

3 Observations

3.1 *Descriptive analyses*

of the responses to the quantitative questions (Likkert scale)

General description

The population.

A total of 318 surveys were returned; 6 were considered invalid (see chapter 2). This return accounts for nearly the whole population of 12 - 18 year old Canadian Reformed young people in the Fraser Valley.

Surveys usually study a small sample of a population, providing that measures have been taken to assure that the sample is representative of the whole population. A sample of 207 returns was used for the calculation of percentages of the quantitative responses. This is an arbitrary selection, simply based on what was first at hand. Of those, 76 (37%) are of respondents indicating between 12 and 14 years old and 103 (50%) who are 15 - 18 years old. The remaining 13% did not indicate age. Of the 207 respondents, 90 (43%) indicated female, 102 (49%) indicated male. The remaining 8% did not indicate any gender.

A sample of 207 out of the total population of 312 is very reliable for quantitative purposes. It is 66% of the total population to which the survey applies.

For evaluation of the qualitative responses, all 312 responses were used because the greater number makes the recognition of commonalities between responses more reliable. (See chapter 2)

Home

Over 90% of the respondents state that their families read the Bible together daily.

The large majority of respondents see that their parents want to follow Christ.

Mother's example is a bit more obvious than father's, especially for the 15 - 18 year olds. Only 15% are neutral or feel that their parents are not important role models for their growth of faith. Just under 40% of all respondents say they talk with one or both parents about personal faith struggles. Females appear to be more open with their parents about personal faith struggles than males.

Approximately half the respondents enjoy a one-on-one conversation with Dad. That percentage is 10% higher for conversations with Mom. The younger respondents are more likely not to enjoy a conversation with Dad. Nearly a quarter of all respondents state that they have short conversations with their Dad only once a week or less. The females quite strongly favour conversation with Mom. About three quarters has conversations of 2 minutes or longer for 4 times a week or more. Males also converse with Mom more often than with Dad.

School

The survey responses indicate that over a quarter of the High school students are not committed to the school's Christian character. The Christian character of the courses and programs is more obvious to them than the Christian modeling of the teachers. Teachers and peers are reported to be equally important role models.

If given the option, 10% of all respondents would not attend a Christian School and 16% are neutral on the subject. Eighty-five (85) % agree that the courses and programs help develop a Christian worldview and only 4% disagree. The large majority finds the highschool Bible study program meaningful, but the younger respondents are less committal than the older ones. A majority in all 7 reports considered the elementary school Bible study program helpful in giving knowledge of the Bible.

Forty-two (42)% agree that the teachers are important role models in the growth of their faith. Only 16% agree strongly while 5% disagree strongly. This strong disagreement is lower with females (2%), higher with males (6%) and much higher among those who did not indicate their gender (12%). Other young people are important role models for 57% of all respondents. This is much stronger the case for females (78%) than for males (42%)

Church

The large majority of respondents feels committed to their church attendance, yet only half of all respondents say they can agree that the adults in their church are people who practice what they preach. Most respondents agree that the church music is to the glory of God, but at the same time many say that they do not like the music. The preaching is more meaningful to the older respondents than to the younger ones. Catechism instruction is considered helpful for the respondents' growth in faith. The majority considers study of doctrine and memorization of Lord's Days to be the main part of the curriculum. They want to understand what they learn and have an opportunity to discuss it. A strong majority feels that their minister is a good teacher and a good role model for growth in faith. Home visits appear to be more meaningful for females than for males. Those who attend a Bible study group say they do so first of all because they consider it a good way of learning about the Bible.

Church loyalty

A total of 83% agree that they are in the right church; 57% of all respondents feel strongly about this. Even for the sake of a loved one, 71% would not be okay with switching to another denomination; 30% feel very strongly about that. While as a whole over 90% of the respondents would come to their church even if their parents would leave them the choice, the females are a bit more committed (98%) than the males (91%). Of all respondents 28% have attended other denominations. This percentage is a bit higher for the older ones (33%) than for the younger respondents (26%).

A lot of the respondents are confused or skeptical about the credibility of the adults' Christian example. Of all respondents, only 41% agree and 9% strongly agree that the adults in their church are people who practice what they preach and almost one third are not sure. Of all

respondents, 20% feel that the adults do not practice what they preach. This skepticism is greater among the older respondents and nearly twice as high among the males as among the females (23% and 13%).

Worship

Nearly 90% of all respondents agree that the church music is to the glory of God, but less than half actually like the music. Forty-four (44) % of the females like the church music and only 39% of the males do. Nine (9) % of all respondents feel strongly that they do not like it.

Just over half the respondents agree that they like the worship services, but a quarter of all respondents disagree and the rest (34%) remains neutral. The percentage of females who enjoy the worship services is 13% higher than the percentage of males.

Preaching

Half of all respondents agree that the preaching is meaningful to them and another 16% agree strongly. A quarter is neutral about it, and 9% disagree. The younger respondents find the preaching less meaningful than the older ones. Just over half of them agree, but 32% are neutral about it and 12% disagree. Among the older respondents, nearly three quarters agree that the sermons are meaningful to them, and only 8% disagree. There is less disagreement about the meaningfulness of the sermon with the males (7%) than with the females (12%)

Catechism

There is very clear agreement (95%) that understanding the meaning of a Lord's Day is more important than memorizing that Lord's Day. At the same time, half of all respondents agree that memorization is important; 18% disagree. Disagreement is greater among the respondents who did not indicate their age and gender (24%).

Agreement and strong agreement with the statement "*instruction in doctrine (baptism, justification, good works, etc) should be an important part of catechism classes*" is found with 43% and 42% of all respondents. Thirteen (13) % more females than males agree strongly with this statement. Throughout all 7 reports, about 85% of the respondents agree that it is important to have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss things with the minister.

Just over half of all respondents agree that the catechism instruction helps them in the growth of their faith. Among the males this agreement is 11% stronger than among the females. Another 26% strongly agree that the catechism instruction is helpful to them.

Minister and elders

In all 7 reports about 80% of the respondents say they feel that their minister is a good teacher and a good role model for their growth in faith. The younger respondents are more often neutral about the minister's role modeling, possibly because some have not had catechism classes with him yet. Of all respondents, 89% agree with their pastor as far as faith and church is concerned, and 3% disagree. Only among the respondents who did not indicate their age and gender there is greater disagreement (10% and 12%). The elders are also considered good role models by the respondents. This percentage is fairly consistent throughout all the responses.

Opinions about the meaningfulness of family visit by elders are divided. Almost half of the younger respondents find such visits meaningful to them; 29% agree, and 17% strongly agree. This agreement declines slightly among the older respondents. Among those who did not state their gender and age 30% and 31% disagree. A quarter of the females are neutral about it

compared to 40% of the males. Just over half (51%) of the females find a family visit by elders meaningful compared to 38% of the males.

Bible Study groups

More than half of all respondents report that they attend a Bible study group at their church. Of the 32% that say they do not attend, many might not yet be in a position that they can attend. This blurs the outcomes of the questions regarding their motives somewhat. It appears that those who do attend say that they do so more because they consider study groups a good way of learning about the Bible, rather than a way to meet their friends.

Own faith

A large majority of all respondents say that prayer makes a difference. They report that they pray a personal prayer and that many do so regularly in order to give thanks to God. Bible reading is less regular and less meaningful to them. Nearly all respondents say they are happy to be a child of God, but not all of them feel certain of their salvation. Two thirds agree that they are growing as Christians. They say that they are less certain about the spiritual growth of their friends.

Prayer

More females pray a personal prayer (92%) than males (80%). While 79% of the males say they pray regularly because they want to thank God, 18% remain neutral and 3% disagree. Of the females, 10% are neutral and 4% disagree.

Bible Reading

Of all respondents 36% do personal Bible reading and 40% do not. Of the females, 48% do personal Bible reading compared to 28% of the males. Twenty (20) % of the males do not find that the Bible reading makes sense to them, and 20% are neutral. All 7 reports state that over 80% of the respondents find what they learn from the Bible helpful.

Spiritual maturation

About 97 % of all respondents feel happy to be a child of God, two thirds of them feel strongly about this. Yet, of all respondents, 16% are not certain that they would be with the Lord if they were to die suddenly. This percentage is the same for both the younger and the older respondents. The males feel slightly more certain that they will be with the Lord (15%) than the females (18%). Sixty-four (64) % of all respondents consider themselves better Christians than they were two years prior. One quarter remains neutral and 13% disagree. The percentages for those who disagree are a bit higher for the males and a bit lower for the females. The female respondents see more spiritual growth in their friends (50%) than the male respondents (40%). Nine (9) % of the females, compared to 24% of the males, feel that their friends have not become better Christian during the last two years.

Lifestyle

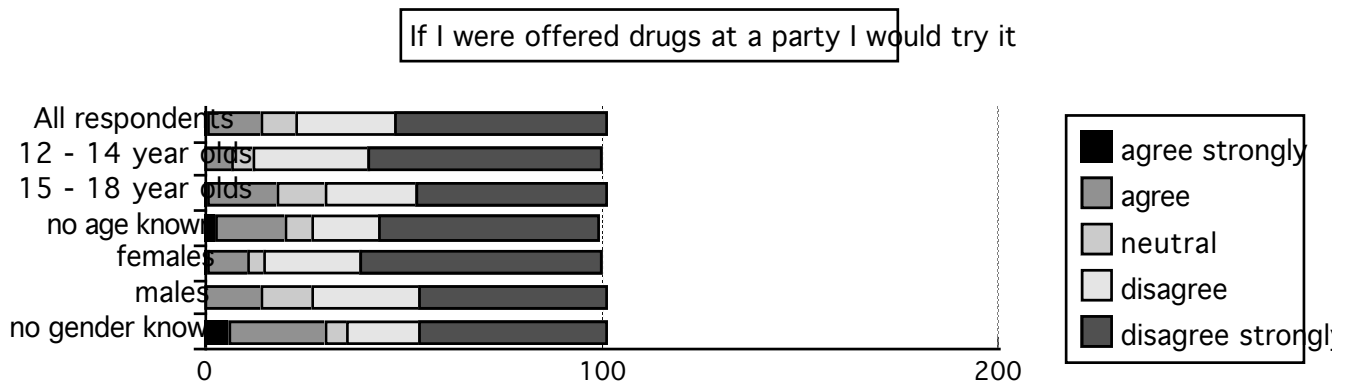
Three quarters of all respondents report that they listen often to rock music: nearly half say they do not like to listen often to Christian contemporary music. Most respondents say they do not like classical music. Almost half of all respondents say that they have been drunk at least once. The 15 - 18 year old males are reported to be much more likely to use drugs than the younger females. Four percent of them also say they have been sexually active. About 10% of all respondents say they are not committed to abstinence and chastity before marriage. Three quarters of the females strongly reject premarital sex compared to two thirds of the males. While the great majority of the respondents state that they are committed to chastity, many still choose to view sexually suggestive movie content. Only 2% of all respondents never watch a rented movie at home. Most respondents say they are against playing the 649 lottery. Close to half of them have stolen or shop lifted at least once.

Music

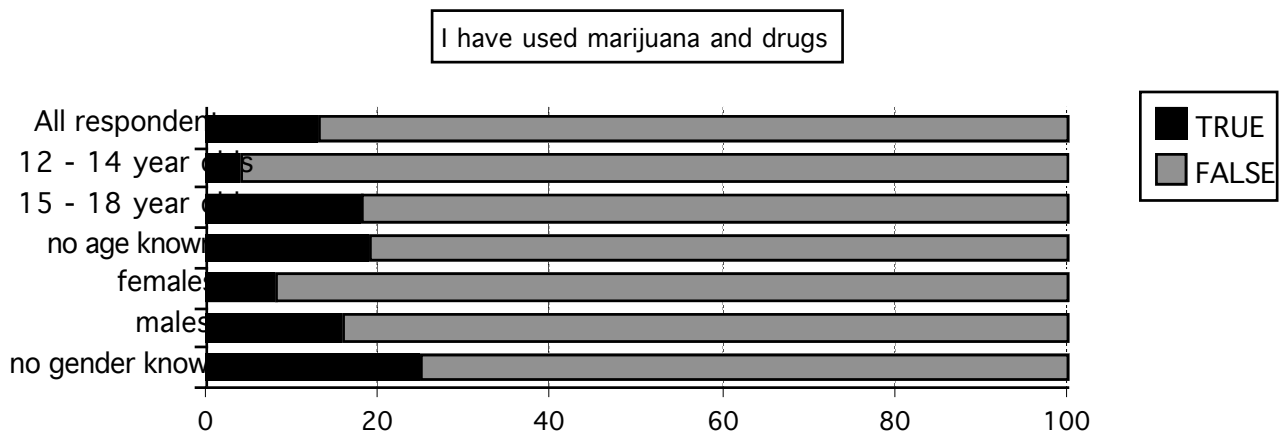
Three quarters of all respondents say they listen to rock music often. Strong agreement was expressed by 44% and strong disagreement by only 6%. Only 5% do not hold an opinion about it. Disagreement is higher among the younger respondents (22%) and among females. (25%). The radio stations CFOX, Z95.3 and 97KISS are reported to have the ear of 71% of the total responding audience. There are strong negative feelings about Christian contemporary music. Nearly half of all respondents state that they do not like to listen often to Christian contemporary music and 26% are neutral about it. The Christian radio stations have only 10% of the respondents' attention. The younger respondents feel less negative about it than the older ones (40% to 49%). Preference for Christian contemporary music is twice as strong among females as among males (39% compared to 19%). Classical music is out of favour with 70% of all respondents. The older respondents feel less negative about it (63%) than the younger ones (76%). Classical music is enjoyed by 20% of the females compared to 9% of the males. The radio station which carries classical music and news (CBC) has a mere 2% of all the respondents for a listening audience.

