



WHAT'S UP?

A PAGE FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

The newsletter designed to help you better understand and relate to today's youth culture and your church's teenagers—including your own.

SUMMER 2019

CULTURE WATCH

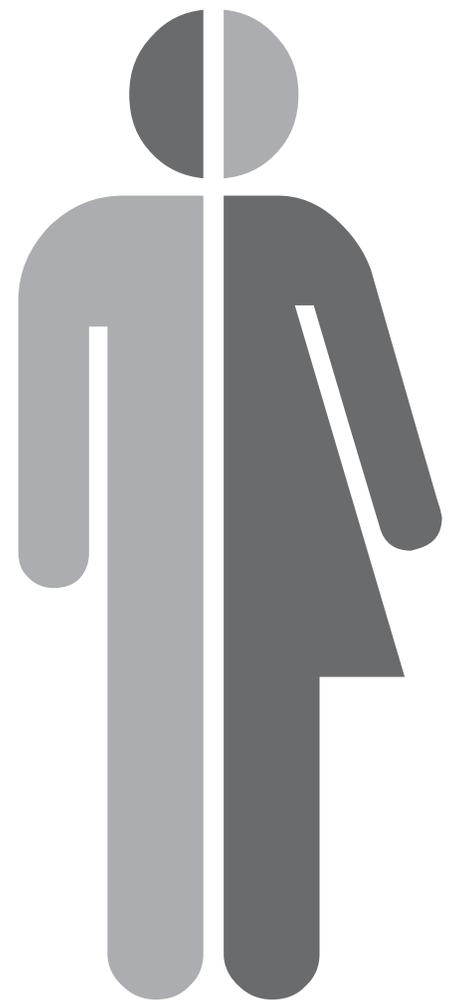


In recent years, our culture has often attempted to dictate and control the narrative on major issues within the realms of religion, morality, and politics. The dominant content presented (and often championed) in all of these arenas greatly impacts the attentive next generation. Currently, one major portion of this dictated narrative concerns sex and sexuality/gender. The narrative suggests that sexuality is fluid, gender is subjective, and that sexual intercourse is a physical act only.

The strategies to condition the next generation to buy in to this "new truth" about sexuality are relentless. Our students are bombarded through the media, Hollywood, music artists, social media, politics, school policies, and more. With so many voices in the culture saying the same things about sex and sexuality, our students are susceptible to adopting the same perspectives.

The Church (biblical Christianity)

is the lonely voice that consistently defies these toxic ideas. It is crucial that the Church, and the families within the Church, reengage with Scripture on a deep level. According to Scripture, God created everything, which includes sexuality, gender, and sexual intercourse. If God created it all for a purpose and with intention, then sexual freedom is actually best experienced within those intended purposes (and not our broken, personal feelings).



The articles in *Forward* and *Velocity* magazines provide great discussion starters for you and your teen. Also, devotions for teens cover the same topics as the adult devotions in *FUSION* and *FUSIONnext*, creating opportunities for family Bible study. Read them, discuss them, and use them as a tool for discipleship in the home.

HEADS UP!



Summer is a great time to spend some time in the great outdoors with your family. Even if your family isn't "outdoorsy" there are still a lot of great things you can do together as a family. Use a projector to watch a movie outside once it gets dark. Toast some marshmallows over a fire. Take a picnic to the park. Go fishing, hike a trail, go for a swim—if you're feeling adventurous. Encourage your family to thank God for His beautiful creation all around you.

PARENTING TEENS

What does the Bible teach us about sex and gender roles? If God is the Maker of these things, then the Scriptures should reinforce His purposes for these things for all humanity.

1. Sex is the designed act for procreation and is a gift from God. Sex is not a bad thing. It is a gift from God, intended to be used for the filling of the earth, the structure of family, and the pleasure and oneness between husband and wife (Genesis 1:28; 2:24). Our students need to understand that sex is created by God and is a gift from God. God designed it for procreation and growing families. God also created sex to be pleasurable. However, pleasure should not be the sole reason to engage in sexual intercourse.

2. This new wave of "sexual freedom" does not lead to a fulfilled life. Only a relationship with God through Jesus Christ can lead to true fulfillment (John 8:32). The apostle Paul taught on singleness and celibacy in 1 Corinthians 7, and he presented it as the ideal option for a life that can have greater impact for the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ was a single, celibate man who was the greatest example of fulfillment in this life. Why? It was because of his desire and discipline to live his life for the will of the Father. Our greatest fulfillment as human beings is not

found in the greatest pleasures in this world, but rather it is found in a life that loves God with all that we are (Matthew 22:36-40).

3. Gender roles are real, instituted by God, not society. Culture says that gender is entirely fluid, that the gender roles have been established because society created them. However, this is a fabrication. Though there are commonalities (because we are all human), there are still very clear differences between male and female (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25).

4. All sexual experiences are best practiced within the parameters of God's design and purpose. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman to be the foundation of the family structure. He instructs that all sexual activity outside of a marriage covenant between one man and one woman is not good for humanity, because sexual activity outside of marriage was not his intention or purpose (1 Corinthians 6:9-20). Adultery, pornography, incest, homosexual behavior, premarital sex, polygamy, etc. are all condemned by God because they do not align with His purpose. Sex is best experienced within the purpose God created it for.

ON the CALENDAR

- Jun 4** National Cheese Day
- Jun 14** Flag Day
- Jun 16** Father's Day
- Jun 18** Go Fishing Day
- Jul 4** Independence Day
- Jul 10** Pick Blueberries Day
- Jul 15** Cow Appreciation Day
- Jul 30** International Day of Friendship
- Aug 4** Campfire Day
- Aug 10** National S'mores Day
- Aug 26** National Dog Day
- Aug 31** National Eat Outside Day

CELEBRATE!

POSITIVE NEWS ABOUT TEENS

A teen in the Atlanta area recently started a lawn care business. Unfortunately, the teen has been robbed of his equipment not just once, but twice. He had his leaf blower stolen twice. Instead of giving up, the teen is committed to his business. His community and family have encouraged him to keep working so he can replace the stolen equipment. He's learned that even in the face of adversity, we can keep moving forward and work hard.

Do you like *What's Up?*

Let us know what you think!
Email us at fusion@d6family.com
or call 800-877-7030.