

"The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out."  
- Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)

**TOP 10  
DOWNLOADED  
SONGS FROM  
ITUNES  
(SOURCE:  
ITUNES STORE  
10/26/2009)**

1. **Fireflies** by Owl City
2. **Party in the U.S.A.** by Miley Cyrus
3. **Whatcha Say** by Jason DeRulo
4. **3** by Britney Spears
5. **Meet Me Halfway** by Black Eyed Peas
6. **Replay** by Iyaz
7. **Down** by Jay Sean
8. **TiK ToK** by Ke\$ha
9. **I Gotta Feeling** by Black Eyed Peas
10. **Paparazzi** by Lady Gaga

**YOUTH CULTURE  
HOT QUOTE**

"For some reason, everyone is obsessed with weight. Are you bigger? Are you smaller? And everyone cares about that! It's insane. Some days, I'll be bigger. Other days, I'll be smaller. It's not a big deal."

- Serena Williams, *People.com*, August 2009

**THANKSFUL FOR KIDS**

BY WALT MUELLER, PRESIDENT, CPYU

Later this month you'll most likely find yourself sitting around the table with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. If your family is like mine, it's almost become cliché to offer up the obligatory thanks for the blessings of material abundance and close relationships that we've been blessed with by God. When you have a lot, it's very easy to get lulled to sleep and not appreciate what you've been given.

This Thanksgiving – the last one in which I'll have a teenaged high school student in the house – I've decided to offer up thanks to God for my kids with some forethought and intentionality. I would like to invite you to do the same.

When my first child, our daughter Caitlin, was born it was easy to be thankful to God for the wonderful gift of new life. In fact, my joy was so great that there was no way I could have not been thankful. I remember being drawn back over and over again to the big window in the hospital nursery. I would look down at her little face and body as she lay there in the glass bassinet. Each and every time I stepped to the window, my prayer was the same: "Thank you God for this incredible gift. What have I ever done to deserve this?"

Eventually, Caitlin and my other three children all grew up to be teenagers. No longer the cute and dependent

little children they once were, they were now locked in the struggle for growth and independence that we call adolescence. I must admit that I was on many occasions tempted to buy into the widespread cultural cynicism regarding teenagers and the adolescent years that could lead us to believe that we had been cursed rather than blessed by our call to parenting. "What did I do to deserve this?" was still the prayer, but the inflection carried with it something much, much different!

The Psalmist writes, "Don't you see that children are God's best gift? The fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the kids of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children!" (Psalm 127:3-5, MSG).

This Thanksgiving, keep the Psalmist's words in mind as you look around the table at your kids. They're rewards from God given to you as a sign of God's favor. When you face difficult times with your kids – and you will – always remember that the children God gave to you as gifts *remain* gifts. . . even during the teenage years. Then, give thanks!

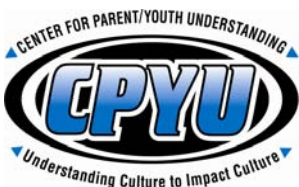
**CPYU TREND ALERT: CREDIT CARDS**

The folks at [creditcardreform.org](http://creditcardreform.org) are on a campaign to help parents and their college-aged kids understand not only the dangerous trap of credit card debt, but the tactics credit card companies are using to market cards to students. In a few months, new legislation will kick into effect that restricts the companies aggressive student marketing campaigns.

Until then, diligence is needed. As parents, we must teach our kids about biblical stewardship of our financial resources, including the need to spend wisely for

needs and avoid the trap of using credit to secure selfish wants. Let your kids know that the companies set up shop on campus and sometimes offer attractive gifts including t-shirts, school supplies, and even iPods to those who will fill out an application.

Some even have deals with the college where in exchange for the opportunity to recruit, profits are split with the school. Advise your kids against accumulating the average grads' four thousand dollar-plus in credit card debt.



## LATEST RESEARCH: CHILD/PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

Pangea Media recently released some online survey results that offers some encouraging news regarding tweens and teens. The survey found that most kids say that they have a good relationship with their parents. But if you look further at the survey results, there is cause for concern. When asked which parent they are most likely to talk to, sixty-eight percent of tweens and teens say they are more likely to share with their mother. Only seventeen percent put their dad at the top of the list.

This indicates that fathers need to be more proactive in building relationships that encourage communication with their kids. In addition, seventy-two percent report that they've talked with their parents about drugs and alcohol, and only fifty-three percent have talked to their parents about sex. Parents, God has called us to serve as the primary spiritual influence for our kids. This requires that we work with diligence to communicate God's order and design for all areas of life.



## FROM THE WORD

From Genesis to Revelation, God clearly calls His followers to be people of integrity. In Proverbs 10:9, Solomon tells his readers that there are two paths from which to choose as we live out our lives. The secure path is walked by the person of integrity. The crooked path is walked by the one who lacks integrity, and the end result is that the shifty person will at some point be found out.

The word for "integrity" used by Solomon is derived from the Hebrew word that means "to be complete." Other translations render the word as "upright." As parents, our overwhelming desire should be to see our kids grow up with a passion to live an "integrated" life. The integrated life is a life

where one's faith in God is woven in and through every area of life, including all that one has and does.

While the Bible makes it clear that faith is a gift from God, that doesn't get parents off the hook for needing to model that type of integrated faith. Because of the power of example, raising "integrated" kids requires that we be "integrated" ourselves. As people of integrity we will prayerfully depend on God to fill us with the desire and wherewithal to deliberately live out the implications of our faith in our marriages, vocation, play, media use, sexuality, conversation, intellectual pursuits, etc. No area of our lives is exempt.

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## IN THE NEWS: NFL COMMERCIALS

Now that football season is in full swing, many of you are no doubt sitting with your family to watch games and cheer for your favorite team. Of course, it's not news to you that NFL broadcasts are filled with commercials from start to finish. Sadly, these broadcasts are peppered with ads promoting among other things, drugs for erectile dysfunction, alcohol, and movies that you would never allow your kids to see.

Earlier this year, the monitoring group Common Sense Media asked the NFL to clean up

their act so that ads shown during games would be more appropriate for the young viewers who have tuned in to enjoy football.

Regardless of how the NFL responds, I want to encourage you to use your football TV time to teach your kids how to think Christianly and biblically about advertising and the worldviews it promotes. Use the Scriptures as the measuring stick, and utilize these teachable moments to point out the good, the bad, and the ugly these marketers peddle.