Smoking and drugs

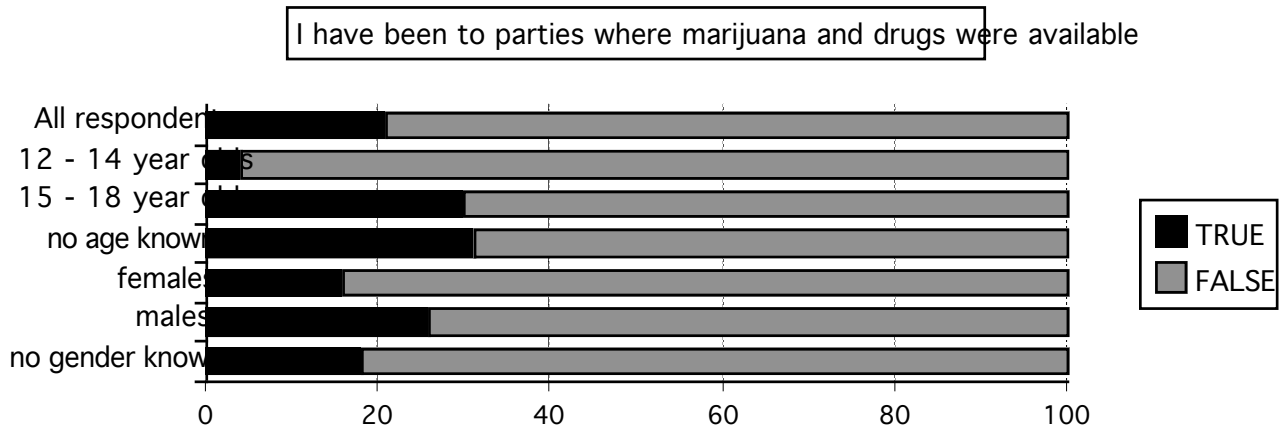
Almost half of all respondents believe that smoking is wrong; more than a quarter feels strongly about that. One quarter is neutral about smoking and the remaining quarter believes that smoking is all right. More females (52%) than males (39%) are against smoking. Age seems to make very little difference.



Seventy (70) % of all respondents report the belief that the use of marijuana and drugs is wrong, and 78% report that they would not try it if they were offered drugs at a party. Eighty seven (87) % say that they have never used marijuana and drugs. Twenty (20) % of all respondents say that the use of marijuana and drugs is all right and 14% report that they would try it. Twenty one (21) % respond that they have been to parties where marijuana and drugs were available, and 13% say that they have used it.



The 15 - 18 year old males appear to be more likely to use drugs than the younger respondents and the females. Sixty (60) % more males say they have gone to parties where drugs are available and twice as many males have actually used drugs. Over 7 times more older respondents than younger ones have gone to parties where drugs are available and more than 4 times as many say they have actually used drugs.



Drinking

About two thirds of all respondents agree that it is okay to drink alcoholic beverages. The males and older respondents report more agreement than the females (69% to 58%) and younger respondents (69% to 58%). Twenty-one (21) % of the females do not hold an opinion about it.

Of all respondents 30% report to have been drunk at least once; for the 15 - 18 year old respondents this percentage is as much as 43%. One quarter of all females compared to a third of all males say they have been drunk at least once.

The percentage of all respondents who feel comfortable drinking at unsupervised parties is 38%. This percentage is higher for males (44%) than for females (29%). About one quarter of all 14 year old and younger respondents feels comfortable about it.

Unsupervised parties where alcohol was available have been attended by 39% of all respondents. Thirteen (13) % of the 12-14 year olds have been there and 53% of the 15-18 year olds have. More males attend such parties than females (45% compared to 27%).

Sex and marriage

About 10% of all respondents say they are not committed to abstinence and chastity before marriage. About 5% report the belief that under condition of mutual love premarital sex is okay and 3% state that it is fine as long as there is no pregnancy. Seven (7) % of the males feel that premarital sex is okay as long as you love each other, but only 2% of the females agree with that. Among the males, 68% say they strongly reject premarital sex compared to 76% of the females. At the same time many still choose to view sexually suggestive movie content. Of all respondents, 32% agree and 22% agree strongly that they will watch TV programs like Bay Watch, if they get the opportunity.

Regarding virginity at the time of marriage, 7% to 9% of all respondents report that they did not feel that it was important and 11% to 16% remained neutral. A number of them commented that there could well be extenuating circumstances, such as a second marriage.

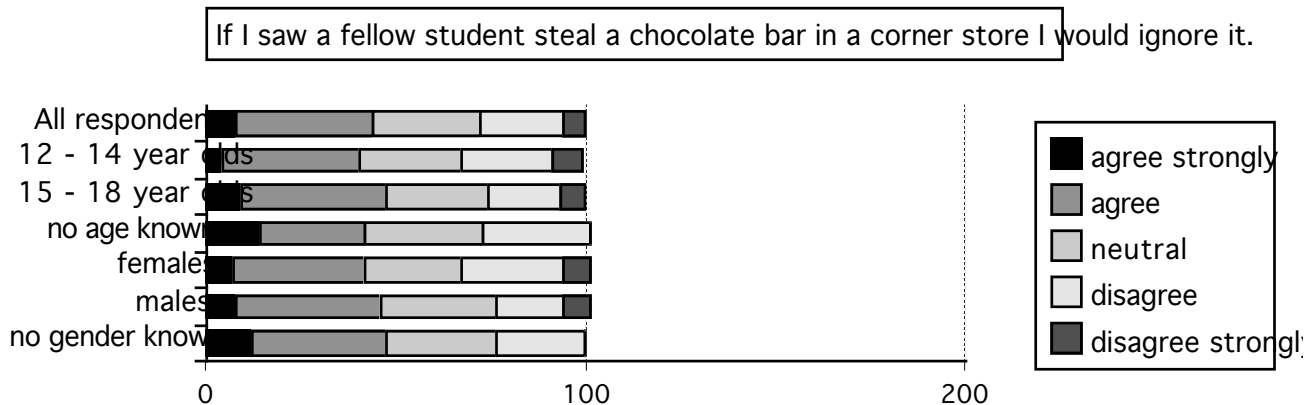
Of all respondents, 2% say that they have had sex. The 4% response of the males 15 years and older accounts for this.

Money

There is strong disagreement with playing the 649 lottery among 44% of all respondents and disagreement among 30% (total 74%). Yet, close to half of them have stolen or shop lifted at least once (28% once and 16% more than once).



Many respondents feel the struggle between commitment to justice and peer pressure. Three quarters of the respondents would not help a fellow students not to steal. Twenty-eight (28) % say that they would not ignore it, and 6% feels strongly about that. It is the younger students who are most likely to do something about it (32%).



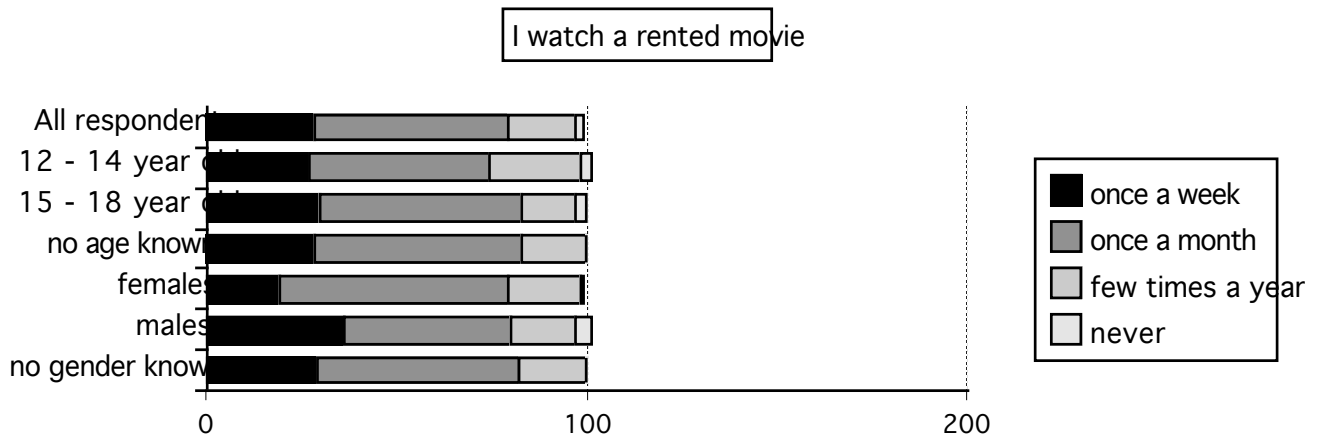
Entertainment

Although many respondents state that they are committed to chastity (between 80% and 88%), a great deal still chooses to view sexually suggestive movie content. Of all respondents, 32% agree and 22% agree strongly that they will watch TV programs like Bay Watch, if they get the opportunity.

Of all respondents, just over a quarter never see a movie in a cinema; half of them see a few a year and the rest go more often at regular times. Nearly half of the younger respondents never go, but among the respondents who are just a few years older the number that stays away has dropped to 17%. Of the 12-14 year olds, as many as 12% say they go to a movie once every month. This percentage doubles for the 15-18 year olds. Nine (9) % of these older

respondents report that they are at the movie theatre every week. More males go out to see a movie than females (24% once a month and 7% once a week compared to 13% once a month and 3% once a week).

The males also watch more rented movies at home. Thirty six (36) % of them watch one every week compared to 19% of the females, and 44% of them who rent one every month compared to 60% of the females. Only 2% of all respondents say they do not watch rented movies at home at all; half take one out once a month and 28% do so once every week.



3.2 Commonalities of opinions

based on the open-ended (qualitative) questions

Home

Many of the respondents speak positively about the homes they grow up in. They feel supported and cared for. Simultaneously, some trends are indicated that caution us to look at this in a more nuanced way.

The number of complaints about arguments and fights is quite high. The frequency of remarks about excessive rules at home might indicate that resistance to authority is not unusual for this age group. Daily devotions take place in almost all homes; however, the remarks about these devotions seem to indicate that family devotions are rather ritualistic. Many of the respondents long for daily Bible discussions, an active prayer life and opportunities to talk about their faith life with their parents.

•What do you wish your parents knew about you? (Question 77)

There were 244 very diverse responses to this question. Based on commonalities, the answers were categorized in the following four groups:

Thirty nine (39) respondents mentioned matters they kept hidden from their parents, such as: smoking, theatre visits, swearing, lying, drugs, going to parties, drinking, and behaviour at school. Twenty-six (26) respondents were of the opinion that their parents know everything. Nineteen (19) respondents seemed to long for a relationship which allows them to express feelings of unhappiness, things they worry about, struggles with their faith, feelings of being depressed, love for their parents. Fourteen (14) respondents were of the opinion that the treatment they received from their parents was not age appropriate.

