

Making Your Faith Your Own

1. Current Research:

National Study of Youth & Religion

Church Attendance

- Emerging adults (18-23 yr old) are the least religious adults in the U.S.
- Emerging adults have not become less religious since 1972

Beliefs

- More than 60% identify as religious, though only 1 in 10 attends religious service weekly
- Belief in God and importance of faith declines less dramatically (majority believes in God, Christ, judgment, miracles, life after death, etc.)

Cultural Factors that Influence Religious Life

- Disruptions (divorce, death, leaving home)
- Distractions (school, work, play)
- Differentiation (independent identity)
- Postponed family formation
- Keeping options open
- Honoring diversity
- Self-confidence, self-sufficiency
- Self-evident morality
- Partying, hooking up, cohabiting
- Religion as a resource for stability & recovery
- Ongoing relations with parents

Factors that Correlate Most with High Religious Involvement in Emerging Adulthood

- _____ religion
- Personal _____
- Importance of religious faith
- Reading _____
- Supportive religious _____
- Religious experiences
- No doubts about belief

2. Identity & Faith

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward _____. Dan 6:10

But Daniel resolved that he would not _____ himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Dan 1:8

Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hannah, Mishael, and Azariah, his _____, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven... Dan 2:17-18

Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in _____ sight is very _____. 1 Peter 3:3-5