

Our Future Leaders

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The Barna Research Group conducts various studies designed to gauge the religious winds of American culture. Consider this excerpt from their new book *Generation Next*:

“Consider the issue of truth. About three-quarters of all adults reject the notion that there are absolute moral truths. Most Americans believe that all truth is relative to the situation and the individuals involved.

“Similarly, at least three-quarters of our teens embrace the same position regarding moral truths. Not only do more than three out of four teenagers say there is no absolute moral truth, four out of five also claim that nobody can know for certain whether or not they actually know what truth is.

“This may also help to explain why a majority of teenagers (57 percent) say that lying is sometimes necessary – not merely convenient, common, understandable or acceptable, but necessary” (p. 31).

The denial of truth is the ultimate expression of rebellion toward God. Jesus pointedly said “I am the way, the **truth** ...” (Jn 14:6). This means that He is the very embodiment of that standard which makes all things either true or false. Behavior which is in harmony with the law and character of God is truth; that which conflicts is false. If this standard is abandoned, then we will become a Godless society.

Consider another excerpt:

“Because the Bible and most religious activities are foreign to them and seem irrelevant to what ‘real life’ is all about, they perceive two parallel worlds coexisting: the spiritual, impractical world that contains many pure and absolute (and impractical) dictums (such as truth, morality, love, faith), and the real world, the one they inhabit, which deals with the hard stuff of daily living.

Truth may be a wonderful concept, but many teens don’t have sufficient interest in such an ‘impractical’ or unrealistic concept to explore it further. Millions of those who do have the interest do not have the philosophical, intellectual and spiritual foundations to take such an exploration to the next level” (p. 33).

If true, the blame for this condition must rest squarely upon the **present** generation of adults/parents who have failed to do their job. This is not to say that every agnostic, amoral child has been made so by his parents, but it is to say that when an **entire generation** has been left rootless, valueless, and overwhelmed by alcohol, drugs and violence, the evidence suggests faulty nurturing, poor role-models, broken homes and other destructive forces unleashed by the “tune in, turn on and drop out” Allen Ginsbergs and Timothy Learys of the 1960’s.

The present generation of young parents faces a stiff challenge. We are expected by God to give our children every teaching, example and opportunity to understand how spiritual life operates in a mean, wicked and unprincipled world. Scary, isn’t it?? And too important to waste time upon the trivial.