Things that I lie about (school). (Gender and age not given)

That I have two lives. (Male, 15)

My parents know everything about me and I am happy about that. (Gender and age not given)

I don't have anything to hide from my parents. (Male, 14)

I wish they knew how much I struggle with my friends and faith . . . (Female, 17)

That they actually understand that there is more to me than they know. (Female, 17)

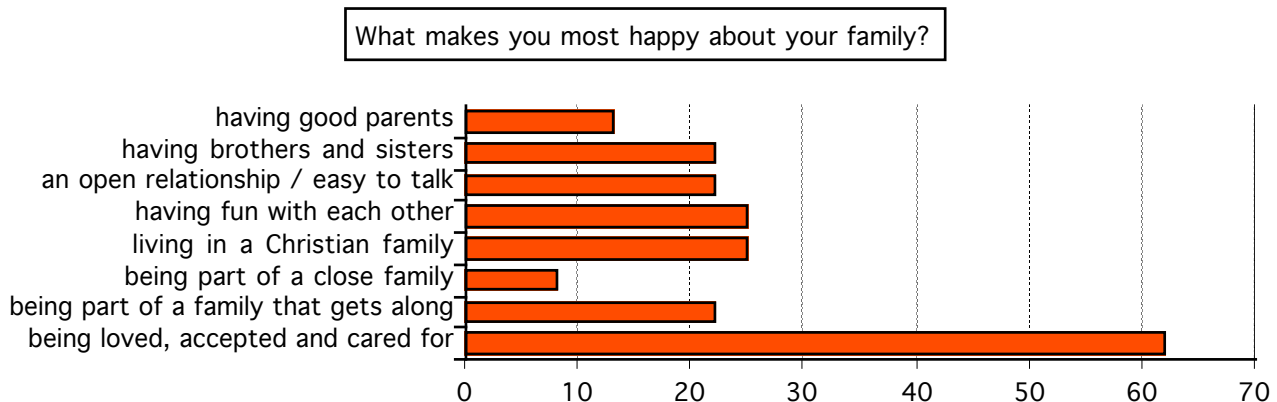
I care about things they think I don't. (Male, 16)

I am not a young kid. I live in the late '90's and not in the 70's. (Male, 13)

I am more mature than they think. (Female, 14)

•What makes you most happy about your family? (Question 78)

There were 278 responses, categorized in the eight groups, which at times overlap. Sixty-two (62) emphasized being loved, accepted and cared for. Twenty-five (25) focused on living in a Christian family. Twenty-five (25) mentioned the importance of having fun with each other. Twenty-two (22) spoke of an open relationship in which it is easy to talk. For 22 having brothers and sisters was important. Being part of a family that gets along rated high for 22 respondents. Thirteen (13) mentioned having good parents. Being part of a close family was mentioned by 8 respondents.



They all love me and try to show it (Female, 16)
Lots of love and caring (Male, 13)
Someone to give comfort to me (Male, 15)
Christ is there (Male, 15)
It is a Christian family, I could have been a part of the world. (Male, 16)
I am relaxed, can have fun. (Female, 15)
Lots of fun, never a dull moment. (Female, 16)
Having someone around I can talk to. (Male, ?)
They are easy to talk to. (Female, 13)
I can always ask brothers and sisters or my Mom and Dad for help. (Female, 18)
I love being in a family and it makes me happy because I have a large family. (Female, 13)
We mostly get along (Male, 16)
I get along with most of my brothers and sisters (Female, 15)
I have a really good relationship with my parents. (Female, 16)
Having a good Dad! (Gender and age not known)
We are pretty close. (Gender and age not known)
We are all very close. (Female, 16)

•If there was one thing you could change about your family, what would that be?(Question 79)

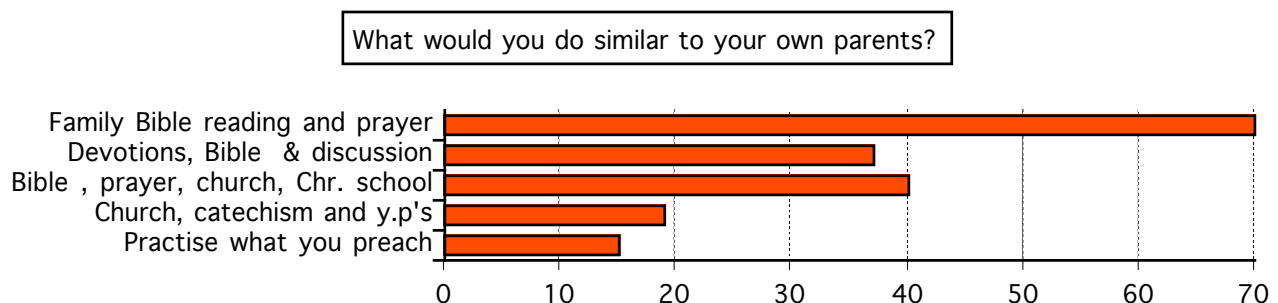
There were 251 respondents to this question, which we categorized in the following four groups, which at times overlap: Fifty (50) mentioned that they wanted to see a change to having arguments and fights. Twenty-six (26) expressed their longing for better relationships and more communication. Twenty-four (24) mentioned having too many rules or having rules that are too strict and do not leave enough freedom. Eight (8) wished for relaxed parents who appreciate the individuality of their children.

Have a better relationship, less fighting, more talking. (Male, 14)
Not to argue over every little detail. (Female, 16)
I would be able to talk to my Dad, without him being a Dad at that time. (Female, 16)
The amount of communication is pretty low. (Male, 17)
That my parents wouldn't be so strict. (Female, 14)
My parents should give me more freedom. Less rules. (Female, 17)
I wish that every time someone did something in my family, my parents wouldn't get so upset. (Female, 14)
My parents understand my point of view, listen to me! (Female, 15)

•If you were now a parent what would you do similar to your own parents in nurturing the faith life of your children? (Question 96)

There were 255 respondents to this question. The responses only allow for a partial insight. Twenty-six (26) answers read like these samples: “Nothing” or “I would do everything exactly as they did”.

The answers frequently overlap. Many responses referred to Bible reading as a family and prayer (70), Bible reading, prayer, sending the children to church and a Christian school (40). Thirty-seven (37) mentioned devotions and Bible reading combined with discussions. Nineteen (19) respondents stated that they would act like their parents in sending their children to church, catechism and young peoples. Practising what is being preached was emphasized by 15 respondents.



Discuss after Bible reading what children may be puzzled by and unsure of. (Female, no age given)
I would also talk about what we read from the Bible and explain it better so they understand. (Female, 15)
I would read the Bible as a family. We used to do that. I would send my kids to a Christian school. (Female, 16)
Encourage them to pray every night. Read the Bible before they go to bed, eating meals together, so we can start and end the day together with God. (Female, 16)
Teach my children to be a Christian. (Male, 13)
I would do exactly the same thing. I think my parents are doing it to the best of their abilities. (Male, 15)

•If you were a parent, what would you do differently from your own parents in nurturing the faith life of your children? (Question 97)

There were 226 respondents to question 97. Twenty-five (25) respondents answered with “Nothing” or “Nothing if I could help it”.

One fifth of the respondents (40) stated that what they would do differently would relate to reading the Bible at suppertime and discussing what is being read. Twenty-five (25) talked about having more relaxed and open discussions, especially about faith life. Twenty-three (23) said they would be different by being less strict and would not yell or swear. Twelve (12) felt they would allow more freedom.

Tell them more about the Bible. (Male, 15)
Quiz them after Bible reading like my uncle. (Male, 15)
Give them devotionals and allow for discussions.
When Dad reads to our family, no one listens. (Female, 16)
Be nicer. (Male, 14)
I would practice what I preach. I wouldn't be so strict. (Female, 15)

I would leave them more freedom in some decisions. (Male, 16)

School

A large majority of respondents appear to be happy with the Christian environment in their school, and they attribute an important role to the school in developing their faith and a Christian world view. They would choose a Christian school themselves if they were given the freedom to choose. Only a minority of respondents do not like the Christian character of the school and would choose to go elsewhere if they had the freedom. Some of the respondents make comments about the expense of Christian education.

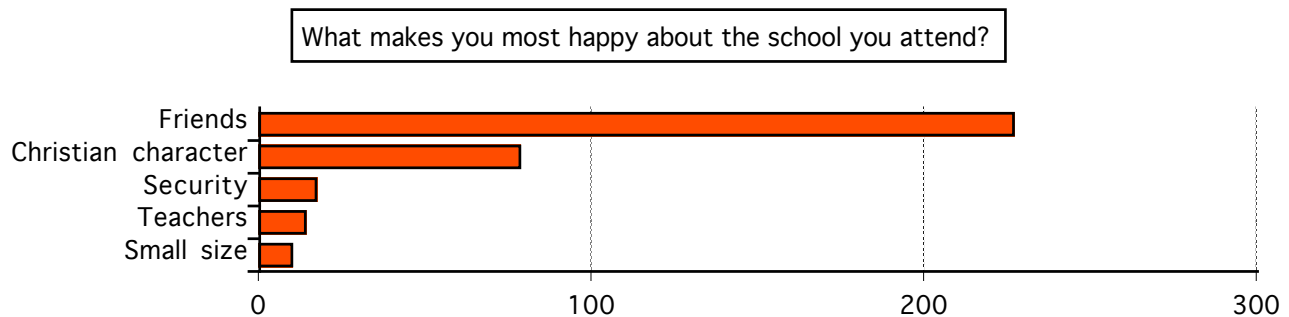
Despite the overwhelming happiness about (Christian) friendships at school, there appears to be a lot of discontent with the many school rules and the way those rules are enforced by the teachers. It may be that we are confronted here with a common student phenomenon, a normal resistance to authority. It could also be that the respondents have a legitimate grievance about the rules or the way the rules are implemented at their school.

Clearly, the single most important aspect of school life is their friendships with peers. The addition of Christian ambience at school makes a powerful combination. A few students indicate that the Christian character of the school, apart from their friends, is important. However, it appears for most students, that the social dynamic, i.e. their friendships at school, is inextricably interwoven with its Christian character; they specifically mention the importance of Christian friends.

Much less important in the students' lives are the teachers. The students who actually state the importance of teachers at school form an exception. In fact, it appears from questions 81 and 82 that there is a large degree of cynicism toward the teachers. More research would be needed to determine the source and the true character of this problem.

•What makes you most happy about the school you attend? (Question 80)

For this question there were 268 respondents. Most of the young people answered very briefly and succinctly. A number of students were more expansive in their responses and actually included several reasons. It soon became clear that most students regard their friends at school (227) as the most important reason for their happiness at school. A fairly large number also attributed their happiness to the Christian character of the school (78). Others were most happy because they saw their school as a safe place from unchristian teaching and violence (17). A much smaller group attributed their happiness to the teachers (14).



Most students simply stated 'My friends' or 'Christian school' to express their opinion. Some, however, made combinations because they saw a connection between a number of contributing elements: *That friends and teachers are there to help my faith.* (Female, 17) Another said, *That it is a Christian school and my friends are here.* (Female, 12) Yet another student saw a mix of 3 elements, *Being with friends, meeting new people and having lots of fun.* (Female, 17)

A number of students mentioned a good spirit amongst their peers,
Mentality, people have a relatively good attitude toward each other. (Male, 17)
I know almost everyone in it and most people get along really well. (Male, 15)

Students who expressed their feeling that the security of the school made them most happy contrasted their school experience with what they thought they might experience in other schools.

My friends are here! I know everyone. No drugs, guns, knives (I hope) No constant fear. (Female, 17)
No pressure of sex, etc. because you're supposed to be good. (Female, 17)
I know everyone in the school a bit and I can go to school without being taught evolution. (Male, 15)
I don't have to go to other schools which have knife fights, drugs and other things. (Male, 14)

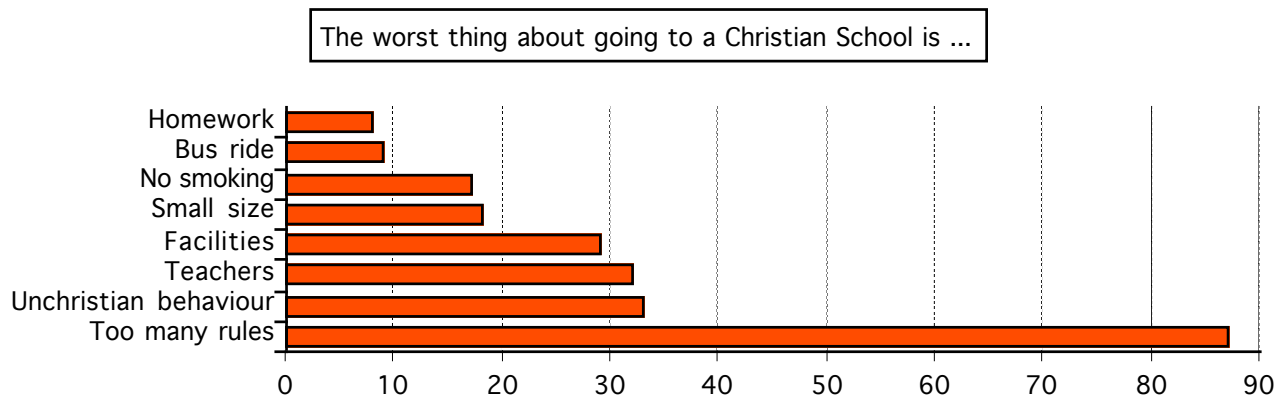
By and large, the students gave the impression from their responses that they are happy with the good social atmosphere which some felt was integrated with the Christian ambience of their school. As a 17 year old female said, she was most happy about her school because of ... *caring friends who talk openly about God.*

•The worst thing about going to a Christian school is (Question 81)

There were 266 respondents to this question. They responded with a large number of grievances:

too many rules (87), no smoking (17), unchristian behaviour of peers (33), teachers (32), inadequate facilities (29), the relatively small size of the school (18), homework (8), long bus ride (9).

