

**Perspectives of Science
amongst Asian Americans
and
Applicable Implications
to Reaching the broader Younger
Generations for Christ**

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College Ministry



Various
nationalities

Different
views

Several perspectives
on human sexuality

Diverse
pursuits
in life

Two major studies on the challenges that young people face in the traditional church



2010-2011, *'You Lost Me'*, Barna Group, David Kinnaman



'2011-2012 National Korean-American Church Survey in the USA and Canada', Korean-American Immigrant Theology, Dr. Sang-Cheol Oh

Elements that disconnect young people from the church

You lost me

1. Overprotective
2. Shallow
3. **Anti-Science**
4. Repressive
5. Exclusive
6. Doubtless

Korean-American church survey

- ◇ Overprotective, Shallow, Repressive, Exclusive, Doubtless...

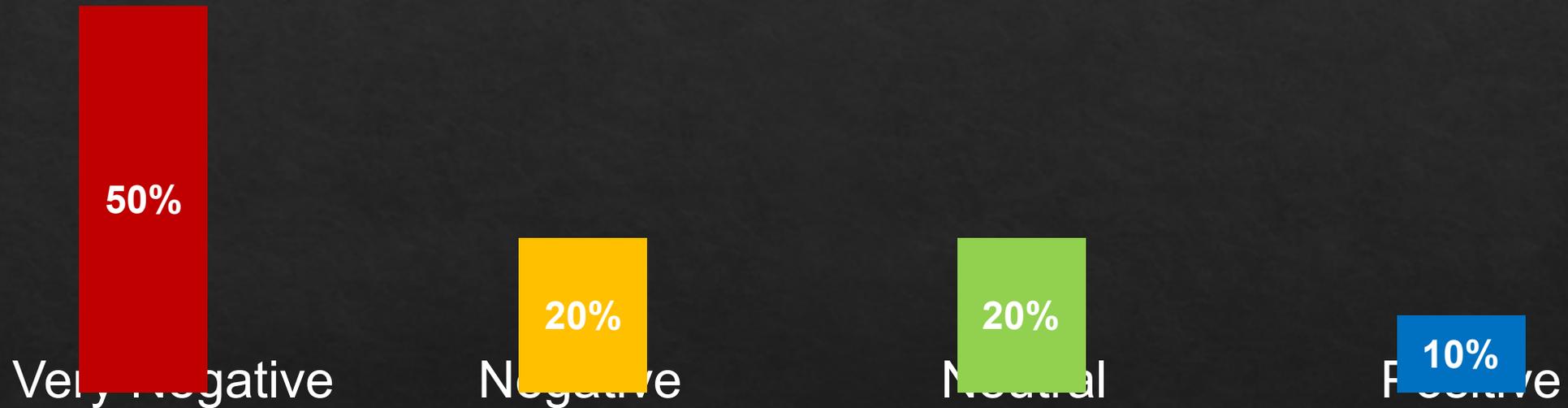
- ◇ What are their perspectives on **Science**?

Korean immigrant church communities

- ◇ Knowing that many 2nd generation Korean-American young Christians are science-minded...
- ◇ What are their perspectives on **Science**?

Focus Group of Korean-American Teens

One indicator question: What is your personal opinion about the theory of Evolution that you learn from the school?



Conservative yet,

80.3% of church-growing young people leave their church life after high school.

The biggest reason of leaving the church life
The lack of hope and vision for our spirituality

The teens' major challenges in their church life under 1st generation leadership

- Authoritarianism of the leadership
- Cultural disconnection

Teens' responses tell that:

- They cannot ask certain questions (like evolution, sexuality, etc.) in the church.
- A fair dialogue will not happen because of the closed-mindset of the first generation Christians.

- ◇ *The 2nd generation Korean-American teens' seemingly conservative expressions on some theological aspects does not mean that they are free from having the same struggles, conflicts, and questions when it comes to science and faith as other teens do.*

