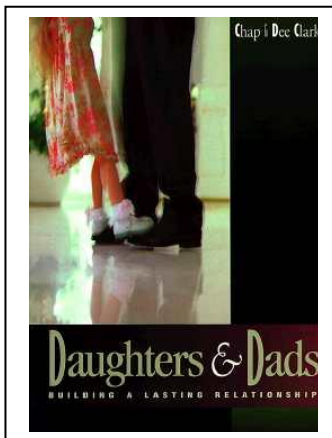
Are you hoping to merely survive your teenagers? With compassion, wit and wisdom, Tripp uncovers the heart issues affecting families during the often chaotic adolescent years. Gain assurance of God's provision for parenting success and discover ways to seize the countless opportunities to deepen communication, learn, and grow with your teens. Adolescents are not called to simply survive, but to thrive within their particular life-phase. Each phase of life has its own challenges, as well as, opportunities.



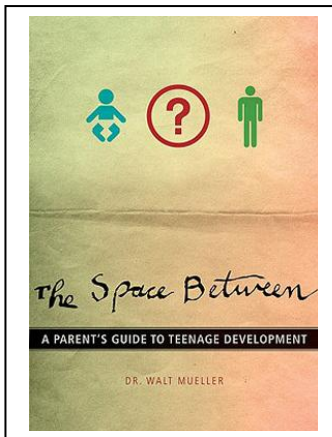
Teens today face a bombardment of the glorification of promiscuous sex from every side. From MTV images and music lyrics to television programs popular with teens, the message communicated is that "everyone is doing it" and those abstaining from sex are abnormal. Friends with benefits has become too common, almost expected. Seeking to stand up for teens and exhort them to speak for sexual purity is the youth organization, Teen Mania. In *Friends Without Benefits*, founder Ron Luce encourages teens to know the facts (physical and biblical) about sex and sexuality so they can make wise, informed choices rather than just follow the crowd. With their identities and self images at stake, teens need a clear, encouraging, hopeful message like this. Not what feels good, but what is right. Not what is tempting, but what is true. Designed for teens, here are honest stories and discussion of issues they need to hear—before it's too late.



What does it mean to be a man? Moreover, how does a father instill these qualities in his son? Using as an example the process by which a boy moved through the medieval stages of knighthood, Robert Lewis identifies parallel stages for today's fathers to create ceremonies to commemorate significant milestones in a young man's journey toward becoming a modern-day knight. Beginning with a biblical perspective of manhood, Robert Lewis shares a unique approach to shaping a boy into a man by equipping him with three essential elements: a vision, a code of conduct, and a cause (Christianity) in which to invest his life. Complete with ceremony ideas to celebrate accomplishments and ingrain them in his mind, this softcover is as insightful as it is practical in raising a boy to be a chivalrous, godly man.



YOUR LITTLE GIRL IS GROWING UP. It seems like just yesterday that your little girl followed you around, wanting to be just like you. You were her special pal, and she shared all of her hopes and dreams with you. But as she grows up, things change. She still needs you, but it's not the same. She doesn't share her secrets with you anymore, and it's hard to talk together the way you used to. *Daughters & Dads* is filled with practical help that will nurture your relationship with your daughter as she grows up. You'll learn how to communicate openly and honestly with her and how to be her friend and her father. Filled with letters from adolescent girls to their dads, this book offers guidance to fathers struggling to understand their changing role in their daughter's life.



For many parents, raising children seems pretty manageable until the teenage years. Then fear, confusion, frustration, and lack of understanding begin to invade the hearts and minds of these once-confident parents. The 'normal' changes of adolescence seem to be nothing but abnormal to parents who begin to feel like helpless bystanders. But parents don't need to feel alone or paralyzed by these feelings. For nearly twenty years, Walt Mueller has studied adolescents and the culture they're surrounded by. His expertise was put to the test when his own children became teenagers. Now he's bringing wisdom from research and his own experience to help parents through the tumultuous years of adolescence. With empathy and practical tools, parents will address several important issues, including the questions: * How can I begin to facilitate a smoother adolescent period for my teen? * How can I begin to break through the walls of confusion, fear, frustration, and misunderstanding? * How can I be a positive and proactive bridgebuilder into the life and world of my teenager?