

Thomas E. Bergler, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph. D. in History (2001), University of Notre Dame

Dissertation: “Christian Youth Groups and the Middle-Class Culture of Crisis, 1930-1965”

Advisor: George Marsden

M. A. in Theology and Church History (1995), Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

Thesis: “John Wesley’s Pastoral Leadership of the Early Methodist Societies Using Theology, Experience, and Practice”

Advisor: Mark Noll

AWARDS

From Here to Maturity was selected to be the Current Read at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL for Fall 2016; all faculty and students read it together in preparation for an invited lecture, Oct 2016.

Emeriti Fellows Research Grant, Huntington University (Summer 2016)

Veritas Youth Theology Institute Grant (Dec. 2015), Lilly Endowment, \$600,000, 4 year grant. Grant proposal co-author.

The Juvenilization of American Christianity was named one of “Ten Books Every Preacher Should Read,” by R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in *Preaching* (Mar/Apr 2013):11.

Award of Merit for *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*, The Church and Pastoral Leadership Category, *Christianity Today* Book Awards (2013).

Huntington University Faculty Lecturer (2007).

BOOKS

From Here to Maturity: Overcoming the Juvenilization of American Christianity (Eerdmans, 2014).

The Juvenilization of American Christianity. (Eerdmans, 2012).

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Mapping the Missional Landscape of Emerging Adulthood” *The Journal of Youth Ministry* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 64-96.
- “Are Ye Able? The Methodist Youth Department, Racial Justice, and Church Reform in Mid-Twentieth Century America” *Christian Education Journal*, Series 3, 11, no.2 (Fall 2014): 392-413.
- “Youth, Christianity, and the Crisis of Civilization, 1930-1945” *Religion and American Culture* 24, no. 2 (Summer 2014): 249-296.
- “Taming the Juvenilization of American Christianity: Developing Youth Ministry Leaders Who Can Help the Church Grow Up” *The Journal of Youth Ministry* 9, no. 1 (Fall 2010): 7-34.
- With Dave Rahn, “Results of a Collaborative Research Project in Gathering Evangelism Stories” *The Journal of Youth Ministry* 4, no. 2 (Spring 2006): 65-74.
- With Michael Pasquier, “Young Life” in Michael J. McClymond, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America* (Greenwood Press, 2005).
- With Michael Pasquier, “Youth for Christ” in Michael J. McClymond, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America* (Greenwood Press, 2005).
- “‘I Found My Thrill’: The Youth for Christ Movement and American Congregational Singing, 1940-1970” in Richard Mouw and Mark Noll, eds. *Wonderful Words of Life: Hymns in American Protestant History and Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004): 123-149.
- “The Place of History in Youth Ministry Education” *Journal of Youth Ministry* 1:1 (Fall 2002): 57-71.
- “Revivals” in Hans Hillerbrand, ed. *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* (New York: Routledge, 2002).
- “Youth for Christ” in Hans Hillerbrand, ed. *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* (New York: Routledge, 2002).
- “Fundamentalism” in Peter Eisenstadt, ed. *The Encyclopedia of New York State* (Albany: Syracuse University Press, 2001).
- Heilungsbewegungen religiöse in Nordamerika (“Healing Movements in North America”) in Hans Dieter Betz, et. al., eds. *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 4th ed. (Tubingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 2000).

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

- “Youth Ministries that Help the Whole Church Mature” Youth Specialties Blog, August 7, 2016, <https://youthspecialties.com/blog/youth-ministries-that-help-the-whole-church-mature/>
- “Can Teenagers Be Spiritually Mature?” Youth Specialties Blog, August 1, 2016, <https://youthspecialties.com/blog/can-teenagers-become-spiritually-mature/>
- “Good News about Growing Up” Youth Specialties Blog, July 19, 2016, <https://youthspecialties.com/blog/good-news-about-growing-up/>
- Drew Dyck, “When Will We Grow Up?” Interview about *From Here to Maturity* in *Christianity Today*, Jan/Feb 2015.
- “We’re All Adolescents Now” *Living Bulwark*, Dec. 2014/Jan 2015 Vol. 77 <http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/december2014p14.htm>