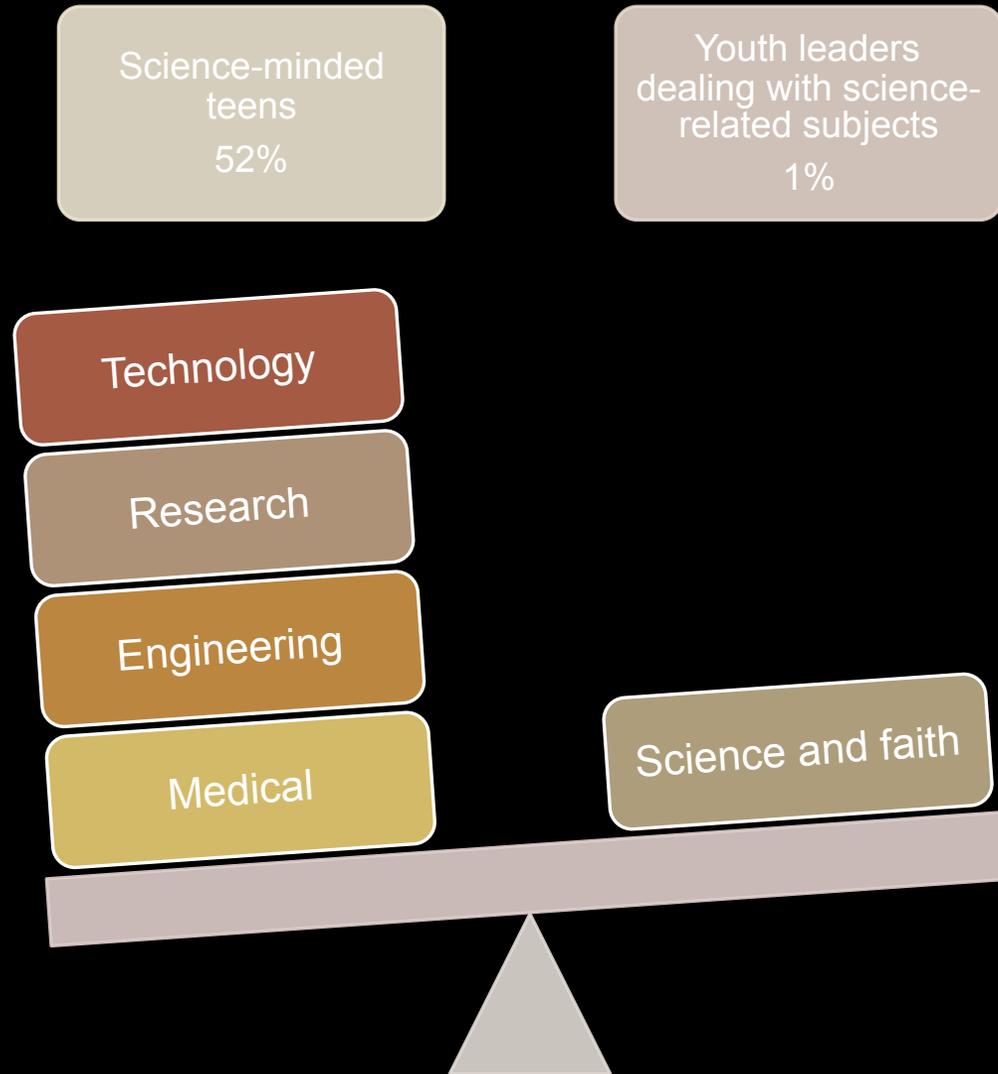
Cultural reality of all communities

- Science has come to define our culture.
- Many scientists today enjoy rock star status.
- Scientific single vision (scientism) has come to dominate our culture.
- Even questioning the authority of science with teens is dangerous.

Science is shaping young adults' perceptions of the church.

Church Reality

(from Barna Group 2008 Youth Leader Poll and 2009 Youth Poll)



Church is
Losing too many young scientists

- Compartmentalizing spiritual pursuits away from career
- Resentment towards church for “forcing” the choice between science and faith
- Misunderstood by both secular scientific world and conservative Christians

Losing faith because of college experience? NO!

Studies show that:

***Most teens have already made the decision to
leave the church life***

before they graduate high school.

How do we reconcile this with the mission of the Church?

To develop young leaders who can capably serve in a science age, but not be so habituated to scientism that faith becomes untenable

Response as a scientist in congregations:

- ◆ Initiate involvement of the church leadership
- ◆ Constantly make yourself available for questions
- ◆ Turn anti-science into stewardship, calling, and mission