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Students were often specific about their dislike of the rules:

There are strict rules (Female, 13);

The rules. Ex. P.D.A. sucks! (Female, 15);

So many irrelevant rules (Female, 17)

Stupid rules (Male, ?);

the teachers are so strict and uptight about every little thing (Female, 13);

Rules, rules, rules, (Male, 17);

They treat you like babies, watch everything you do. (No gender or age);

Stupid, useless rules. (No gender or age);

Teachers try to run your life instead of trying to teach. (No gender or age);

Everything is overdone. Rules, teacher, they take everything overboard. (Male, 17).

One student related the enforcement of rules to teachers' modeling: *The rules that all apply to students when teachers do the thing we're not allowed to do. (Practise what they preach).* (Female, 14).

Concerning the facilities, some students expressed their annoyance at the poor gym, the poor heating. *The heating also bites!* Female, 15. Several saw this perceived inadequacy of the facilities as a result of the financial stress of trying to operate an independent school. In the public school, they felt these problems would not be apparent:

It's expensive for my parents. Not good equipment or school (Male, 15);

Is not government supported like public schools (Male, 16);

That it costs a lot of money for my parents to send me there. (No gender or age);

Normally a public school is a lot nicer and richer because of funding. (No gender or age).

Several students commented on the inadequacy of the facilities in terms of a lack of private space:

There isn't much privacy. (Male, 15).

Almost invariably, the relatively small size of the school and its lack of private space was linked to the students' perception that they have no private lives. *Everyone knows everything about everyone else: Everybody knows each other; it is so small.* (No gender or age).

Student complaints about teachers often accompanied their complaints about the observance of school rules, as cited above several times: *Teachers spying on you - too strict on smoking.* (Male, 13). Eleven students simply listed the teachers as the worst thing about their Christian school. One complained that *teachers like Christian rock and sing it.* (Female, 14).

Several students also expressed that they have the perception that the Christian school is insulative and overprotective: *We're in a bubble. Our faith never gets tested.* (Female, 17)

Another simply said that the worst thing about her Christian school was *isolation from the rest of the world*. (Female, 16). More research would be needed to determine the source and the motivation for these sentiments.

•What do you wish your teachers knew about you? (Question 82)

A very large part of the survey group left this question blank. Only 143 actually offered an opinion. Thirty (30) students simply wrote: nothing; many others wrote little more, indicating that they felt that teachers had no business knowing more about them. It's difficult to gauge why so many students would not give us any insight into their relationship with their teachers. There was very little commonality in the responses. However, those who did respond, seem to indicate that they were victims of wrong perceptions by the teachers.

Fifty (50) students expressed the feeling that their teachers had a wrong perception of them. As a result of these student perceptions, teachers were accused of stereo-typing and pigeon holing the students unfairly. They wished that their teachers knew that:

I'm really a good kid (Female, 16)

That I'm a good person. So they wouldn't look at me in dislike (Female, 16)

I don't want to be my brother, I want to be myself (Male, 13)

That I ain't that smart at all (Female)

That I am a dedicated Christian and have some knowledge (Male, 15)

That I'm not snotty but my face just looks like that when I'm not smiling. (Female, 15)

That I'm not spaced out; I'm just terribly bored, (Female, 15)

We don't need to be treated like monsters that are going to do something wrong. We're people. (Female, 16)

That they are not your friends, (Female, 17)

That if I don't understand, I rarely speak out, (Female, 17)

I wish some knew me for what is really inside me, not how I act from the outside, (Female, 17);

Just because some people in my class or bad, it doesn't mean that I am, (Female, 17).

Are the respondents somewhat cynical about teachers? Not only did many simply skip this question, others responded a bit tongue-in-cheek.

They know enough, (Male, 16);

I don't want them to know anything about me, (Female, 14);

they know all they need to know, (Female, 14);

That we are all equal,... (Male, 16).

Other students want more understanding and compassion.

How to help me, (Female, 13);

I wish they caught on to when you're having a personal problem, (Female, 15);

It's tough to be a role model to other schools.... (Male, 16);

That I could behave if ever given more of a fair chance, (Male, no age given);

That I like practical examples not just theory, (Male, 14);

I wish they knew how busy I am so they wouldn't try cram all that homework on to me all the time. (Female, 17);

About my family so they knew how hard it is for me to do school work, (Female, 14)

All in all, many students appear to want to distance themselves from (some of) their teachers.

I hate being asked questions when I don't have my hand up, (Female, 15);

That I want them to get lost every now and then, (No gender or age);

I wish that they would quit being so nosey when they shouldn't and comfort me when I'm not happy, (Female, 15);

I like to be left alone, (Female, 15).

Church

Though most of the young people surveyed saw positive things in the church, many easily express criticisms of the church and its worship and instruction. Many do not feel that their minister has a full understanding of what they have to deal with in their everyday lives. They also do not fully feel part of the worship services, and are critical of various aspects of worship. Many experience the sermons and instruction given as too difficult and not relevant enough. Quite a number of respondents have a difficult time expressing what role they play or see for themselves in the church.

Apparently, there is a measure of estrangement among youth in the church. Some are happy with most of what they experience in the church and in worship, but many would like to see changes. This estrangement is evident, for instance, in the desire expressed by many for change in the music and songs used in worship. Many respondents cannot connect with the music. Either we need to bring worship closer to the youth, or bring the youth closer to the worship we have. The same applies to doctrinal instruction. Either the instruction needs to be brought closer to the youth, or the youth need to be drawn closer to the instruction.

•What do you wish your minister knew about you and your age group? (Question 85)

Of the 243 young people who answered this question, 30 gave "nothing" or something similar as a response.

The majority - 79 respondents - wished their minister knew more about the struggles of faith and life of modern youth. Thirty-three (33) wished their minister knew how bad they or the youth of the church in general really are. On the other hand, 30 wished that their minister would realize that they and others are not as bad as many seem to think. Sixteen (16) stated that they believed their minister already knew almost everything about themselves and their age group.

Twenty-four (24) respondents wished their minister knew how much they disliked catechism. An almost equal number complained that they wished their minister knew how much they disliked his preaching. Most of those felt that he didn't realize how little they really understood.

He should remember what it was like to be a person our age.(Female, 16)

Its not easy to live in this world, so many temptations. Desire to be like everyone else. (Female, 17)

We live in the 90's. (Male, 14)

People in my age group do already go out and get drunk and have problems with smoking already. (Gender and age unknown)

I wish they would open their eyes and see that we're not the angels we make ourselves out to be. And if they already know, then show it. (Female, age unknown)

That we are not teenagers who know nothing and that we are not all hell-bent as is our stereotype. (Female, 17)

He is not stupid, he knows what goes on, he was young once too. (Gender and age unknown)

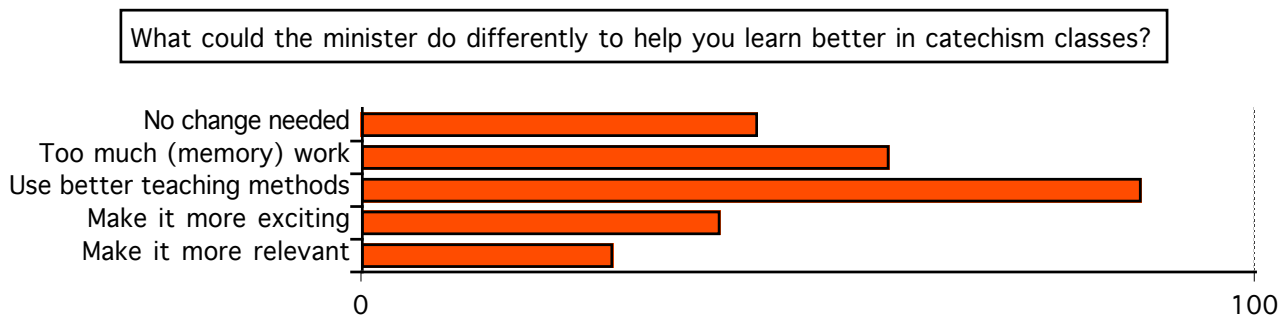
That (we) have more important things to do than memorize a catechism. (Male, 14)

The world has changed. Stop talking doctrine and be practical!! (Male, 16)

•What could the minister do differently to help you learn better in catechism classes? (Question 86)

There were a total of 264 replies to this question in the survey. Of that number, 44 respondents felt their minister was doing well, and no changes were needed.

The largest group - 87 respondents - felt that their minister/instructor should use better teaching methods. Thirty-three (33) of that number believe that more discussion would be helpful in catechism. Fifty-nine (59) of the total of 264 respondents complained that their minister/catechism instructor was giving them too much work, with most stating that they felt there was too much memory work, or that there should be no memory work at all. Forty (40) believed that catechism classes should be made more exciting and less boring. Twenty-eight (28) were of the opinion that the catechism instruction should be made more relevant to modern life, and in particular to the struggles of the youth of the church.



Nothing. He's a great teacher in class. (Female, 13)

Let us express our feelings. Have classroom discussions instead of us having the lesson dictated to us. (Female, 16)

Let us watch videos. (Gender and age unknown)

More involvement of students. (Male, 15)

Easier lessons. (Male, 18)

Instead of making us learn the catechism off by heart, get us to write down what it means to us and is about. (Female, 15)

More expression! Its more exciting. (Female, 14)

Talk more about issues we can relate to instead of boring church history and lessons. (Male, 16)

•What could the minister do differently to help you grow spiritually? (Question 87)

There were a total of 216 responses to this question. Of that total, 19 respondents felt their minister was doing what was needed for their spiritual growth. Eleven (11) responded with a simple "Nothing" and 13 replied, "Don't know."

The bulk of the respondents - 74 of the total - felt that their minister could help their spiritual growth by coming down to their level in his speaking, preaching and/or teaching. Thirty-two (32) believed that the minister could help them by being more acquainted with what goes on in the lives of young people today. Thirty (30) youth felt that their minister could help them if he would listen and speak with them on a personal level. Fifteen (15) figured their minister would help their spiritual growth by being more relaxed and positive and encouraging towards young people.

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Nothing. He does a good job. (Male, age unknown)

Make the sermons more towards our age group. (Male, 15)

Have a Bible school instead of church service. We could get a whole lot more out of it. (Female, 17)

Make lessons and sermons more interesting. (Male, 16)

Talk more of faith and how we are saved than focus on good works. (Male, 17)

Talk about things that apply to us today: premarital sex, drugs, abuse, etc. (Female, 16)

Spend more time with me on a one-to-one basis. (Female, 17)

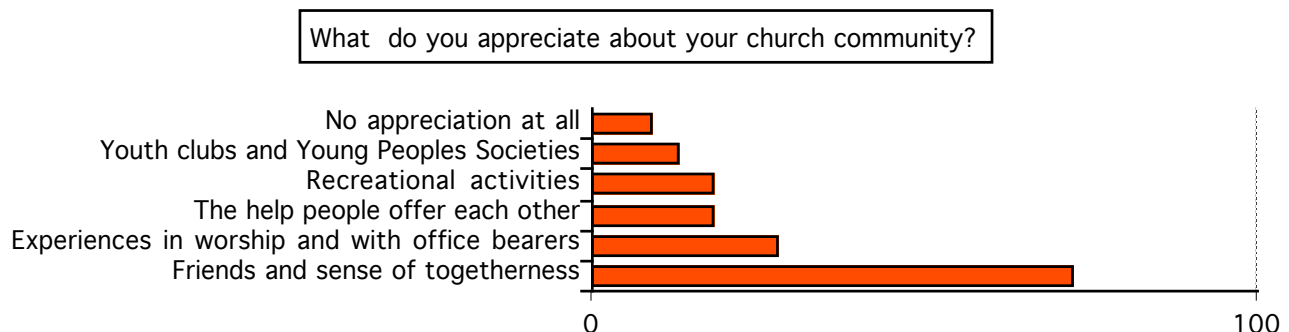
Listen. (Female, 15)

•Mention some things you appreciate about your church community. (Question 93)

One hundred twenty-one (121) replies to this question were analyzed. The responses can be divided into six main groups.