- “Five Questions with Thomas Bergler” Eerdword Nov. 3, 2014.
<http://eerdword.com/2014/11/03/five-questions-with-thomas-bergler/>
- Radio interviews about *From Here to Maturity*:
 Lynne Ford, *Mid-Morning*, WBCL, July 2, 2015.
<http://www.wbcl.org/programs/mid-morning>
 Carrie Abbot, *Relationship Insights* March 17, 2015.
<http://carrieabbott.com/radio/>
 Janet Mefferd, *The Janet Mefferd Show*, Dec. 16, 2014.
 Bob Dutko, *The Bob Dutko Show*, Nov. 19, 2014.
- “The Juvenilization of American Christianity: Why Christians Don’t Want to Grow Up and What to Do about It” *Christian Research Journal* 36:1 (2013): 48-51.
- “The Juvenilization of American Christianity” *Huntington University Magazine* (Fall 2012).
- “When Will We Grow Up?” *Christianity Today* (June 2012).
- Interviews for *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*:
 Chris Talbot for The Helwys Society Forum, March 2014,
<http://www.helwysocietyforum.com/?s=Juvenilization>
 Todd Wilkin, *Issues, Etc...* issuesetc.org (Apr 16, 2013)
 “The Juvenilization of American Christianity: Q & A with Thomas Bergler”
Modern Reformation 22:2 (Mar/Apr 2013): 5-9.
 Terry Linhart, *Youth Specialties Roundtable*, Episode 3, March 19, 2013.
<http://www.youthspecialties.com/blog/ys-roundtable-episode-3-tom-bergler>
- Chris Yaw, *ChurchNext*, growmychurch.com (Jan 14, 2013).
 Scott Oakland, Reformedcast.com, Episode 10 (Nov. 2012).
 David Dault, *Things Not Seen: Conversations about Culture and Faith* (Sept. 6, 2012). <http://www.thingsnotseenradio.com/1211-spiritual-maturity/>
- Michael Horton, *The White Horse Inn*, WHI 1113 (Aug. 5, 2012).
 Chris Fabry, *Chris Fabry Live!* Moody Radio. (July 17, 2012).
 Bill Feltner, *His People*, Pilgrim Radio Network (June 25 and 26, 2012).
 Ken Myers, *Mars Hill Audio Journal*, Volume 115, (May/June 2012).
 Janet Mefferd, *The Janet Mefferd Show*, (May 17, 2012).
- “We’re All Adolescents Now” *Youthworker Journal* (Sept/Oct 2007).
 “Enduring Myths of Youth Ministry” *Youthworker Journal* (Sept/Oct 2004).
 “Don’t Leave Home without Your Map (Essential History for Youth Ministers)” in Duffy Robbins, *This Way to Youth Ministry: An Introduction to the Adventure* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004): 238-241.

RECENT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- “Mapping the Missional Landscape of Emerging Adulthood” Association of Youth Ministry Educators Annual Meeting, October 2016.
- “Standing on Your Own or Faith Alone? Why Emerging Adults in America Misunderstand the Gospel and What to Do about It” Society for Professors of Christian Education Annual Meeting, October 2016.

- “The Juvenilization of American Christianity,” “From Juvenilization to Spiritual Maturity” and “Youth Ministries That Help the Whole Church Grow Up” keynote addresses at New England Youth Ministry Symposium sponsored by Gordon College, Wenham, MA, October 16, 2014.
- "The Juvenilization of American Christianity," "Don't Be Afraid to Grow Up: From Juvenilization to Spiritual Maturity" and "Cultivating Spiritual Maturity among College Students" Invited lectures to pastors, students, and student leaders at the Center for Christian Thought and Action, Regent University, February 2014.
- “Reversing the Juvenilization of American Christianity: Cultivating Spiritual Maturity in Congregations” Concordia Theological Seminary, presentation to faculty and students, December 2013.
- “The Juvenilization of American Worship” History and Philosophy of Worship class, Indiana Wesleyan University, November 2013.
- “From Juvenilization to Spiritual Maturity: How Professors Can Help Their Students Grow Up” Faculty Workshop, Regent University College of Arts and Sciences, August 2013.
- “The Juvenilization of American Christianity” and “Reversing the Juvenilization of American Christianity: Fostering Spiritual Maturity in Congregations.” L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC, March 2013.
- “From Juvenilization to Spiritual Maturity: Critical Growth Areas for Emerging Adult Church Leaders” North American Professors of Christian Education, Oct 20, 2012.
- “Youth and the Battle for the Future of African American Christianity during the Civil Rights Movement” Organization of American Historians, April 2010. Also presented at the conference of the Society for the History of Children and Youth, July 2009.
- “Civil Rights Pilgrimages: The Power of Faith and Mobility in the Lives of Young Activists” Fourth Annual New Perspectives on African American History and Culture Conference, Feb. 2010.
- “Taming the Juvenilization of American Christianity: Developing Youth Ministry Leaders Who Can Help the Church Grow Up” Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Oct. 2009.
- “Developing Youth Ministry Leaders Who Can Help the Church Grow Up” International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, Cambridge, UK, Jan 3, 2009.
- “No More Slow Dances with Jesus: Using Contemporary Worship Music Responsibly” Huntington University Faculty Lecture, Feb. 2007.

