



# Under Siege

Parent Seminar  
The  
Time  
Is Now

Protecting our kids from the false messages of Pop Culture

## **DINNER QUESTIONS AT YOUR TABLES**

- 1. Share about your family – Age of kids/grandkids, school, etc.**
- 2. What were your favorite TV shows as a kid/teenager/young adult?**
- 3. What are the ways your kids most often interact with pop culture?  
TV, Movies, Books, Netflix, Spotify, YouTube, etc.**



# POP CULTURE

TV shows, books, toys, etc. that are popular among ordinary people in a particular society – Oxford

Music, TV, movies, books, etc. that are popular and enjoyed by ordinary people, rather than experts or very educated people – Cambridge Dictionary

# POP CULTURE – GOOD OR BAD?

Though God established culture as good, fallen human culture can express either evil or good. Turnau says that interpreting popular culture is like trying to listen to a radio tuned to two stations at once, with the second station using the best songs of the first station to drown out the first: secular culture tries to drown out God's voice so that truth and idolatry vie for loyal followers

- Ted Turnau - *Popologetics*

# POP CULTURE – NOT NEUTRAL

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- John 8:44

# THE FRONT LINES OF ATTACK

Identity

Sexuality

Family

Meaning/Purpose

Faith/Church

Truth

Value



**HOW DID WE GET HERE?**



# THE FALL



# Percy Bysshe Shelley

1792-1822



- Importance of aesthetics. Poetry opens the door to the deepest truths about existence.
- Use of accessible poetry to awaken the political consciousness.
- Attacks on institutional religion & link between sexual liberation and political liberation.

# William Blake

1757-1827



- Affirmation of free love and rejection of institutional religion bring about true liberty and personal authenticity.
- Aesthetics key in cultivating the revolutionary imagination.

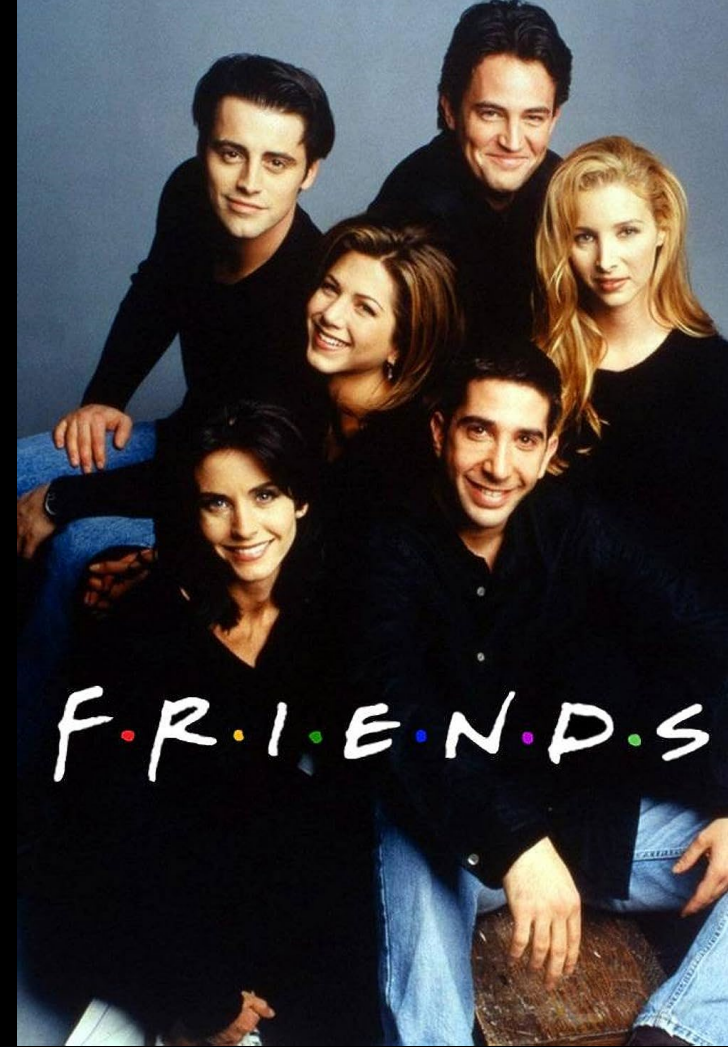
# THE POWER OF THE STORYTELLERS

In a world of empathy based ethics, the moral sense is ultimately the aesthetic sense. And that means that when the sacred order collapses, morality is simply a matter of taste not truth. And in a world in which the idea of universal human nature has been abandoned or attenuated to the point of being meaningless, it also means that those who shape popular taste become those who exert the most moral power and set society's moral standards.