Seventy-two (72) respondents (60%) listed friends and a sense of togetherness as something they appreciated in their church community. Twenty-eight (28) young people (23%) appreciated their experiences in worship and with the office bearers. Eighteen (18) respondents (15%) expressed appreciation for the help church people offer each other. Another 18 respondents (15%) enjoy the recreational activities organized within the church community, such as hockey, dinners, etc. Thirteen (13) respondents (10%) were positive about youth clubs and young people's societies in the church.

Though the majority of respondents had at least one or two positive things to say about the church community, 9 of them (7%) bluntly stated that they had no appreciation at all for the church community, with replies ranging from simply "Not much" to "Hate them."



The togetherness of knowing everyone. (Female, 15)

Everyone sticks together. You always have someone to count on. I know so many people because of the church.

One big family. (Female, 16)

There's good support for in times of trouble or difficulty. (Male, 16)

Many of us play hockey. (Male, 16)

The preaching of the Word. Our minister is right on most of the time. (Male, 16)

Youth group and youth parties and get togethers. (Female, 13)

They are a loving community. (Male, 13)

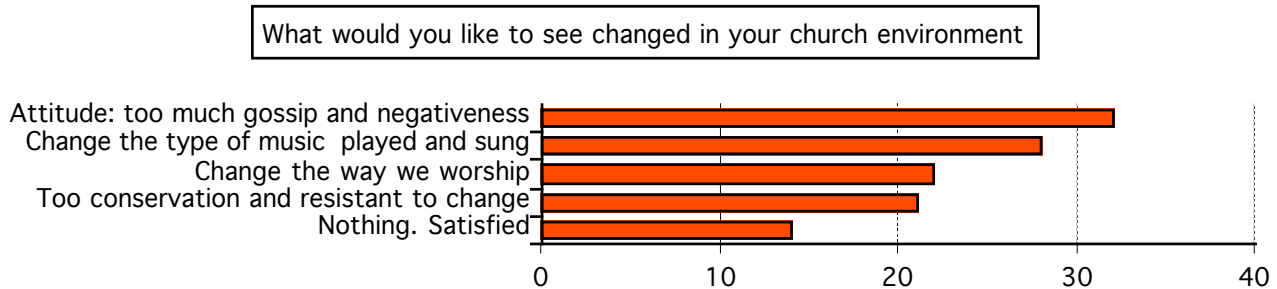
They're nice people. They're basically all God-fearing people. (Female, 15)

One of the elders is real nice. (Male, 13)

Christian education in schools. Most have regular attendance in church. Encouragement from friends and family. (Female, 16)

•If someone asked you what you would like to see changed in your church environment, what would you say? (Question 94)

A total of 121 responses were reviewed. Of that number, 32 respondents (26%) wanted the attitude of the people towards each other improved, claiming that there is too much gossip and negativeness. Twenty-eight (28) respondents (23%) would like to see changes in the type of music played and sung in worship. Twenty-seven (27) of the total (22%) wanted to see changes in the way we worship on Sundays. Of that number, 12 felt that the sermons are too long or boring; 5 were of the opinion that the benches are too hard, and 2 would like to see worship reduced to one worship service per Sunday. A group of 21 respondents (17%) felt that the people in their church are too conservative and resistant to changes. Fourteen (14) respondents (12%) were satisfied with their church environment as it is.



There are too many cliques of people who only associate with each other for the same reason, e.g. they're all well-off. They believe all the same what the church should be. (Male, 16)

Every adult tells us to be good and obey the Lord but they don't do it themselves. They seem to think we can't hear when they talk about what a lousy minister we have. (Female, 15)

Everyone is so hypocritical kind of at church. (Female, 13)

Ease up on the classical music. Any music style can be used to praise God. (Male, 13)

We need variety in songs. There are more songs that praise God than just our Psalm Book. Why can't we sing different songs in church? E.g. Psalter Hymnal ore Christmas time? Why organ? Why can't piano accompany us while singing? I think we should have more emphasis on the bible which is written by God than catechism which is written (by) man and which sums up the Bible. (Female, 16)

Easier more interesting, short and sweet sermons. (Female, 13)

I think I'd like to see people come to church happy and glad they're going, especially at the Lord's Table. I think you can be humble and joyful at the same time. (Female, age unknown)

That there would not be so much gossip. We would all be more liberal. Have Sunday school for the little kids, they don't pay attention or get anything out of the sermon. Do more things together as a church. We should not be afraid and hide from things everyone thinks is sooo bad: ex. Halloween, movie theatres, Christmas trees/lights, etc. (Female, 17)

Nothing. Its fine the way it is. (Male, 13)

•What role do you think you can play in the church? (Question 95)

Many young people left this question unanswered. This signals a degree of uncertainty about what role young people can play in the church.

One hundred and ten (110) replies to this question were examined. The majority - 41 of the young people (37%) - saw their role in terms of being an example to others or being a good role model for the younger members. Thirty-seven (37) respondents (33%) stated that they saw their role as just participating and serving God as active church members. Eighteen (18) respondents (15%) saw themselves in future practical roles such as counselor, organist or office bearer. Fourteen (14) respondents (13%) saw no role for themselves, and 8 stated they didn't know of a role they could play in the church.

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I don't know what role I could play in the church except to live a good Christian life and to always show that I am a Christian in all I do or say. (Female, 14)

I guess I could try to be a role model. Maybe lead a Bible study. Try to put positive pressure on my friends in certain things. (Male, 16)

Being part of it. Joining in community activities and helping people. (Male, 14)

I think I can be a follower of Jesus. I think I can encourage others and help them. (Female, 13)

Show Christian attitude by staying awake, looking at the minister and actually opening my mouth when I sing. (Female, 16)

I could be an elder because I'm very good at listening. (Male, 15)

Nothing. I'm just a kid so nobody'd notice me. (Female, 14)

Well, I'm a female, and the most our church really lets us do is baby-sit. (Female, 16)

I don't want a role in our church. (Male, 17)

Just to be a member. (Male, 16)

Own Faith

A high percentage of students answered the open-ended questions relating to their own faith. It seems that they were interested in expressing their thoughts on these issues.

Whether these teens are interacting with other Christians on a daily basis or reading about them in their history lessons, one theme recurs when they analyse the genuineness of a Christian's faith: the teens admire Christians who live lives that are in synch with their confession. They despise hypocrisy.

It is evident the young people rate quite highly their family's role in the development of their own faith. When they were asked to choose an example of a true Christian in their own lives, well over 50% chose a family member, whether that was mother, father, grandparent or sibling. Seventy-four percent (74%) of them also maintained that it was the home that was the most formative in their faith development. As many as two-thirds of the young people express appreciation for the very significant role their mother plays in their lives, whether that be as teacher, nurturer or confidante.

Although fathers were also affirmed as important, it seems that teens that need a listening ear or have a problem to solve would sooner go to their mother, to a friend or to a sibling. Also worth noting is that while students rate their friends as the best thing about school and as generally very important to them, they suggest that their families and also the church are more instrumental in leading them to faith and in keeping them faithful. Most of the respondents' hopes and dreams for the future were quite traditional and expressed a desire for stability and security—both spiritual and economic, with perhaps an emphasis on the material.

The responses to the questions about what worried them and what made them happy about their faith ranged from somber doubts about their eternal salvation to a celebration of confidence in being a child of God. What is not evident from the manner in which the responses are reported is that in one answer a teen might express real concern about his sinfulness and its effect on his eternal salvation, and in the very next answer express a real joy in being a forgiven child of God. The ambivalence and lack of assurance is perhaps not untypical of adolescent faith. Overall the respondents

demonstrate a longing to live as devout Christians, and are thankful that they live in a family, church and school community that helps and supports them.

- Who in your own life is a good example of a true Christian?
- What makes this person a good example of a true Christian? (Question 83 and 84)

For these questions there were 271 respondents. The majority of them chose a family member as a good example of a true Christian: 60 chose their mother, 40 their father and 21 both their parents bringing the total for mother to 81 and the total for father to 61. It did not seem to make much difference whether the respondent was male or female in terms of whether they chose their father or mother. It seems that quite a few of the respondents hold their minister in high esteem. Respondents consistently mention the fact that their dad is an elder as evidence that he is a true Christian. Forty-six (46) chose their pastor. Friends were chosen as the best example by 28 respondents, while 23 mentioned grandparents. Sisters formed the next highest category (16), then teachers (4), and then elders (2) and brothers (2).

One common theme is that the respondents feel that a true Christian's way of life is consistent with what they believe, i.e. (S)he practices what (s)he preaches.

Mother:

We can talk easily and whatever she does she thinks of God. (Female, 13 years)

She is a good listener, and doesn't get angry fast. (Male, 16 years)

She says something that we should do and does it herself; she has a firm faith and is like a rock to me. She isn't a hypocrite; she is a loving mother. (Gender and age not known)

Father:

He always talks about God and tries to do God's will. (Female, 14)

He is an elder and he lives a good Christian life all week in everything he does. (Male, 18)

He tries his best to show us kids the right way to go, even though he himself is a sinner. (Female, 16)

Both parents:

In most instances, the respondents express appreciation for the guidance they receive from their parents.

They're great and they discipline me if I do something wrong. (Female, 13)

They don't let you do just anything. They have some rules. They practice what they preach. (Female, 13)

Their dedication to trying to raise a good family. (Male, 17)

Minister or pastor:

Those who chose their minister or pastor as a good example of a true Christian seem convinced that he leads an exemplary life.

Well, he teaches us about being holy Christians. Obviously, he is! (Female, 15)

I rarely seem him do sinful things. (Male, 15)

As far as I know he never does something which he knows is wrong. (Male, 17)

Others appreciate their pastor's efforts to teach and help them.

If I ever had a problem in faith he could help me. He's very nice and natural. He likes basically everyone and answers my frustrating questions in catechism. He doesn't judge me and my family. (Female, 16)

He tries to understand young people. (Male, 14)

He lives in the world, understands it better than a lot of people and talks at our level. (Gender and age not known)

Friends:

Friends rated next as examples of true Christians. It is interesting to note that no respondent under the age of 15 gave this answer. The 15 to 18 year-olds gave answers similar to the following:

I can always talk about my struggling faith with her and anything else I need to. She is honest, sincere, joyful. God is definitely first in her life. (Female, 16)

We can have good discussions with no hard feelings. The way he walks in life is a good example. (Male, 16)

My best friend, because she's always there for you. If you're in trouble she'll tell you to read a certain verse in the Bible to help you. (Female, 15)

Grandparents:

Twenty-three (23) respondents chose their grandparent(s) as the best example of a true Christian.

My Grandma. She practices what she preaches and loves everyone with their faults. (Female, 13)

My Oma. Even though she is old and can't remember everything, she keeps her faith. (Female, 13)

My grandpa. He shows the fruits of the good Christian. (Male 15)

It is worth noting that sisters, though the first choice for only 6% of the respondents, rate considerably higher than brothers (.7%). It is also remarkable, that although the respondents spend a significant portion of their week with teachers, these do not seem to figure prominently as examples.

In summary, it is safe to say that all the respondents to this question suggested that a true Christian walks the talk.

•If there is one Christian in all of history that you would like to get to know, who would that be? Why? (Questions 88 & 89)

There were 245 respondents to this question. The answers can be categorized as follows: Biblical figures, historical figures and contemporary figures.

Biblical figures: the overwhelming choice was Jesus (70). After that Paul (36), Abraham (10), Moses (7), David (6), Adam, Job and Peter (4 each), John the Baptist (3), Noah, the Apostle John, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Stephen (2 each). The following were mentioned only once (1 time): Joseph, Ezra, Ruth, Samson, Elijah, Daniel, Matthew and Tabitha.

