

## **Anchorsaway Stat Sheet on Moral/Spiritual Condition of Today's Culture**

### Moral/spiritual condition of the Church

- 85% of Americans claim to be Christians (Barna)
- 2% of Christians can actually defend their faith (Josh McDowell)
- 9% of born-again teenagers believe in moral absolutes (Barna)
- 2%-6% of Christian teens are living out their faith (George Barna: Thinking like Jesus, pg.28)
- 80 to 90% of Christians lose their faith in God by the time they graduate from college

### Moral/spiritual condition among self-professing Christian adults

- 71% of adults are more likely to develop their own set of religious beliefs than those taught in a church. 61% of born again Christians (Barna, January 2009)
- 64% believe moral truth depends on the situation (Brannon Howse Worldview Weekend 2010)
- 60% believe male/female co-habitation outside of marriage is acceptable (BHWW)
- 55% believe a good person can earn his or her salvation (BHWW)
- 44% believe Jesus Christ committed sins while on earth (BHWW)

### Moral/spiritual condition of College Professors (Brannon Howse Worldview Weekend 2010)

- 67% approve of homosexuality
- 84% approve of abortion
- 65% embrace socialistic and communistic ideals

### Moral/spiritual condition of students (Brannon Howse Worldview Weekend)

- 88% of students from "Christian" homes deny their faith before they graduate college
- 91% of students from evangelical churches do not believe in absolute moral truth
- 63% do not believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God
- 58% believe all faiths teach equally valid truths
- 51% do not believe Jesus rose from the dead
- 65% do not believe Satan is a real entity
- 68% do not believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity

After fielding questions and e-mails from thousands of students, it is clear that students are eager for worldview training. In fact, they're dying for it (pun intended). What they cannot figure out is why you are not interested and why you think they would not be interested. They even wonder why you don't make them go through worldview training regardless of whether they say they want to or not. After all, your kids were not interested in eating their vegetables, but you made them. They didn't want to sit in a car seat or wear a seat belt, but you insisted. They balked at having to check in with you and tell where they were going with their friends, but you required it. You were resolute in making sure they were physically nurtured and protected, but they think you've thrown them to the wolves spiritually. (Brannon Howse Worldview Weekend)

Student's response to being trained in worldview: I'm a 17 year-old and am so saddened that adults somehow think that they always have to entertain and attract us to youth group. Adults HAVE NO IDEA that half of the kids in their youth groups ARE serious about God but don't ever go deeper because they are still being spoon-fed along with the half that doesn't care!!!! Herein

lies the problem; half the teens are so ready to go deeper and grow in their faith but the adults are only teaching us about the complete basics. If adults want teens to grow spiritually then give us something to grow off of. Stop assuming that we don't care. Give us the teaching we crave and the half of us who care will become warriors for God and the half of us who don't care will leave. (Worldview Weekend)

In The Last Christian Generation, Josh McDowell says this: Many leaders, teachers, statisticians and various denominational leaders have estimated that between 69% and 94% of their young people are leaving the traditional church after high school and very few are returning. (pg: 13)

Josh McDowell also says, "it's not because we have lacked creative resources or high impact Christian events over the last decade. Sadly enough, the majority of our young people appear to neither understand who the true God is nor the true meaning of Christianity. It is evident that the Church and the Christian families are failing to lead them into a transforming experience with God! (pg: 20)

In The Last Christian Generation, Josh McDowell cites the Nehemiah Institute when he says "while students in Christian schools scored slightly higher than their attending public schools, only 6% of students embraced a biblical Theism worldview. (pg: 14)

Del Tackett of the Truth Project, Focus on the Family, writes in a paper entitled, "Critical Issues", 2009: "Most (students) have equated "faith" with emotion and are either skeptical about "reason-based-faith" or are ignorant of it. Their worship experiences are centered more and more upon the former and not the latter. This places them on a dangerous roller coaster and makes them much more susceptible to the fierce attack that confronts them in the University classroom. They are not armed with the intellectual foundation to remain firm in the battle."

In Already Gone: Why Your Kids Will Quit Church and What You can do to Stop It, Ken Ham and Britt Beemer state that the majority of 20-30 year old people who had left the church, did so because they went to Sunday school.

- Poor teachers- not equipped
- Treated Bible as "stories" rather than the truth
- Bible not seen as a book with answers
- Need to be trained in their faith with apologetics
- Creation is not being taught and evolution has taken a toll on the church

Their advice to the church and parents:

- Teach your kids that the Bible is NOT a collection of stories
- Introduce apologetics at a young age
- Train teachers in apologetics
- Know that the Bible, as originally written, is all inspired by God
- Pray together, take time to study and read
- Know how to defend creation

GOOD NEWS! According to Jeff Myers (Passing the Baton), today's youth are just as promising and as spiritually inclined as any generation.

- 65% want a close relationship with God
- 49% want to make a difference in the world

- 75% Want to be mentored