

Conversion in Adolescents Tom Zanzig

Dimension of Conversion:	Hunger in early adolescence	If Converted older teens Hunger for...
Physical	An idealized body	Acceptance of the body they have
Relational	Popularity, especially with in-groups	A broader range of relationships; desire a diversity of friends
Intellectual	Reliable answers; need to be "right" in the eyes of others	Intellectual freedom and the pursuit of truth
Moral	Clear guidelines on what is right and wrong	Moral freedom and personal responsibility
Religious	The security of religious meaning, symbol systems and ritual	Deeper personal faith & religious experiences

Dimension of Conversion:	Search for in early adolescence	If Converted older teens Search for...
Physical	A naive perfection of body	A healthy lifestyle
Relational	Popularity, at times with risky behavior	Deeper and life-giving relationships
Intellectual	Answers that satisfy and impress others	Answers that satisfy self; can enjoy the search
Moral	Moral certainty	Moral integrity and guidance
Religious	Sense of belonging with peers in faith community	Personal spiritual and theological understanding; communal support for same

Dimension of Conversion:	Awaken in early adolescence	If Converted older teens Awaken to...
Physical	The fact that their body is what it is, and a given	The realization that their body is good and sacred
Relational	The importance of healthy relationships	Both the demands and rewards of intimate relationships
Intellectual	The reality that some questions lack adequate answers	The need to embrace Mystery at the center of life; truth as multifaceted
Moral	The recognition that they are capable of doing evil; judgmental of others	The recognition that they are capable of and called to moral heroism and forgiveness of others
Religious	The fact that God and institutional religion are not the same	The conviction that God is real and in relationship with them; church as community of sinners

Dimension of Conversion:	Respond in early adolescence	If Converted older teens Respond by...
Physical	Growing in respect for the wonder of their body	Accepting their body and committing to its care
Relational	Showing an increasing capacity for compassion	Engaging in relationships with empathy and healthy intimacy
Intellectual	Seeking deeper knowledge of self, others, and God	Attracted to a life of intellectual integrity
Moral	Recognizing personal moral responsibility and identifying faults in others	Accepting self and others as sinful; choosing freely to live by core values & principles
Religious	Exploring what it means to have a personal relationship with God	Seeking ways to grow in faith and religious practice