Historical figures: Martin Luther (22), John Calvin (14), Constantine, Augustine, Tyndale, Zwingli, John Huss, D.W. Moody, Oswald Chambers, Martin Luther King, Jr. (all mentioned 5 or fewer times).

Contemporary figures: Michael W. Smith, David Meece, Harold Morris, James Dobson, Robin Jones Gunn, and Max Lucado (all mentioned 3 or fewer times)

Biblical figures:

Of the 70 who answered Jesus or Jesus Christ, the most common thoughts expressed were He is the best or perfect example. He is my Saviour.

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He was perfect, but he understands kids and their problems, even though he didn't live during this time. (Female, 13)

He was the best Christian there ever was. (Male 13)

He is my Saviour and I want to meet Him face to face and thank Him with all my heart for what he has done. (No gender or age given)

The apostle Paul is considered a good example because he was a man with strong and knowledgeable faith despite many struggles.

Paul started out as a Christian-hater and then became one of Christ's greatest followers. That fascinates me. (Male, 16)

I'd just sit and listen to him talk about faith. He had strong faith and he evangelized all over. He actually lived his faith. (Female, 17)

Only four respondents chose Adam as the best example of a Christian. One young woman lamented,

"I can't believe he ate the apple!"

Historical Figures:

Martin Luther tops the list of historical figures. The respondents admire him for being courageous in very difficult circumstances. Generally, John Calvin is considered to be a good example because he is our reformer.

Martin Luther. I would like to meet him, because he was someone who didn't care what anyone thought of him. He just preached anyway. He went through a lot to be a Christian, and I adore him for that. (Female, no age given)

Martin Luther. He struggled with doubts, too, but he overcame them. (Female, 15)

John Calvin. Our church is based on his doctrine, and he is a great reformer. (Male 15)

John Calvin. Most of our beliefs are based on his teachings. (Male 13)

Contemporary Figures:

Not many respondents chose contemporary figures (10 in total). The question itself, "If there is one Christian in all of history..." likely led most respondents to choose people who are no longer alive. The contemporary Christians chosen are musicians (Michael W. Smith, David Meece), authors (Robin Jones Gunn, and Max Lucado), a prominent Christian leader (James Dobson), and a modern day martyr (Harold Morris).

As in the answers to Question 83, "Who in your own life is a good example of a true Christian?" the respondents admire biblical, historical, and contemporary Christians whose lives match their confession, even when the circumstances of life are difficult. One might question their choice of Jesus as a Christian, but their admiration and love for Him are evident in their responses.

•What things about your faith make you worried? (Question 90)

There were 282 respondents to this question. There was a wide variety of answers to this question, but some commonalities and trends were discernible. The concerns of the respondents can be put into five broad categories: concerns about their own sinfulness, doubts about whether they are attending the right church or about the Christian faith in general, worries about their weak faith, concerns about their inconsistent devotional and prayer life and doubts about their eternal salvation.

Worries about sinfulness and sinful lifestyle:

Of the 62 who are worried about their sinfulness and about specific sins, almost all of them admit that they know better, but that is very difficult for them to flee from sin. They feel that they are easily tempted. They acknowledge that they enjoy certain sins, yet are worried how this may affect their eternal salvation. There is also a genuine desire to do what is right.

I love doing things I know are wrong, but I can't help it. It makes me worried cause I don't want to burn in hell. (Female, 14)

The things that go through my head sometimes are so sinful. If you would meet me at the mall, and didn't know I was a Christian, you would never know. (Female, 15)

Even though I love Jesus and want to serve him, I do too many worldly things like swear or think bad thoughts. Then I think, what if I just can't cut it? (Female, 16)

When one night I do unchristian things and the next day go to church. (Male, 15)

My sin is so great. I know that God has forgiven it in Christ. Sometimes it is hard to accept this because I keep sinning. (Male, 16)

Doing drugs, having sex and many other things and having my parents find out about it. (Male, 16)

Doubts about the Christian religion and about the church:

Of the respondents 59 stated that their doubting worried them, 38 sometimes doubt that Christianity is the only true religion. Twenty-three (23) sometimes doubt that their church is the right church. A couple had doubts in both areas.

I worry that there is not really a God, and it is all a myth. (Male, 13)

All the Muslims and Roman Catholics are convinced they are right and all the Christians are convinced they are right. If I was born a Roman Catholic I would think any other religion is dumb. (Male, 13)

Is this really the right faith or am I leading a careful life for nothing? (Male, 15)

I'm afraid I won't be let into heaven. I doubt God sometimes. I say we know that all other gods and religions are wrong, and other people say the same about ours, so maybe we believe in the wrong God. (Female, 13)

That maybe our religion is all wrong and someone wrote the Bible as some big joke, and that something like Islam is the right religion. (Female, 17)

The majority of those respondents who sometimes wonder if they are going to the right church were, on the whole, not specific about what made them question this. They just stated the fact, without elaboration. Those who did elaborate expressed their concerns as follows:

Whether it really is the true faith. We were born into this church. If I was born into another church I don't think I would have switched to the Canadian Reformed Church. (Male, 17)

What makes our denomination better than others? What defines faith and how come our churches have their own much more restrictive definitions? (Male, 17)

I still have a lot of questions about being a Christian and about why we are Canadian Reformed. (Female, 16)

I wonder if I am attending the right church and doing the right things to earn my salvation. (Female, no age given)

Worries about weak faith:

Thirty-seven (37) respondents expressed worries about their weak faith. Some typical statement were as follows:

I'm never sure if I really believe. (Female, 13)

Sometimes I wonder if my faith is strong enough for me to be saved when the time comes. I wonder about what in life I will miss out on. I wonder sometimes if maybe we as Christians are missing something in our faith. (Female, 16)

I am afraid that I don't have enough faith, and that I'm going to die and go to hell. (Female, 17)

My faith goes on and off too much. (Male, 17)

I feel that more and more I get sucked away from Christ. (Male, 18)

Concerns about inconsistent devotional and prayer life:

If there was one specific thing lacking in the respondents' lives it would be that they are convinced they do not spend enough time in personal Bible reading and prayer. They express regret and concern that this is so, and want to improve in this area. The most common responses were,

I don't read my Bible regularly. I forget to pray.

That when I pray at night, I often fall asleep during my prayer, and in the morning I feel bad, so I pray again and my mind wanders off. I can't help it. (Female, 14)

When I read my Bible it doesn't always click. I feel like I'm just looking at words but not understanding any of it. (Female, 17)

My inconsistency in reading the Bible and praying. (Male, 18)

Worries about eternal salvation:

The final area about which a significant number of respondents (22) expressed their concern was a lack of confidence about their eternal salvation.

...I worry that I might not be saved or someone in my family won't be saved. (Female, 14)

If I were to die today how do I know I would go to heaven? (Female, 16)

I hate it that you don't know until the Lord comes if you are going to hell or heaven. It's scary. (Male, 14)

I worry that if I do something wrong I will go to hell. But I want to have fun also!! (Male, 15)

•What things about your faith make you very happy? (Question 91)

There were 294 respondents to this question. There were four main areas which make these young believers happy about their faith: feeling a closeness to God (74 respondents), being sure that Jesus died for their sins (65), being sure that they can look forward to eternal life (58), and having the blessings of a Christian family, church and school (39). Some of the respondents gave more than one answer to this question.

Closeness to God:

Typical of the 74 responses here were, that they know that God (Jesus) is always there to help them and *"I know that I am one of God's children."*

I feel secure. Most of the time I feel safe. Like the things happening in the world, murders, and robberies, won't ever happen to me. I love singing to God. I love having Bible classes and learning new things about God and what he did for us. (Female, 14)

I am blessed by God by having the Holy Spirit working in my heart. (Female, 16)

I pray everyday and I know God listens. I know He is helping me grow in faith because I'm stopping myself from doing things that are wrong... (Female, 17)

Christ lives in me. (Male, 13)

I know that Jesus will be there for me. When I'm feeling down, I can pray and he will be there for me. (Male, 16)

Forgiveness of sin through Christ:

Typical of the 65 responses under this heading was thankfulness for the fact that Jesus saves them from their sins. The respondents are sure that God will forgive their sins and Jesus died for them.

I know that anytime I sin I will be forgiven. This helps me accept life's challenges more readily. I know that if I fall, Jesus will pick me up and help me. (Female, no age given)

I know that Christ died for my sins and therefore I can have eternal life with him in glory. Sometimes it is too great to understand that Christ would die for the unloving and sinful, but it makes me happy knowing he did. (Female, 17)

I am happy that I have been bought by Christ who forgave my sins. (Male, 15)

I know through Jesus Christ I am set free from the law. I love God and know he is there...(Male, 17)

Assurance of eternal life:

The 58 respondents who stated that assurance of eternal life was what made them happy about their faith typically responded in the following ways:

I know that I'm going to heaven when I die, to be with God. (Female, 15)

I have something to believe in. Everlasting life and eternal joy beyond belief. (Female, 16)

One day I will be able to live and walk and talk with God, just like Adam. There will one day be peace. (Female, 16)

I can trust that after this life I will be with the Lord for eternity. (Male, 13)

I get the opportunity to live with God and praise him. (Male, 18)

Appreciation for Christian family, church and school:

Thirty-nine (39) respondents said that what made them happy about their faith was their family, their church or their school.

I can go to church and can read the Bible and can learn about God. (Female, 13)

That I belong to a Christian family and that I have Christian friends in my life. I also go to a Christian school where they teach the Bible. (Female, 16)

I am happy about my faith and I have received many good things for the Lord. I am glad that I could be brought up in a Christian community and grow up in faith in the Lord. (Female, 18)

I go to church and a Christian school. (Male, 13)

My parents love me. (Male, 14)

I can go to church and catechism and get built up in faith. (Male, 16)

The fact that I was raised as a Christian and have Christian parents. (Male, 16)

Within the four designated categories high-lighted in the answers to question 91, there is quite a variety of answers. There is a real sense of happiness and thankfulness. This joy affects their daily lives: *"Day to day I see joy in the things around me that display God is there! Mountains, lakes, forests, people, old and new!"*

A number of them also expressed that they can see progress in their own lives compared to a couple of years ago.

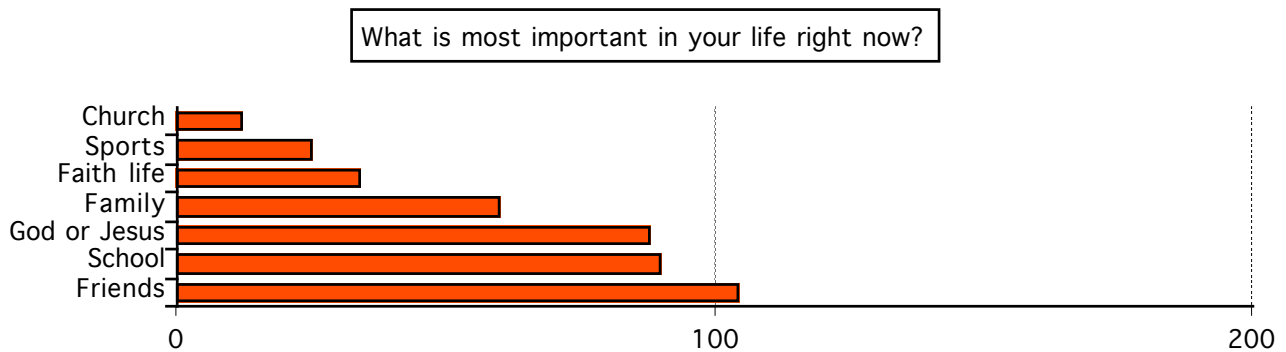
I pray everyday and I know God listens. I know He is helping me grow in faith because I'm stopping myself from doing things that are wrong. Before I just did them and didn't think twice about it, but now, because of my faith I've stopped. (Female, 17)

•What do you think is most important in your life right now? (Question 92)

There were 306 who responded to this question. The answers had a lot of overlap. Many responded with more than one answer, e.g. *God, friends, family* (in that order), or *school work and family*, or *my faith, my school and my roller blades*. Consequently the grand total of different responses will add up to a figure greater than the total number of respondents. The main categories given as answer to this question were as follows: friends (104), school (90), God or Jesus (88), family (60), faith life (34), sports (25) and church (12).