- Carl Trueman – *Rise & Triumph* p 161

# FRIENDS – AND THE VALUE OF SEX

Characters on Friends opened up their tight-knit group to welcome in quite a few friends with benefits throughout the ten seasons of the show, as the six main characters had somewhere between 85 & 135 sexual partners.

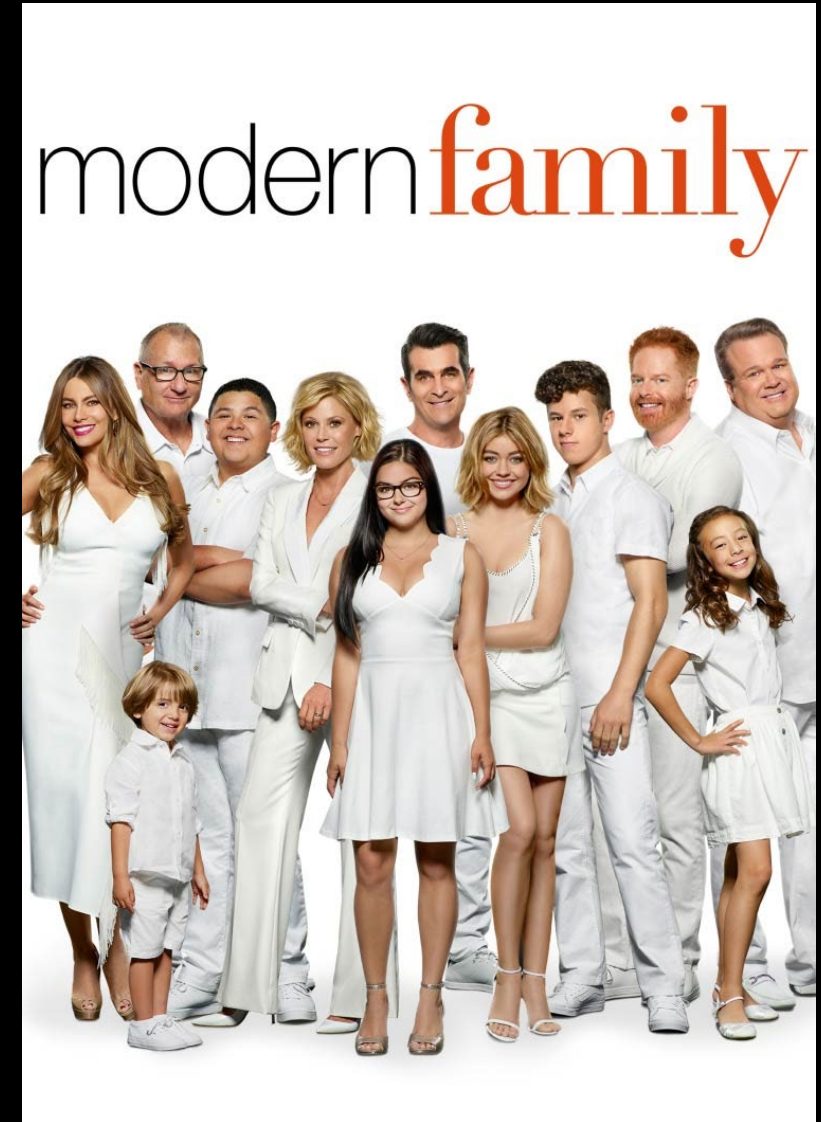
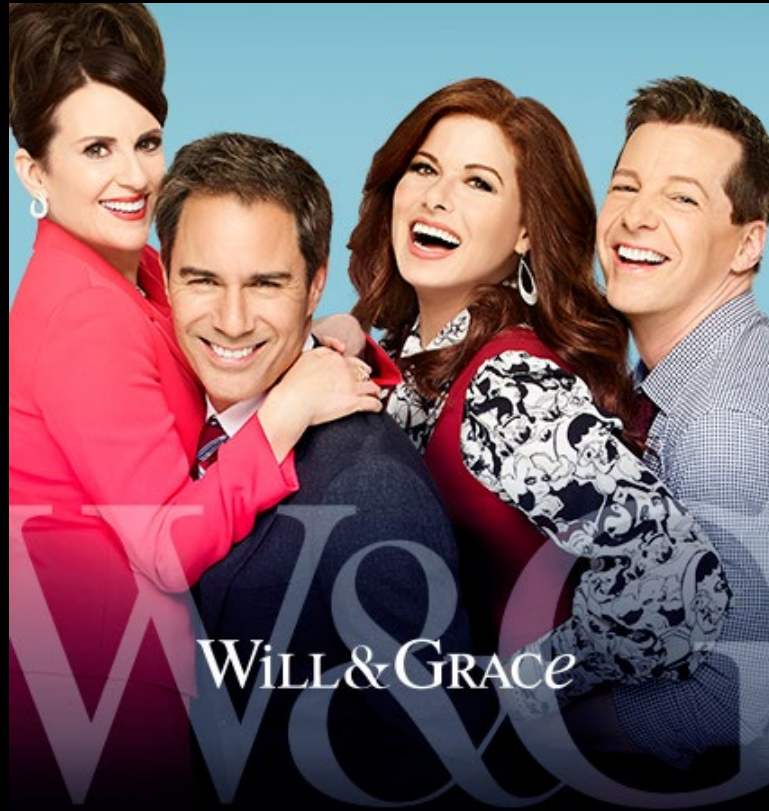


