

Confused Yet?

The teenage years are a time of searching for role models and heroes. It is important for parents and youth workers to be aware of what role models are out there. Many modern role models are simply bad. Some are very confusing to youth.

The Model T



The Model T automobile was simple. It had an engine, a drive train, and a body. All three were essential. If one was missing. You would be right to question whether it was a Model T.

Likewise, Christianity can be said to have three main elements. To have a genuine "Model C" you need the right doctrine or beliefs, the right behavior or morality, and a living relationship with God.

The Model T might have some rust and need an oil change, but those are

minor faults. A Model C might gossip or feel unmotivated to pray now and then, but if its missing an essential, it's not really a Model C.

The Model C?

Miley Cyrus (a.k.a. Hannah Montana) is a seventeen-year-old Disney Channel superstar. She earned \$25 million in 2008, and was ranked fourth on Billboards Top Female Artists of 2009. Her latest movie, *The Last Song*, is in theaters now.

Miley Cyrus likes Jesus. That's good. And she is not afraid to express her faith. "Let me make it clear, though – I am a Christian. Jesus is who saved me. He's what keeps me full and whole."

The problem is that she has an underdeveloped understanding of Christian behavior. Young Christians who look to her as a model of faith will get something like Christianity, but not the full Model C.

In a recent interview with *Parade Magazine* she said, "My faith is very important to me, but I don't necessarily define my faith by going to church every Sunday. (She has stopped going.) I am very spiritual in

my own way. Everyone is entitled to what they believe and what keeps them full."

Being spiritual in her own way has meant mixing some good things – like a commitment, for now, to sexual abstinence until marriage – with some serious compromises.

At the 2009 Teen Choice awards she included a pole dance in her routine. On that, she says: "I would do that pole dance a thousand times again, because it was right for the song and that performance. Dude, I choose! My job first is to entertain and do what I love, and if you don't



like it, then change the channel. But, dude, if you think dancing on top of an ice cream cart with a pole is bad, then go check what 90% of the high schoolers are really up to."

This isn't much of an upward call. She goes on to justify her dance with a favorite teen argument: "I don't know if a lot of parents remember what they were like as kids. But I'm like, 'Dude, as if you were an angel!'"

"Christians don't live in the dark. I have to participate in life. If I wear something revealing, they go, 'Well, that's not Christian.' And I'm like, 'Yeah, I'm going to go to hell because I'm wearing a pair of really short white shorts.' Suddenly I'm a slut. That's so old school."

It is no help to call her derogatory names, but I strongly suspect Jesus is "old-school" when it comes to modesty. Our youth deserve the full Model C.

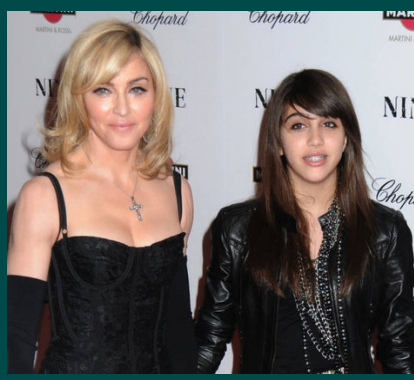


NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS EXPECTING



Madonna, who recently completed her *Sticky and Sweet World Tour*, thinks her daughter dresses too sexually. She said, "If anything, I wish she'd dress more conservatively, How's that for irony?"

So which one is wearing black underwear in public?



Vocabulary

Ironic: incongruent, an outcome of events contrary to what was, or might have been, expected.

Celibacy: abstinence from sex



He is a 16-year-old whose YouTube video went viral and has been seen by most every 11-

year-old girl. He has one million followers on Twitter and is gaining 10,000 more each day. His first album was released in November. He



has the number one and number eight hits on Billboard's Top 200. He is the youngest male to top the charts since Stevie Wonder in 1963. He is being raised by his 34-year-old mother, a professed Christian.



The rest of Lady Gaga's outfit, not pictured, is a bikini bottom

At a Viva Glam event in London, Lady Gaga, pictured at left, said, "When you're in the public eye, you're a role model whether you want to be or not. And I want to be. ...I can't believe I'm saying this: don't have

sex. It's not really cool any more to have sex all the time. It's cooler to be strong and independent," she said. "It's OK not to have sex, it's OK to get to know people. *I'm celibate, celibacy's fine.*"

Email me if you'd like Lady Gaga to give a talk to your youth group on celibacy.



LOOKING FOR A NEW ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG GIRLS?

I was recently in the lobby of a cinema and saw a poster for a film featuring a new young female super hero named Hit Girl. I went home and researched it on the internet. I discovered she is a comic book character featured in the movie *Kick Ass*. She is a ten-year-old assassin with a mouth worse than a sailor. She shoots, she stabs, she bayonets and kills people without regret, calling them c***s. She's a ten year old killing machine without a conscience.

The movie is rated *R* for for strong brutal violence throughout, expletive language, sexual content, nudity, and drug use involving children." It has received positive reviews for empowering women.

It is clearly aimed at teens and pre-teens and soon will be seen by far too many of them.

Write to us at: kairos.editor@gmail.com