How Religious Are You?

That's actually a pretty important question for parents. Some of us don't like the label “religious,” so let's put it a different way: how highly do you prioritize the activities that are distinctive of the Christian life?

Current research shows that the factor that correlates most strongly with adolescents growing in their faith and remaining committed to Christ into adulthood is how “religious” their parents are. More to the point, it's how religious the teens perceive their parents to be. The specific, measurable activities include weekly attendance at church, personal prayer, and studying the Scriptures. The more aware your children are of how you prioritize these things, the more they will know how serious you are about your faith, and the more likely they are to stay serious about their faith.

What do we do with information like that? Here are a few ideas: think way ahead; what beliefs do you hold that have made a positive difference in your life and do you want to pass these on to your children and grandchildren for their benefit; or if you are already regularly studying Scripture and spending time in private prayer, make sure your kids know about, observe it, and see its effect on you. Don't worry, this isn't a case of doing your acts of righteousness before men to be seen by them (as Jesus warns in Matthew 6). It's a case of living your faith openly as a model to your kids, so they will learn from you....that’s a good thing; and when on vacation, make a point of worshiping at a church wherever you are, every Sunday.

Scripture for Meditation
Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ~Ephesians 5:15-17~