

How does this new religion of Moralistic Therapeutic Deism impact today's Christian families?

Last month I introduced the fastest growing religion in America, MTD or Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. The two television shows which most clearly embody this religion are *Friends* and *Will and Grace*. In fact, this generation of young Christian adults has been referred to as the *Will and Grace* generation, because the winsome portrayal of sin in this show helped it become an acceptable sin in the eyes of an entire generation of Christian young people.

When parents buy into the idea that a student's job in life is to have fun and to not fail or mess up their life, that belief leads to "helicopter" parenting. A helicopter parent intercedes in the normal growth and development of a child by protecting their children from ever failing. They don't allow their child to receive the natural consequences of wrong choices so that the child will learn from the consequences. Instead, they swoop in and "fix the problem" so that their child receives no consequences. No one wins in this situation. The child doesn't learn the seriousness of their actions, and they have no incentive not to repeat the behavior because the parents have taken on the role of being sure that their child is having fun and doesn't fail. This leads to immature children with shallow roots, or no roots at all.

So what is the answer? Luke 6:40 tells us, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher."

The study (this needs explaining, as you're referring to a past document and not an earlier mention within this article) revealed that the vast majority of American youth are incredibly inarticulate about their faith, religious beliefs and practices. Students don't even have the "canned" answers of the past when children were required to memorize the catechisms of their faith.

The biggest influence in the faith lives of teens is their parents. It isn't if the parents have influence, it is how they use their influence. The faith lives of teens are powerfully influenced by their parents. And it almost never happens that the children's faith and practice is greater than their parents. *The best predictor of a teen's life and faith is their parents' religious lives.* "We will get what we are." Parents must be seriously intentional in the

spiritual training of their children. Faith and beliefs must be taught and practiced. “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” ~ Proverbs 22:6.

The second largest factor in the development of faith in teenagers is the presence of other mature Christian adults intentionally teaching, modeling and developing the faith of the students by their significant relationships.

And that is the mission of Chapel Hill Academy:

*“To glorify God and assist families
by providing a Christ-centered education
which inspires and enables students
to pursue spiritual maturity and academic excellence.”*

As you purpose to parent against the culture and train up your children, know that the school that you have entrusted your children to seven hours every day is partnering with you to train your children to know, love and follow after our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.