RECENT MINISTRY PRESENTATIONS

- Book discussion on *From Here to Maturity* with Campus Ministries staff of Marian University, Indianapolis, IN, Apr. 20, 2017
- “Why Sex is Both More Important and Less Important than You Think: Marriage and Sex in the Biblical Story of Redemption” Huntington University Honors Lecture, Dec. 5, 2016.

- “Cultivating a Congregational Culture of Spiritual Maturity” Invited Lecture for The Current Read, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL, October 2016. All faculty and students at RTS read *From Here to Maturity* in preparation for the lecture.
- Apologetics Series: “What are Worldviews?” “Why believe?” “The Problem of Evil – parts I & II” “The Moral Law and God” University Christian Outreach Summer Academy, August 2016.
- “Overcoming Obstacles to Spiritual Growth” training session for Huntington University Resident Assistants, Sept 2015.
- “Peer Spiritual Mentoring” training session for Huntington University Resident Assistants and Campus Ministry Coordinators, Aug. 2015.
- “Marriage and Sex in the Bible” and “Myths about Sex, Love and Romance,” Summer Academy training event for staff workers and student leaders of University Christian Outreach, August 2015.
- “Cultivating Spiritual Maturity in Your Congregation” Church of the United Brethren in Christ National Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, July 17, 2015.
- “Cultivating a Congregational Culture of Spiritual Maturity,” Healing the Brokenness Conference, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Houston, TX, Apr. 2015
- “Growing up into Christ” Sermon at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Houston, TX, Apr 2015.
- “From Here to Maturity: Fostering Spiritual Maturity in Our Congregations,” Anglican Church in North America, Diocese of the Great Lakes, Deanery Meeting Jan. 2015.
- “Becoming Like Jesus” Campus Life/ City Life Retreat, Huntington University, Nov. 2014.
- “Personal Soul Care for Ministers” Workshop at Live Life Conference sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, October 25, 2014.
- “Personal Soul Care for Youth Ministers” Workshop at Equip 2:6 youth ministry conference, Huntington University, September 20, 2014.
- “Let the Little Children Come to Me . . . and Grow Up” Chapel sermon at The Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, NY, March 16, 2014.
- “Reversing the Juvenilization of American Christianity: Fostering Spiritual Maturity in Congregations” Workshop at United Brethren in Christ National Conference, June 2013.
- “Spiritual Maturity and the Resurrection” Chapel sermon at The Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, NY, April 14, 2013.
- “Reversing the Juvenilization of American Christianity: Fostering Spiritual Maturity in Congregations.” Ministry and Missions Department public lecture, Huntington University, April 9, 2013. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHn9FbGf-kM>
- Book discussion on *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*, Christ the King Episcopal Church, Huntington, IN, March 10, 2013.
- “The Juvenilization of American Christianity” Baker Book House Youth Pastor’s Breakfast, Grand Rapids, MI, Aug 23, 2012.
- “The Juvenilization of American Christianity” Eerdmans Book Store, Grand Rapids, MI Aug. 16, 2012.

- “From Juvenilization to Spiritual Maturity: Helping College Students Grow Up”
Regional Resident Director’s Conference, Huntington University, Aug 3, 2012.
- “The Juvenilization of Culture” Sword of the Spirit International Coordinators Meeting,
May 2012.
- “Emerging Adulthood: What are the Spiritual Lives of 18-20-Somethings Like and How
Can We Help?” Work of Christ Men’s Conference, Feb. 2012.
- “Facing Different Worldviews” First Mennonite Church, Berne, IN, college student class,
July 3, 2011.
- “Christian Ecumenism: How to Work and Share Life with Christians from Different
Churches” a three session seminar for campus ministry student leaders at the
Campus Outreach Academy, August 2010.
- “The Christian Mind” Five session seminar for Campus Outreach Academy, August
2009.
- “The Church Growth Movement” and “The Emerging Church Movement” presented to
the Servants of the Word Theologians Group, August 23, 2008.
- “Christians Influencing Culture” Ten session seminar for leaders of the Kairos youth
movement, Dublin, Ireland, July 7-11, 2008.
- “Youth Culture Trends in the United States” Kairos International youth leaders’ meeting,
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 7, 2008.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Grant committee member, Veritas Youth Theology Institute, Summer 2015 - present
Chair, Division of Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2005 - 2016
Member, University Leadership Council, 2010-2013
Chair, Task force on Christ-Centered Higher Education, 2007-2008

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Youth Ministry Educators
Senior Associate Editor, *The Journal of Youth Ministry*, 2006-2018
Board Member, 2012-2014
Society for Professors of Christian Education
Society for the History of Children and Youth