



99 Thoughts

for college-age people

insightful tips for life after high school

By Chuck Bomar



99 Thoughts for College-Age People

Copyright © 2008 Simply Youth Ministry

Simply Youth Ministry
26981 Vista Terrace, Unit C
Lake Forest, CA 92630

www.simplyyouthministry.com

ISBN 978-0-7644-3601-7

Printed in the United States of America

Thanks to those of you who contributed thought or encouragement to this.

I thought I would at least mention you here since I stole some of your thoughts and didn't pay you anything! My wife, Barbara; my daughter, Karis (who encouraged me by laughing at everything I wrote – even though she's 3 and didn't get any of it); the following people from my Fall '07 Youth Culture class: Will Boyd, Mark Centurion, Bethany Cetti, Casey Groves, Joshua Kellogg, Lauren Markling, Daniel Pellegrini, Mallory Smith (thanks for sharing your points of view...and for proving some of mine!); and lastly, to Josh Griffin (who some people think has a better sense of humor than me – dang it!).

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Life Direction	3
Thoughts on Intimacy	7
Unknown Common Denominators .	11
Roommate Etiquette	18
Money Wisdom	22
Education Wisdom	26
Random Daily Life "Wisdom"	32
Identity	38
Faith	43
Wisdom on Campus Ministries	49
Connecting with New People	51
Dating Wisdom	53

Introduction

Thanks for picking up this book! Whether you're a senior in high school, a freshman in college, or just looking to make the most of your college years, you've come to the right place. This book was written with you in mind. It's full of valuable tips and insights that will help make your college years a little easier and a lot more enjoyable!

The author, Chuck Bomar, has worked with college-age people for over eight years and at one time stood in your shoes with the same questions, problems, struggles, and anxiety about college that you may be facing. Chuck has taken his experience and learnings from the past several years and put them together in this easy-to-read book to help you through this transition. Good luck on the road ahead!

Life Direction



Everyone has pressures put on them, some more serious than others, and different ones depending on our stage of life (like younger guys to let their pants sag, while older guys seem to have pressure to pull up their pants higher and higher above their waist). Every stage of life has unique pressures and for you, one of the biggest is probably trying to find a career path. The pressure to figure this out can be intense. Parents and society drive us to find a direction, but it's just not that easy. A question you may be asking is, "How am I supposed to know what direction I'm going to go when I don't even know what I want!?" If you're experiencing this pressure, here are six things that you should read:

1. The process of discovering what you want to do should be taken slowly.

There is no rush, no matter who keeps asking you. The worst thing you can do is rush into a career path that you hate, simply to satisfy immediate pressures placed on you. I once knew a guy who for 13 years watched a machine put the caps on soda bottles. Yeah, the machine did all the work and he just watched it do its thing. I know this may be a shock to you, but this wasn't his dream job. He got stuck. You will regret settling for something less than you want.

2. Discovering who you are before you try to figure out what you'll do is extremely important.



You have a lot of questions to answer about yourself and what you believe. Take your time. Thinking through this before you get into a career path is your biggest priority. Who are you beyond your life in high school, or now in your college-age years? We all know the 44-year-old guy who still lives off the identity of his high school football days. You must

move beyond high school, but you must also move slowly. Jumping too fast in a direction may someday result in “a mid-life crisis.” Take your time and seriously work through it now. It will save you a lot of pain later.

3. Finding a temporary job until you find your career is not a bad thing.



We all have responsibilities, and developing different types of skills will add credibility to your work history. But make sure you continue the process of finding out who you are, what you want, and how you're uniquely talented. This will help you think through vocations that fit you, rather than you trying to fit a particular vocation. If you try to fit a vocation, you won't accomplish much at all. Dream big.

4. Working with the right people is vital.

You can actually have job responsibilities you don't care for and yet enjoy your job if you work with the right people. The opposite is also true – you can learn a lot from people who you don't want to be like. But in these



situations you have to have skin thicker than the Great Wall of China. And since few of us do, we end up becoming miserable.