# FRIENDS – AND THE VALUE OF SEX

“Friends was a decade-long Hollywood experiment in testing the moral limits of Americans and desensitizing viewers to harmful sexual behavior. For starters, the show made a punch line out of casual sex and hookups and portrayed them as consequence-free. No STDs, no trips to the abortion clinic, no staring at their phones waiting for the one-night stand to call. Just a good laugh about fighting over the last condom in the apartment and a porn marathon.”

- Institute for Family Studies

# REDEFINING WHAT'S NORMAL



# AMUSING OURSELVES TO DEATH

“There are two ways by which the spirit of a culture may be shriveled. In the first—the Orwellian—culture becomes a prison. In the second—the Huxleyan—culture becomes a burlesque.”

- Neil Postman – *Amusing Ourselves to Death*

# AMUSING OURSELVES TO DEATH

“What Huxley teaches is that in the age of advanced technology, spiritual devastation is more likely to come from an enemy with a smiling face than from one whose countenance exudes suspicion and hate. In the Huxleyan prophecy, Big Brother does not watch us, by his choice. We watch him, by ours”.

- Neil Postman – *Amusing Ourselves to Death*





**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**



**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**



**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**



**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

A close-up photograph of a fly, possibly a hoverfly, perched on a bright yellow flower. The fly is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing left. Its wings are spread, showing intricate vein patterns. The flower has numerous long, narrow petals radiating from a central core. The background is a soft-focus mix of brown and green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting with soil and foliage. The text "PLANT YOUR GARDEN" is overlaid in the upper right quadrant in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

