



99 Thoughts
for college-age people

insightful tips for life after high school

By Chuck Bomar



99 Thoughts for College-Age People

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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!).

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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



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