RENegotiating Faith

The Delay in Young Adult Identity Formation and What it Means for the Church in Canada
Erikson’s 8 Stages

Emerging Adulthood (Moratorium)

- Identity
- Commitment
- Adulthood

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Emerging Adulthood

- Identity Exploration
- Instability
- Self-focus
- Feeling in-between
- Possibilities / Optimism

Jeffrey Arnett, Emerging Adulthood
Delayed Adulthood

- Age at first marriage
- Leaving school
- Leaving home
- Family formation
- Full-time work
Differentiation

The process of setting out identity markers between you and your family of origin.

Adulthood markers used to be differentiation markers. Now these are out of reach for many young adults until their mid- to late-twenties.
Mentors …

- Call out what God has placed inside
- Are re-introducers
- Are negotiation advisors
- Are continuity
Connected to a Christian Campus Group

- Mentor; Regular Contact: 57%
- Mentor; No Regular Contact: 35%
- No Mentor: 13%

*Only for those who went on to postsecondary education*
Connected to a Christian Campus Group

- 66% Home church made connection
- 16% No home church connection

Only for those who went on to postsecondary education
How long was it after starting college or university before you connected with a Christian campus group?

- Within the first two weeks: 4%
- Within the first four weeks: 6%
- Within the first four months: 16%
- Within the first year: 37%

Only for those who went on to postsecondary education and connected with a Christian campus group.
Fears ...

- FOMO – Fear Of Missing Out
- FNBA – Fear of Not Being Amazing
- FOPM – Fear Of Passionless Monotony
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emerging Adulthood</th>
<th>Real World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People are young, beautiful and healthy</td>
<td>People are older, less beautiful and less healthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating is easy</td>
<td>Creating is hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am in control</td>
<td>Others are in control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socially rich environment</td>
<td>Socially isolating environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich variety of activities</td>
<td>Dull or repetitive activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking is easy</td>
<td>Networking is hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups are customized to me</td>
<td>Have to fit in with groups as they present themselves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moralistic, Therapeutic Deism (MTD)

- A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth.

- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.

- The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.

- God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when needed to resolve a problem.

- Good people go to heaven when they die.
Universal Gnostic Religious Ethic (UGRE)

- All religions are the same, if you can get behind their external trappings. This realization is understood as a special knowledge for the enlightened.

- Religion is functional. It fulfills a set of psychosocial functions.

- The most important thing is to preserve social harmony.

- Good human beings preserve social harmony.

- A “higher power” is not necessary, nor is a notion of heaven or hell.
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