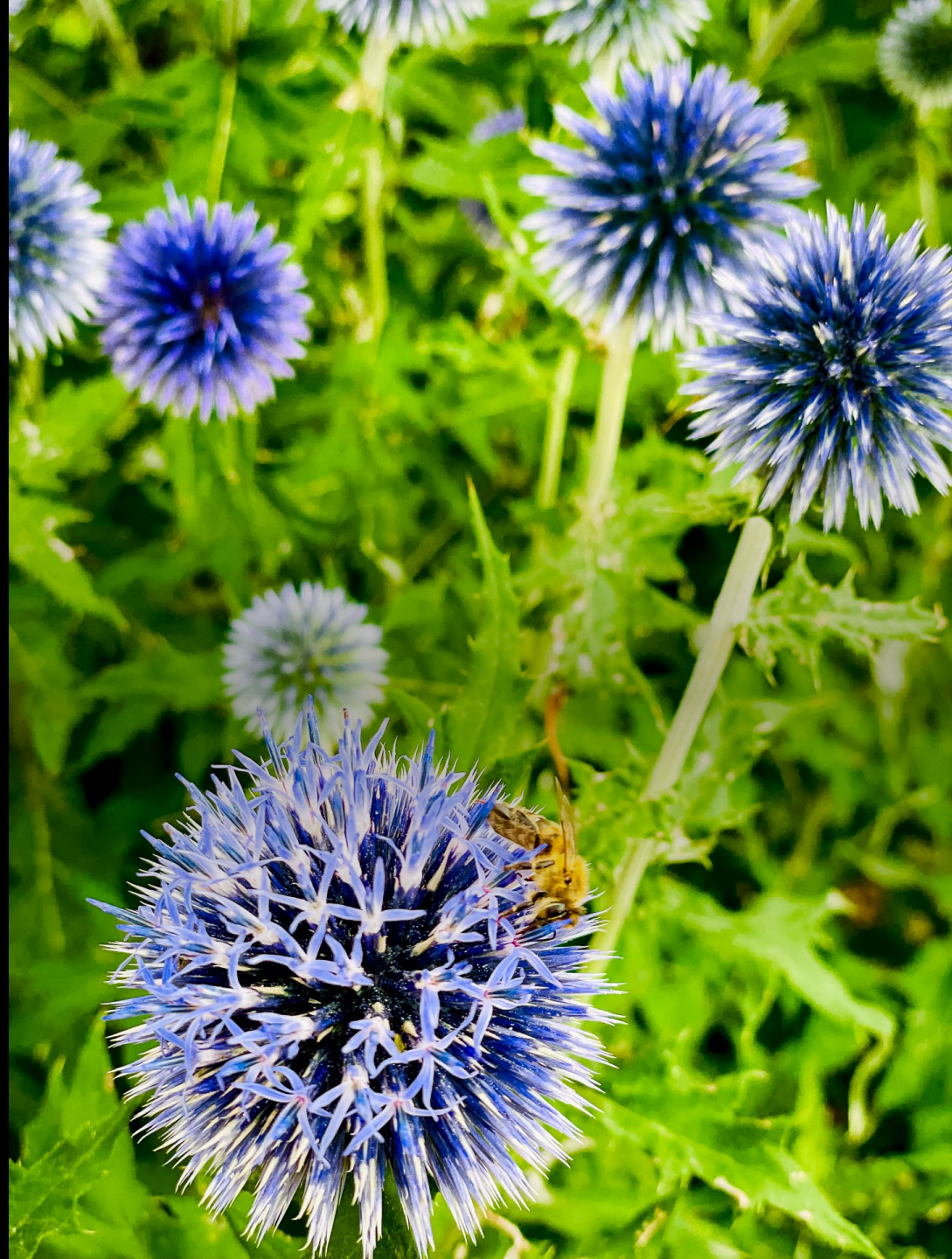
**PLANT YOUR GARDEN**

A close-up photograph of a bee on a yellow flower. The bee is positioned on the right side of the flower, facing left. The flower has many bright yellow petals. The background is a blurred mix of brown and green, suggesting a garden setting. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "PLANT YOUR GARDEN" and "TEND YOUR GARDEN" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**PLANT YOUR GARDEN  
TEND YOUR GARDEN**



**PLANT YOUR GARDEN  
TEND YOUR GARDEN  
BEAUTY OUTSIDE YOUR GARDEN**







**PLANT YOUR GARDEN**

**TEND YOUR GARDEN**

**BEAUTY OUTSIDE YOUR GARDEN**

**SPREAD YOUR GARDEN**



**PLANT YOUR GARDEN  
TEND YOUR GARDEN  
BEAUTY OUTSIDE YOUR GARDEN  
SPREAD YOUR GARDEN  
COMMUNITY GARDEN**

# A WAY FORWARD

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

- Philippians 4:8–9

**A FEW BONUS SLIDES ON  
EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM**

# AUTHENTICITY/EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

I mean the understanding of life which emerges with the Romantic expressivism of the late-eighteenth century, that each one of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity, and that it is important to find and live out one's own, as against surrendering to conformity with a model imposed on us from outside, by society, or the previous generation, or religious or political authority.

Charles Taylor – *A Secular Age*

# EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

1. The highest good is individual freedom, happiness, self-definition, and self-expression.
2. Traditions, religions, received wisdom, regulations, and social ties that restrict individual freedom, happiness, self-definition, and self-expression must be reshaped, deconstructed, or destroyed.

# EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

3. The world will inevitably improve as the scope of individual freedom grows. Technology—in particular the internet—will motor this progression toward utopia.

# EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

4. The primary social ethic is tolerance of everyone's self-defined quest for individual freedom and self-expression. Any deviation from this ethic of tolerance is dangerous and must not be tolerated. Therefore social justice is less about economic or class inequality, and more about issues of equality relating to individual identity, self-expression, and personal autonomy



# EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

5. Humans are inherently good.
6. Large-scale structures and institutions are suspicious at best and evil at worst.
7. Forms of external authority are rejected and personal authenticity is lauded.

- Mark Sayers - *Disappearing Church*