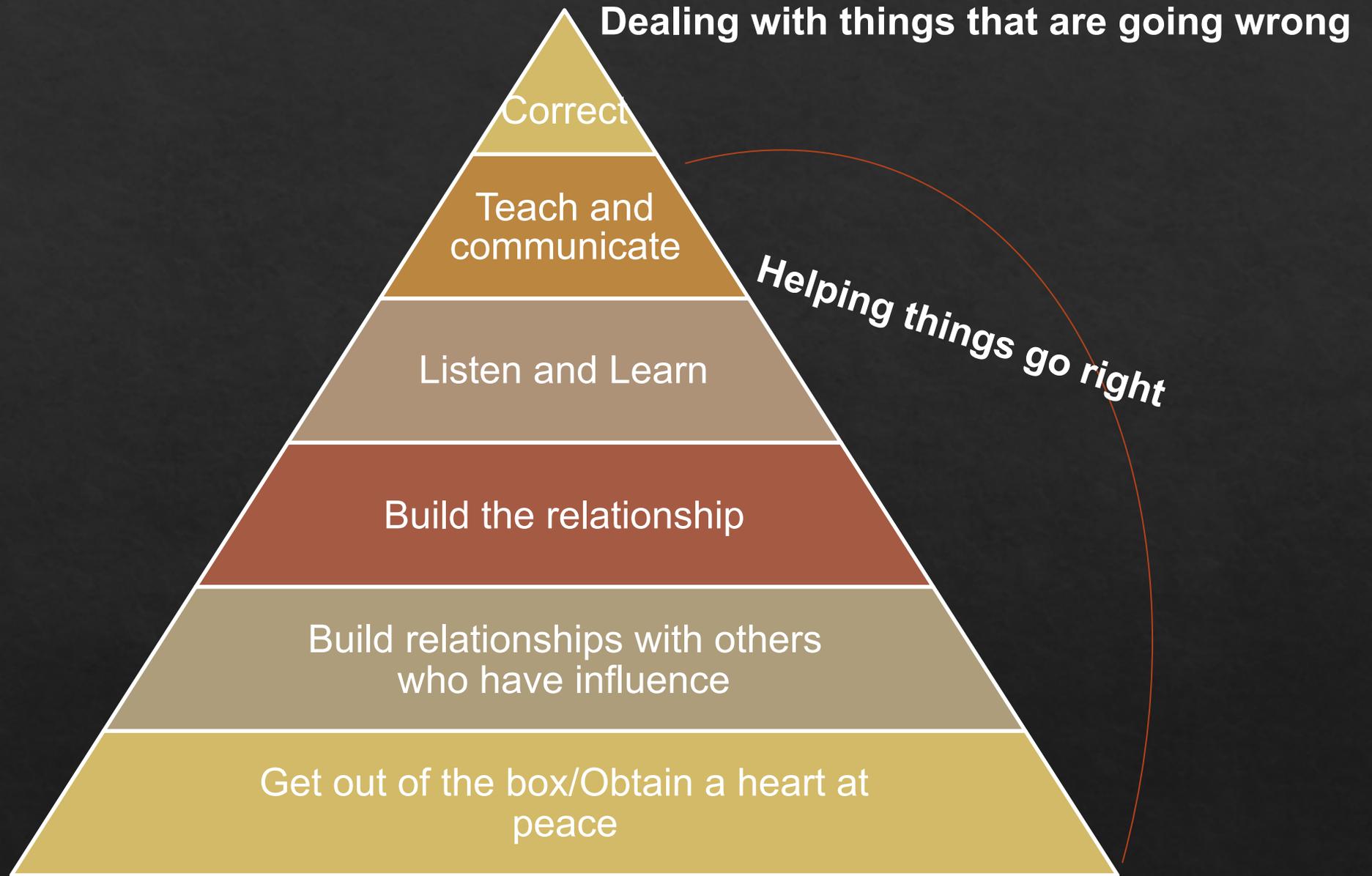
Suggestions for church leaders

1. Develop rapport

◇ “He (Jesus) appointed twelve, that they may be with him...”

◇

Mark 3:14a



From The Anatomy of Peace by the Arbinger Institute

2. Articulate Communication

“Our task is not just to say the word, to tell the truth, but to get the truth heard, to effect a new hearing of the word among those who have been repeatedly exposed to it.”

- Fred B. Craddock, “Overhearing the Gospel”

Ravi Zacharias, Christian apologist

Three Stages of Truth Communication

1. **Argument (logical explanation through reasoning)**
2. **Arts (for illustration)**
3. **Table talk (for Application)**

3. SERVE PEOPLE, NOT JUST THE CAUSE

“The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all.”

(Acts 10:36 NKJV)

Summary

1. Get to know the young people in the church.
2. Help them to think well.
3. Let Grace and Truth work together.

Thank you