Some respondents are quite open about having difficulty in answering this question honestly. One male, 16-year-old writes, *I don't know. I think there is a real rivalry between God, and school, and sports and my friends*. Another young man writes, *I don't know. I want to say Jesus, but there are so many other little things that I love to do and would do before I [would go] to church everyday. I would miss them to go to church on Sunday, and do, but if I was told I couldn't do them anymore, I don't know...I love ice hockey, sports, music, movies etc.*

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Friends:

Many of those who responded with this answer (104) did not elaborate. Those who did gave answers similar to the following:

Probably my friends, (even though I know the Bible should be). (Female, 15)

Having good friends to share faith and concerns with and meeting the right guy. (Female, 15)

Having friends to talk to and joke around with. (Male, 14)

Having a good social life and good friendships...(Male, 15)

School:

Many of the 90 who cited school as being most important in their life, seem to feel a lot of pressure to get good grades in order to qualify for post secondary programs and scholarships or in order to please their parents. Others did not explain their choice. Those who did expressed their thoughts as follows:

All my essays and projects due before the Christmas break. I have to get good grades in school because I always have and my parents would be like what's happening? Pull your marks up. They're not very encouraging unless it's after a good report card. (Female, 15)

I need to get a scholarship in order to go further on in education. (Female, 17)

...getting good marks to become what I want to be. (Male, 15)

God / Jesus:

Of the 88 who cited God or Jesus as being the most important thing in their life, very few elaborated on the reason for this choice. A few did.

Jesus is the most important in my life. (Female, 12)

Staying on track with the Lord and Bible and Christian faith. (Female, 15)

God, because through him I have the capability to carry out my daily tasks. (Female, 15)

Staying on God's side. (Male, 13)

God is the most important thing in my life because he is everything in your life. (Male, 14)

Family:

Those who chose family and gave a reason for their choice made statements similar to the following:

...to grow up in a Christian home and to get along with others. (Male, 13)

My Mom, She helps me understand thing, even our faith. (Female, 13)

My friends, social life, money, popularity. Also, my family is pretty important. (Female, 15)

Friends and family, because they help you and pull you along to do what is right. (Male, 14)

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Faith life:

Thirty-four (34) of the 306 respondents mentioned some aspect of their faith life as being most important in their lives right now.

...Learning about God and doing profession of faith when I'm ready. (Female, 14)

Prayer meeting: group of friends every 1 or 2 weeks. Really helps. (No gender or age given)

Trying to keep focused on leading a good Christian life. (Male, no age given)

Getting into good habits, and building up my knowledge as much as possible. (Male, 15)

Sports:

For 25 of the respondents, sports loom large in their lives.

Sports, volleyball and basketball; the guy who likes me and who I like. I suppose I was supposed to answer, God. (F, 16)

My hockey season. (Male, no age given)

Skiing. (Male, 15)

Snow boarding. (No gender or age given)

Three males, age 15, 17 and 18, chose their car as the most important thing in their life at this moment.

Church:

Twelve (12) respondents gave church as the answer to Question 92.

...Going to church on a regular basis, and attending catechism classes because it is important to me that I attend them. (Female, 17)

Being a Christian and going to church every Sunday. (Male, 14)

The communion of saints....(Male, 17)

The answers to question 92 show that many respondents struggle between giving the right answer and the honest answer. It seems evident that quite a number of them are struggling to determine what should have priority in their lives.

•Five years from now I hope to be.... (Question 98)

This was a completely open-ended question, without any suggestion as to what answers could be given. Of the 295 respondents, 189 (64%) respondents included in their answer some reference to a future job or career. Ninety-four (94) mentioned future plans for college or university. Seventy-four (74) mentioned marriage plans and in addition, 21 mentioned that they hoped they would have a girlfriend or boyfriend in five years time. Sixty-seven (67) hoped they would be better Christians. Only 9 of the 295 said they didn't know what they hoped to be.

Job/Career:

A person who works at the mall or a hairdresser or a daycare worker. (Female, 12)

A police officer or something else in the field of law enforcement. (Male, 17)

Often a job was mentioned as only one aspect of future hopes.

A faith filled psychologist helping people with their problems in a Christian way. (Male, 15)

Either and elder/deacon or a missionary travelling in the Third World countries to spread the Word of God. (Male 17)

Rich. A millionaire. Have lots of money and own my own chain of fast food restaurants.(Male, 17)

Others simply answered teacher, mechanic, landscaper, or nurse without further elaboration.

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University/College:

For 94 of the respondents, post-secondary education is part of their future. Although less than half state the type of program they would follow, a number of them have clear goals in mind.

In college in my second year, living in a dorm and having a blast. (Female, 14)

In university, or some specialized school and working part time. (Male, 15)

Going to college or University hoping to get my certificate as a counselor. (Female, 16)

A college student for vet. (Male, 13)

Marriage/Boyfriend/Girlfriend:

The idea of a marriage relationship rated highly with 74 of the respondents, and in addition 21 hoped for a relationship with a girlfriend or boyfriend. A number also mentioned having children as a distinct possibility five years down the road. Others mentioned the importance of marrying a fellow Christian. The answers relating to marriage seem to suggest a real desire for stability and security.

Engaged (or married---I guess a bit young, eh? (Female, 15)

Married to my Prince Charming and living in cute little house in the country. Maybe I'll even have a little boy of my own. Whatever it is, I hope I'm as sure of my faith then as I am now. (Female, 16)

Married to a good Christian man, having kids and being happy and content with my life... (Female, 17)

Married and have a nice job. A place to live; a car and still go to the same Christian Church and believe the same doctrine. (Male, 14)

Going through my last year of University (Trinity) or already finished. Hopefully get married to a beautiful wife.

Active in My church--maybe a youth leader. Have a steady business related job. Secure. (Male, no age given)

A Good / Better Christian:

Sixty-seven (67) of the respondents say they hope that five years from now they will still be good Christians or better Christians, stronger in their faith.

...Hopefully I'll be a good role model and stronger in my faith. (Female, 16)

...I hope to be able to maintain living for God. (Female, 13)

Alive and serving Christ...(Male, 18)

A better Christian. I will be 19 years old and probably more mature in faith. I hope to better understand the Bible. (Male, 14)

In reading the 295 responses, it becomes clear that the respondents, for the most part, are looking forward to a fairly traditional future: some post-secondary education, a steady job or career, a happy marriage and children. One sixteen year old female sums up the aspirations of many; "Five years from now I hope to be married, have a nursing degree, with a beautiful family and a good relationship with God."

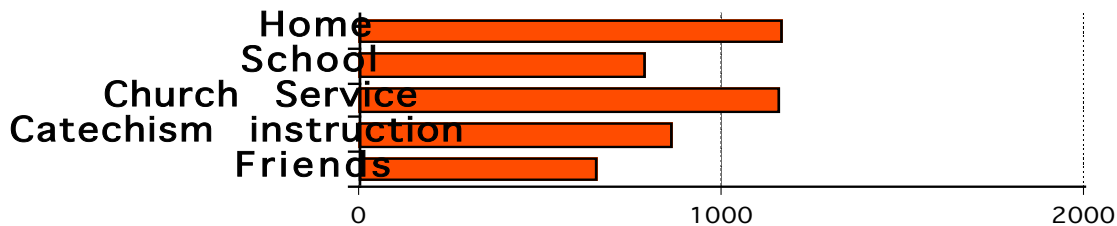
•The Holy Spirit uses people and situations in order to develop your faith. (Question 74)

Indicate what would have 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th place for you.

The questions 74, 75 and 76 asked the respondents to rank the level of importance they ascribe to various people and situations in their own faith development. To arrive at number totals, the responses were weighted, first place responses receiving the greatest weight and fifth place the least. (Appendix 3)

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The Holy Spirit uses people and situations in order to develop your faith.



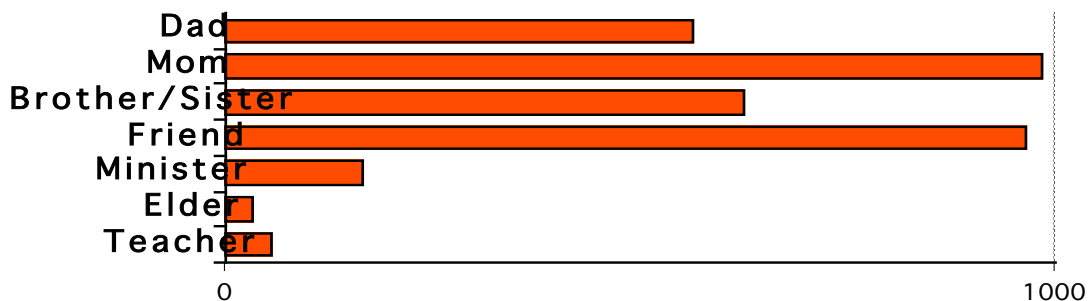
If each of the 313 valid responses to question 74 would have picked the home as their first choice only it would have had a weight of 100%. As it is, based on a great number of first, second and third choices, it has 74 %. Very few indicated that the home was the least important to them.

Church services are considered nearly as important for faith development as the home. Catechism instruction follows in third place, about a quarter less significant than home and church service.

The respondents considered the influence of the school on faith development to be less than that of home and church. The majority of respondents indicate that their friends are only half as important to their faith development as home and church. Yet, most respondents are more likely to go to their friends with their problems than to the church (question 75, 76).

•If you needed someone to talk to, who would be the best listener? (Qu 75)
Indicate what would have 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for you.

If you needed someone to talk to, who would be the best listener?



For Mom to rank at 100% each of the 300 valid responses would have had to pick her as their first choice. As it is, based on a great number of first, second and third choices, she has 66 %. Very few indicated that they would not consider Mom a good listener at all.

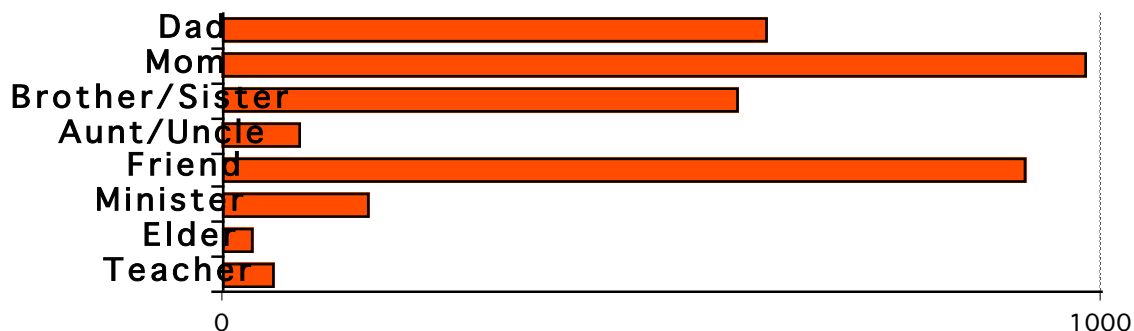
Friends are considered nearly as important confidants as mothers. Brothers and sisters follows on third place (42%), about a third less significant than mothers and friends.

The respondents ranked Dad fourth as a good listener.

Family and friends are clearly seen as the best people to give a listening ear. Office bearers and teachers ranked only between 6 to 14%.

•If you needed someone to help you solve a serious personal problem, who would you go to? (Question 76)
Indicate what would have 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for you.

If you needed someone to help you solve a serious personal problem, who would you go to?



For Mom to rank at 100% each of the 301 valid responses would have had to pick her as their first choice. As it is, the percentage is 66 %. Friends are close second at 61%, although the respondents do admit that their friends are not that influential in their faith development (qu. 74). The respondents consider it just a bit more likely that they would turn to Dad (41%) than to a brother or sister (39%) in case of a personal problem.

Elders and teachers, and to a large extent also ministers, are not considered to be confidants youth would turn to (2, 4 & 11% consecutively).

‘In their own words’

On the last page of the questionnaire, respondents had the opportunity to comment on topics not addressed in the questionnaire, or expand on topics that were on the questionnaire. Out of 306 respondents, 63 chose to write something on this last page. Many wrote quite briefly; others wrote a lot. In these responses, the young people often showed a deep interest and love for the service of the LORD and expressed an interest in having a greater, more meaningful role in their faith community. A few expressed anger at their church, the school or even their family.

A broad selection of topics was addressed. We tried to group them into a number of common areas of interest. The young people speak for themselves; additional comments are not needed at this time. The comments have been unedited. Only the more obvious spelling errors have been corrected. The language and constructions are their own.

