



WHEN WE MAKE OUR FAMILY'S  
FAITH OUR OWN

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CAN YOU IDENTIFY & DESCRIBE EVERY ROAD SIGN, BILLBOARD, AND STRUCTURE ON YOUR DAILY MORNING COMMUTE?

CAN YOU DRAW A COMPLETE DIAGRAM OF YOUR CAR'S DASHBOARD?

CAN YOU RECALL YOUR LICENSE PLATE NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATE?

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# WOULD WE STILL BE FAITHFUL...

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- If our families were not around?
  - If Christians in our communities were persecuted?
  - If our friends/neighbors moved away?
  - If our church closed its doors forever?
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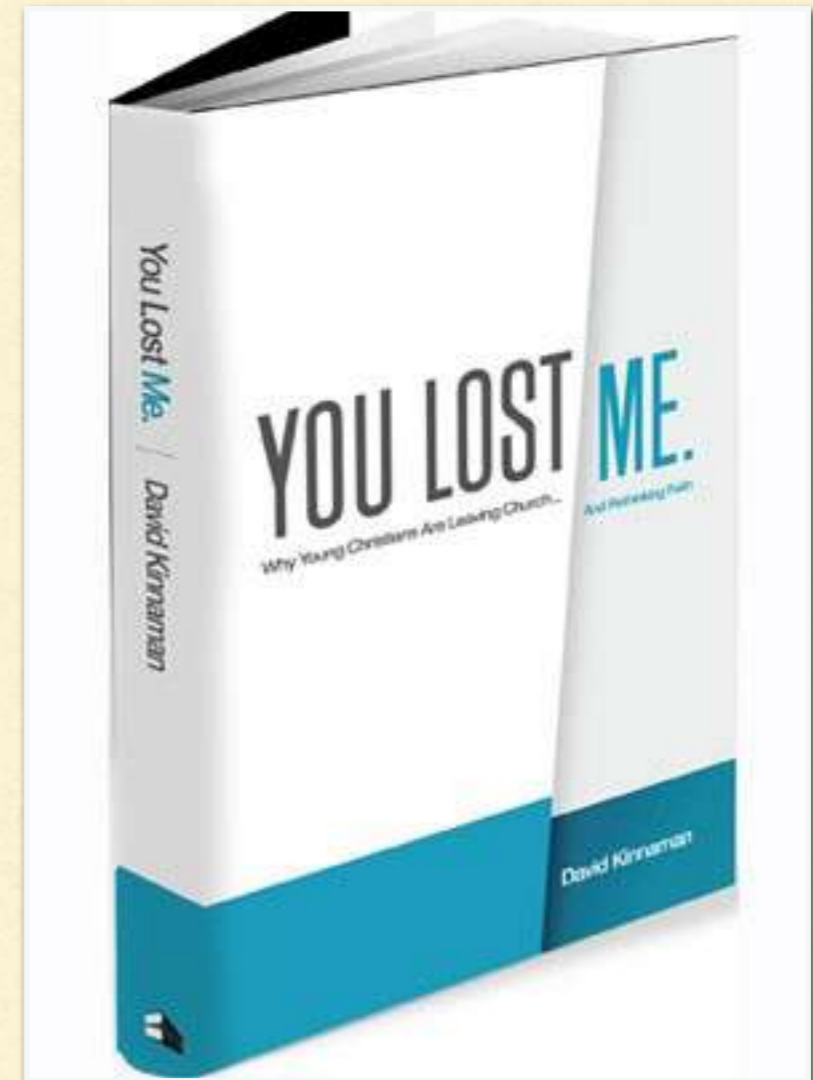
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***You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving The Church...And Rethinking Faith***

David Kinnaman

TOP SIX REASONS YOUNG  
PEOPLE LEAVE THE  
CHURCH:

1. OVERPROTECTIVE
2. SHALLOW
3. ANTI-SCIENCE
4. REPRESSIVE
5. EXCLUSIVE
6. DOUBTLESS



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# INSIGHT FROM KINNAMAN

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- “The next generation is caught between two possible destinies—one moored by the power and depth of the Jesus-centered gospel and one anchored to a cheap, Americanized version of the historic faith that will snap at the slightest puff of wind. Without a clear path to pursue the true gospel, millions of young Christians will look back on their twenty-something years as a series of lost opportunities for Christ.”
  - “The dropout problem is, at its core, a faith-development problem; to use religious language, *it’s a disciple-making problem*. The church is not adequately preparing the next generation to follow Christ faithfully in a rapidly changing culture.”
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# ADVANTAGES TO “GROWING UP IN THE CHURCH”

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- Faith shapes the household
  - Communing with the church becomes a natural practice for the family
  - Education in God’s Word begins at an early age
  - Children are surrounded by peers with a similar upbringing
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**FAMILIARITY DOES NOT  
GUARANTEE FAITHFULNESS**

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# DISADVANTAGES TO “GROWING UP IN THE CHURCH”

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- “Faith” is a loaded, ambiguous word
  - “Going to church” might become the fullest expression of one’s faith
  - The Bible becomes an all too familiar book of inspiration
  - The world becomes a shocking, curious place for those sheltered from it
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# I. WE MUST EXPERIENCE THE LORD FOR OURSELVES

(John 20:19-31)

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# EXPERIENCING THE LORD FOR OURSELVES

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- Pray, study, and meditate on our own. This is where we receive sustenance (Psalm 1)
  - Hear Scripture again for the first time. The Gospel is more than pieces of information...Find vitality in the story of God everyday
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“How shall we communicate in an atmosphere where it is assumed the gospel has been heard and that now all that remains is supplying more units of information? A husband and wife take hours and days and years to know each other, and yet some would know God before the parking meter expires...There is an understanding to the righteous man, to the person who lives within an understanding distance from God.”

–Fred Craddock (*Overhearing the Gospel*)

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# II. WE MUST RESPOND TO THE QUESTION OF JESUS FOR OURSELVES

(Mark 8:27-38)

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# RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION FOR OURSELVES

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- If we are more comfortable telling someone about our favorite actresses, athletes, or musicians than we are telling them about our Lord, perhaps we should rethink our commitments (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)
  - Spend time alone with the Lord. Our understanding of who Jesus is develops as we spend more time getting to know Him (John 9)
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“The cross means sharing the suffering of Christ to the last and to the fullest. Only a man thus totally committed in discipleship can experience the meaning of the cross...The cross is laid on every Christian.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

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# III. WE MUST NOT CONFUSE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(2Timothy 3)

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# FOLLOWING JESUS FIRST

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- Learn about Christ from previous generations without forgetting your call to be faithful today (1 Corinthians 11:1)
  - The church is not a social club for especially-zealous disciples; the church is the Lord's body. Find your place in the church and get involved (1 Corinthians 3)
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“The church—the body of Christ—is the place where God invites us to renew our loves, reorient our desires, and retain our appetites...Christian worship is the feast where we acquire new hungers—for God and for what God desires—and are sent into his creation to act accordingly.”

–James K.A. Smith (*You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*)

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WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES,  
WILL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?

(LUKE 18:8)

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