

Fall 2008 Executive Summary Lancaster Bible College

I. Demographics

140 freshmen students participated in the assessment. 81% of them came from homes where the parents are married and living together. 53% felt comfortable with their eating habits, and 62% were satisfied with their health.

II. Spiritual Maturity

Activity: 88% attend church once a week or several times per week; 63% meet with a small group at least weekly; 58% use their spiritual gifts once a week or more in ministry; and 63% say they have personal prayer time at least several times per week.

Personal Disciplines: 44% claim to be spending at 3 hours per week or more in Bible reading, and 32% spend at least that amount of time reading a book to facilitate their spiritual growth, while 83% spend less than one hour a week memorizing Scripture.

Personal Satisfaction: 31% are dissatisfied with how they are growing and maturing as a Christian, but 44% strongly agree that they have a more intimate walk with the Lord than they did a year ago.

III. Lifestyle

49% feel stressed out and 37% feel nervous/anxious more than once a week.

95% of women say they never or rarely view pornographic material, while 67% of males say the same.

IV. Self-Awareness

79% strongly agree/agree that they have what it takes to be successful in life, and the same percentage believe they are persons of worth. 73% strongly agree/agree that they are satisfied with how they are growing and developing as a person. 85% worry about what other people think of them; 62% *at times* think they are no good at all; and just 53% are satisfied with their physical appearance.

V. Self-Management

Although the majority of participants have not had trouble at school or on the job because of their temper (93% strongly agree/agree), 29% often find themselves engaged in heated arguments with people close to them, and 66% admit to wanting to hit someone or something or break things at times. Also 61% lose control of their speech and regret saying things. 84% usually end up feeling responsible for how the other person feels during an argument, and 41% say they do not think they express their feelings in healthy and appropriate ways, and may need someone else to calm them down (44%).

VI. Premarital Issues

49% feel at least some pressure to find a mate before graduating. 14% admit to crossing the line in dating. Belief about when a person loses virginity: 24% at oral sex; 53% not until sexual intercourse.

The highest percentage of those who engage in oral sex (46%) or sexual intercourse (36%) before marriage are seriously dating and engaged women; however, this is taken from a very small sample (only 11 participants). Only 51% equate oral sex with having sexual intercourse.

75% agree that engaging in oral sex/sexual intercourse before marriage has a negative effect on their marriage, but only 68% think that it compromises their relationship with Christ.

VII. Relational Awareness

75% of participants strongly agree/agree that they are aware of other people's feelings; however, 45% still have trouble understanding why others feel the way they do.

68% believe that they are actively listening to the other person, only 15% strongly agree that they are good listeners.

VIII. Relationship Management

Conflict Management: 87% say they go out of their way to avoid conflict, and 77% agree that they tend to say nothing in order not to hurt someone's feelings. On the plus side, 61% strongly agree/agree that they will try to focus on the problem when a disagreement arises.

Forgiveness: Although only 39% were good or fairly good at managing conflict, 69% say they can usually forgive and forget an insult. The challenge was not to resent people who had offended or hurt them after having forgiven them; 62% say they resent them later.

IX. Family Life Satisfaction

All questions regarding *family life* were 65% (extremely satisfied/satisfied). 41% were extremely satisfied with their *parents' relationship with each other*.