Personal and Family Life

Sometime I would like to talk to my dad but he's just not the type of person to do that. He is just the total opposite. My brother has a girl friend from out of the church and I want to help her with getting into the church because she want to become a Christian but she doesn't agree with everything the minister says. Sometimes I feel that God isn't there to help either because I know that he wants us to help other people go into the church to become christians so why doesn't he help? (No gender or age)

It's hard to find accurate answers in a survey like this. I may have done drugs, but now wholeheartedly disagree with them. And if I get married, it doesn't mean I won't marry someone who is not a virgin, for people are only humans. Mistakes can happen. I have shoplifted, but was 3 years ago. I've grown stronger in my faith, but still don't understand where I am going. I think that our church sometimes does not practise what they preach. I am taking a friend from work to church and she doesn't understand how one church can gossip so much. She says the young people of the church (not all) are like the young people of the world. Maybe what worked for the generation of my parents (music, teachings, youth groups) will not work for us today. The amount of rules, patronizing, and lack of excitement towards new things is what drives people to other churches and schools. Also lack of tolerance. (Female, 16)

It's frustrating to see your parents only discuss religion when a Bible's out or there is a home visit. They never mention God in everyday stuff. It's not like they have to say something about Him every minute, but if they want us to be good Christians, they should display it themselves. If I grow up not being able to talk to my parents about anything, let alone God, how can I be expected to be any different when I'm a mom? Kids observe more (much more) than adults think. We also have to draw our own conclusions. Parents should be able to help. But they can't. They don't understand. They might say, Oh, but they do. Why can't they show it, and be more understanding ?!?!? Oh, and Christian people cringe at the thought of change. Contemporary? Why are people so stuffy against it? Lighten up! Different people express their love of God in different ways. Our church can't (but should) accept individuality. It's all the same. (Female, 16)

Parents always say, I know what it's like to be a teenager. You think I've never been one? Why don't parents act like they understand? (Female, 15)

Adults need to realize that teenagers are not all irresponsible. IF they've proven themselves over and over, one mistake shouldn't destroy all the trust built up. Kids look up to fair parents, if they (parents) screw up once we don't hate them; why do parents look down on us if we screw up once? (Female)

I don't really have any role models of faith life. My parents don't like to talk about things like that. We only discuss trivial things, like my grades or piano. I never have conversations with my Dad. (Female, 15)

I don't see why you have all of those stupid questions about sex and drugs. Not many people do that. Sure, smoking and alcohol are stuff you have to worry about. But I've only gotten drunk once and there were adults around. I've smoked a couple of times too, but once or twice isn't a big deal. (Female, 14)

This was a good idea. I'm very thankful for being a Christian, I wish I would show it more in the way of prayer. I never seem to find the time. That's pretty horrible, isn't it? Thanx for caring. (Female, 16)

Even though parents have to help their kids to go the right way, older teenagers (15+) should always get to choose for themselves. Otherwise they don't learn. (No gender or age)

I know I'm not perfect but right now I wonder if there really is a God in heaven. It just makes me wonder. I know most of the things I do are not to the glory of God. But I enjoy doing them. It makes one think about what I'm doing sometimes. I'm going to clean up my act now, b/c I got a girl friend now. (Male, 16)

Not all young people are bad as many parents feel. They think we've all tried drugs, etc. Well we aren't perfect but we aren't as bad as many think we are, just as prone to temptation as adults are.

I find my parents' line of reasoning rational and understandable, usually. My friends are important to me, they are the ones I am mostly around. (Female, 15)

School

Our school has made rules in which we are restricted from doing the things teens do, which is making us do them more outside of school. If we don't ever do these things now it could jeopardize the future and make us do them later on. (F, 14)

I wish there wasn't peer pressure

- kick out all smokers - Direct answers to my problems - a cool adult I could go to. (Male, 18)

Sometimes I wish that we could have all classes with our friends because some others call us names (eg. Bitch) and if they hurt us they start laughing. Also they just take things away from us.

Once we listened to a tape for socials about how people like us try to do the best we can but yet they still bug us. When they heard this they just said it was stupid and not true at all. (F-15)

I think that you could have monitored relationship with our teachers. (Male, 16)

Our school is so picky about our dress. I went to Kwantlen about a week ago for a grade 10 field trip. No blue jeans were allowed. That is pathetic. The people who did, got a handful of detentions. I think the school is just trying to make us look good on the outside even though we might not be good on the inside. Who says you can't be a Christian and look like a Christian with blue jeans on? I could see them having a problem with hardcore bike clothes but not BLUE JEANS. (Male, 15)

It really irks me when kids coming to highschool and in highschool have no respect for anybody, or when you can see the opinions of parents hindering the children. Often times the kids have no respect because they have no idea or knowledge of what teachers have to go through. For example, wrecking the school after grad to me absolutely pathetic. Even worse is the opinion that, oh it is their last year just let them have their fun. Well sorry, but the janitors and teachers who have to clean it up have a very different feeling on how funny it is. To drive in the school lawn or on teachers' lawns too, is dumb. Why? Peer pressure? Wanna be cool? It's pointless. Teachers try hard to be your friend, in some cases even too much and if you get mad at a teacher for something, discuss it with them and don't go terrorizing the school or their house. Revenge is mine says the LORD. I like Credo because it has a lot of school spirit. (Or at least it did, some is fading now) and everyone basically gets along. It's a fun school to be at because of its size too. Everyone knows pretty well everyone. (Although all these grade eighters are hard to keep track of) (No gender or age)

Teachers should give students the time to say something instead of assuming that they are always right. There should be more community related events (dancing, parties, etc.) for certain age groups or whoever wants to join. (Male, 15)

Catechism Instruction

For question 43 I think it's more important to know what the catechism means than to memorize it off by heart. Someone could know them word for word but could mean nothing to them. I think it's okay to have a beer on special occasions as long as you don't get addicted to it. (M-13)

Thank-you for letting us skip class! In our catechism class we get report cards. I don't think that that is necessary. (F-15)

Church Services and Liturgy

I know it has been brought up so many times before but I strongly feel our church services to be lacking the enthusiasm of Biblical times. People rejoiced to be praising God, sang and danced ... all in true faith. For many people now, Church seems to be more of an obligation than anything else. I love music and I really wish we could sing in little groups in front of the congregation. This is not so that the performers can be praised, but so that they can use their talents to glorify God and further His kingdom. Paul instructs for those who have the talent of prophesying to

prophecy, and so on, and I might add that those who have musical talents should use them. I feel it would be up building for the congregation and would encourage many more people to become more involved in and excited about church life. I also feel some of our tunes now to be a bit difficult for some to sing. It's quite sad because Psalms with nice words often can't be sung because of the tunes. Either everyone should be taught the tunes (and how to read music!) Or we should change the tunes so they are simpler to sing. Perhaps you think I'm a bit too strong on the music subject but ... I would really like to see more nice hymns (i.e. Abide with me, Take my Life) in the Psalm book. Almost everybody knows them and I believe they are honourable to God. I think our music in church is one of the most important parts of the service because through it we are rendering our praise and thanks to God. If it isn't enjoyable is it still honoring God? (Female, no age)

I really enjoy going to church because we have a fairly new minister to our congregation, yet he is good because in his sermons he talks to us, certain things he says relate to you and you think of personal experiences. Yet sometimes his sermons make you feel guilty, by saying that there are certain things you should not do, and you do them making you feel guilty. He is a really good catechism teacher too, because he sometimes explains things so they are easier to understand. But sometimes he doesn't. (Female, no age)

One question for you: Are we maybe struggling for impossible perfection within the church, that we are forgetting that people are watching from the outside, wondering if it's a good idea to come in? Hmmmm..... I wonder don't you?! Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, don't bother trying to perfect those within the church. It ain't gonna happen until Christ returns. (Female, 17)

I thought this was a good survey. It's about time other people actually think about our feelings. Our church should not always beat around the bush. (Female, 17)

I think that today our Canadian Reformed churches dwell too much on the past. The coming generation (ages 16-25), want change and drastic change. We don't know, and frankly don't really care about all the writings of the old professors from the 1900's - 1970's. We want different types of songs in church, more uplifting songs where we can actually sound like we're praising God, rather than sounding like a funeral procession. I feel there will be a drastic change in the next years, and the older generation will not be able to stop it. UNITY - with other churches especially the FREE REFORMED CHURCH!! We all believe the same Bible! The same God. Put the squabbles aside!!(Female, 16)

There's one thing I wouldn't want changed and that's the RSV Bible. I don't think we should use the NIV because it seems disrespectful. The NIV also seems to soften the blow for the sinful Israelites. God is just and mighty. He had done so much for us now and in the past. He wants us to know what He did, not soften the blow for us. And it seems disrespectful to use you and your. It sounds as if you are talking to anybody, even some bum off the street. The church should stick to the RSV and not to the NIV. (No gender or age)

Music - has to change. Youth - group for kids to learn. (Male, 17)

Maybe if everybody really believed in what they say they could show us just by how they live. But not many parents or older people are very good role models to me anymore. No one really seems to care about religion. I, personally would like to know more and see more in our community. I hope this questionnaire make some changes happen. Good luck.(Female, 17)

My dad has been trying to talk to the ministers about the sermons. I don't think people understand the psalms and therefore forget their important meaning. (Female, 13)

Question 94 is good question. Today, all adults talk about, when they talk about the church, is the different translations of the Bible, how good the NIV is etc. The articles in some reformed magazine always deal with Christian rock. Most people my age either listen to real rock or no rock. They always talk about our teenagers getting badly influenced by Christian rock. But no one listens to it anyways. They should argue more against real rock and rap, if you ask me. (Male, 15)

For my church and friends, an incredible amount has changed over the last year. We have a prayer group that gets together - we're accountable to each other for things we get tripped up on, and we know we have each other's support through thick and thin. Young People's - we have a good group of musicians and leaders, do good forestudy, but more needs to be done for the kids coming. Catechism is good....more meaningful now also because my attitude towards it has changed a lot. For the most part, most teachers and parents I know well, live out their faith the best they can - it's encouraging to see. We need to keep youth events going so more kids and see you can have fun without drugs, alcohol and smoking. And don't kid yourself. It's out there, and if you want to keep your kids close to God, you need to find other kinds of entertainment. (No gender or age)

I think teachers, ministers and elders should try and make each person feel like an individual. Then maybe they wouldn't feel like they could just cruise along and be carried with the crowd. They would realize that they have to do something themselves and God can work through just them too. (Female, 17)

There's some things in our church we have to change just to make it a little more desirable. DON'T MAKE IT SO BORING! We're the Canadian Reformed Churches. Some Reforms would be nice. (No gender or age)

Life style Issues, Personal Faith

This is a good questionnaire and maybe it'll make the younger kids in school and the older take a second look at the life they lead and make them think about changes they could make in their lives. I think that adults understand kids a lot more than they let on. I mean, they were kids once to, right. There's not a whole lot of difference between then and now! (Female, no age)

Getting drunk and stuff one in a while is not wrong. As long as its not all the time and it doesn't rule your life and stuff. Also it's not like our parents still have the catacism memorized so what's the point of us learning it? (Female, 14)

I wouldn't mind if my parents knew that I smoke, I just wish they wouldn't care. (Male, 13)

I might drink but I would not be addicted or drunk from it. I might smoke but I will not be addicted. (Male, 13)

I think that people who call themselves Christian should then act like a Christian. Thank you for listening to me, ya - hoo, some one's listening. Teachers in school should not demand so much especially not around Christmas. I get stressed out. (Male, 15)

Miscellaneous Issues

Many of the answers in this survey are not known. At 14, I'm not thinking about how to raise my kids yet! Also, we are taught and drilled to say the right answers in regard to our faith, but we don't really know if we do believe. We'll always say Yes, I believe., but we don't know for ourselves, other than that that's the correct response. (Male, 14)

I find some of the questions in this survey irrelevant. Many things in our school/church could be changed for the better. Many people are dishonest and unkind. In our system I think this needs to be changed. Other people are ignored and made fun of. We should do our best to change that but you find no matter what you do most people do not change. (Female, 15)

Let us sing more fun songs. We shouldn't have to come 15 minutes earlier just to sing songs we want sing. (F-14)

Don't take it for granted that everyone feels they have someone to talk to or such a nice little sheltered Christian life. (F-15)

The Bible is pounded through our heads everyday. Sometimes you shouldn't just focus on it, but have some fun. Also I heard a joke. Q - How many Canadian Reformeds does it take to change a light bulb? A - Change?? What's change??

I love everyone in my life very much. Sometimes I feel too shy to say it to them but it is nice to be able to write it. I know that they know this so even if they don't see it, I feel better getting it out, even on paper. (Female, 17)

I don't see why this survey would help the parents to understand kids. I think that the kids should think about these things more.... and try to clarify their thoughts to their parents. (Male, 18)