5. Find peace in the fact that God already knows what you're going to do (*Acts 17:24-27*). You can remind your parents of that too!

6. Do not be anxious about tomorrow for it will worry about itself (*Matthew 6:34*).

The key for you is to be faithful today. Taking care of your responsibilities today is more than enough work. Don't be deceived into thinking God will give you direction for your entire life if you're not being faithful with what He asks of you today. It's normal during our college-age years to be expert worriers when it comes to the future, but try to be an expert in faithfulness today. We must be faithful in the small things before God trusts us to be faithful with larger responsibilities (*Luke 16:10*).

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:24-27; Matthew 6:34; Luke 16:10

Thoughts on Intimacy



As we get older our idea of intimacy begins to change. It becomes much deeper than sex (I promise you this is true), physical interaction (not taking anything away from it, of course), or even dating relationships (no doubt). It's about getting to know another person at a deeper level and allowing them to know who you really are. You now have this desire more than ever so there are five things you need to know regarding intimacy:



1. True intimacy requires vulnerability.

I've always told people there are levels of intimacy with your spouse. Your level of intimacy with your spouse depends largely on how vulnerable you choose to be with her/him. It's one thing to share what you're passionate about, or even what goals or dreams you may



have for your lives together. But it's another thing to share the hurts and the struggles you may have, or the sin and temptation that you deal with on a day-to-day basis. In all honesty, this is extremely difficult, but in order to fulfill your desire for intimate relationships you must be willing to share your innermost self. Taking small steps in this direction now is vital. True intimacy moves beyond talking about ethical issues or connecting with someone through an online network. Any relationship that doesn't require you to reveal every part of yourself isn't truly intimate.

2. Your desire for intimacy can lead to problems.

When you have true intimacy with people you will also have more conflict. As weird as it may sound, this is a good thing. If there are no problems in a relationship it usually means one or both of the people involved are not being honest. During your college-age years you will have less immature “high school



drama,” but expect relational drama. It’s different, but still there.

3. God designed us for intimacy.



You’re created for close-knit relationships, so don’t rob yourself of that desire. We should first be in close relationship with God and secondly with other people (*Matthew 22:37-40*). God created us to love Him and love others. It’s His command, too. Remember, true love is intimate. We cannot say we love anyone (including God) unless there is intimacy. God already sees you for who you really are; why not acknowledge it?

Notes

Intimacy is about getting to know another person at a deeper level and allowing them to know who you really are.



4. When you open yourself up to another person for the possibility of an intimate relationship, you may get hurt.

But it's worth it in the long run. Don't rob yourself of experiencing true intimacy.

5. There is NO risk in a truly intimate relationship with God.



He's seen you at your best and at your worst. Honestly, vulnerability with God has zero risk.



Unknown Common Denominators

We face some issues during our college-age years that seem unique to us, but they're actually pretty common for all of our peers. The truth is, you're not alone. Here are a few things you should read to remind you that you're not alone:

Intimidation



It's hard to have all your friends disperse into their own lives, leaving you alone in yours. It can be exciting to move on in our lives, but it's also a bit intimidating. Paranoia might even be a good word to describe the feelings you're having or have had. But just like your sixth-grade fears of getting canned, this intimidation phase always comes to an end. You will develop new relationships and even though it may not seem possible, these new friends



99 Thoughts for College-Age People

insightful tips for life after high school



You're embarking on one of the greatest adventures in your life.

The transition from high school to the college-age years offers an endless list of new opportunities and experiences. More responsibility. Less time. Major decisions. Heartbreak. Life lessons. Fresh beginnings.

In this humorous and thought-provoking book, **Chuck Bomar** reaches into his bag of life experience and digs up some pearls of wisdom that can help make these years more manageable and more memorable. You'll enjoy discovering these thoughts on your own, or using them to launch some fun discussions with your friends or people in your small group.

However you choose to use this book, you'll be sure to save yourself some pain and money – and maybe even some foot fungus.



doug fields'

simply youth ministry



9 780764 462153

Church & Ministry/Ministry
Resources/Youth Ministry