

WALT Mueller's Top 10 for ENGaging TODAY's youth culture

10 Be yourself ... Don't give in to the internal **PRESSURE** to look, dress, talk, OR act like the young **PEOPLE** you're trying to reach.

9 Your willingness to enter into your teenagers' world, **LOVE** them, and relate to them, speaks **LOUDER** than anything else.

8 **SHUT** your mouth ... and then open your **EYES** and **EARS** as you intentionally walk into the world IN which they LIVE and navigate **EVERY day**.

7 **TEENAGERS** need the **ADULTS** who set out to **ENGAGE** them to first listen and understand BEFORE they **OFFER** opinions OR **PONTIFICATIONS**.

6 Think of youth culture as the **SOUP** kids marinate in, **FILLING** their pores and "**FLAVORING**" who they are now, AND who'll they'll be for the **REST** of their **LIVES**.

5 Regularly "**LIFT THE LID OFF THE SOUP POT**" to see what ingredients are **SHAPING** your **TEENAGERS'** **WORLDVIEW** (media, language habits, **DRESS**, peer group, after-school activities, hobbies, **HEROES**, jobs, spending habits, and so on).

4 Media is **OBVIOUSLY** a life **FORCE**. So **SURVEY** your kids to discover what they're reading, listening to, and watching—then, read, listen to, and watch their stuff. **PAY** special attention to **ADS** targeting teenagers.

3 Start **EVERY DAY**, as one theologian has said, with your **BIBLE** in **ONE HAND** + a **NEWSPAPER** (USA Today, for example) in the other, **LOOKING** for ways to **BRIDGE** the word with their **WORLD**.

2 Look for and **LISTEN TO** researchers who target young people—you'll find links to them here in **GROUP** (www.youthministry.com) + through the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding (www.cpyu.org).

1 Become "**FRIENDS**"—via the Internet + through **BOOKS**—with great Christian culture-**ENGAGERS**, including John Stott, Dick Staub, Denis Haack, + John Fischer (for a complete list, go to the **LINKS** section @ www.cpyu.org).