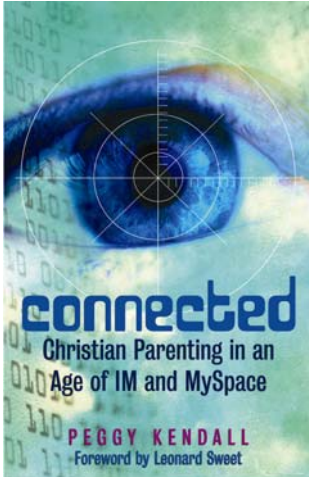


Connecting Christian Parents to Their Online Teens



“Instead of the customary narrative of cultural decline, expressions of cultural anxiety, denunciation of the awfulness of the times, not to mention millennial moanings, what Peggy Kendall gives us are strategies for passing the baton on to succeeding generations without the trade of tirades.” —From the Foreword by Leonard Sweet, Drew Theological School, George Fox University

The recent spate of parenting books devoted to the topic of MySpace and other social networking sites speaks to an overwhelming trend of teens online. The latest research shows that almost two-thirds of American teens use Instant Messenger. MySpace.com has over 55 million members, adding over 85,000 profiles each day. Now YouTube adds another forum for online communication. Without question, these internet technologies have utterly redefined how typical youth spend time with friends. And they have important implications for today’s parents who are desperate for advice and guidance in what can seem to be a scary new world.

Author, teacher, and parent Peggy Kendall addresses parents’ concerns in *Connected: Christian Parenting in an Age of IM and MySpace*. What separates Kendall’s book from the others on the market is her balanced, strategic approach to the topic. Rather than a doomsday, pull the plug reaction, Kendall takes a more academic look at computer-mediated communication, reviewing current research in reader-friendly terms. She also steps outside the research and speaks parent-to-parent and Christian-to-Christian to how and why teens use online communication, how the technology affects relationships, and the pros and cons of teens using this technology. She provides advice and insight from leading scholars and authors, as well as stories and feedback from other Christian parents who have dealt with the issues surrounding online communications. Finally, she gives parents starting points for conversations on this important topic.

About the Author:

Peggy Kendall is also the author of *Rewired: Youth Ministry in an Age of IM and MySpace* (Judson Press, 2007). She is associate professor of Communication Studies at Bethel University and holds an MA in counseling psychology, an MA in secondary education, and a PhD in communication studies from the University of Minnesota. Her experiences as a youth volunteer, former school teacher and parent of teenage children have taught her a great deal about today’s communication technology.

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