

# Only 1 in 3 Young Born-Again Evangelicals Believe Jesus Is Only Way to Heaven, Apologist Says

By [Stoyan Zaimov](#), Christian Post Reporter

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CHARLOTTE, North Carolina – Young American born-again believers are moving away from a biblically-centered worldview, with only one in three affirming that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, according to Steve Cable, senior vice president of Probe Ministries.

“We need to admit (that there’s a problem),” Cable said on Friday at a session titled “What Do [Young] American Believers Really Believe and How Do We Save Them From Cultural Captivity?” at Southern Evangelical Seminary’s 20th annual Christian Apologetics conference in Charlotte, N.C.

“Don’t go around with your blinders thinking that everything is fine. We have a lot of people that aren’t born again, so there’s a lot of work to do. But then you look at the born-again and see that we have even more work to do.”

Cable, who recently published *Cultural Captives: The Beliefs and Behavior of American Young Adults*, focused the session on what he called “emerging adults,” or young believers between 18-29 years old. He disputed arguments that evangelicals are well-positioned and that their numbers in America haven’t changed much in the last 35 years, and brought up the work by sociologist [Christian Smith](#), who is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society and the Center for Social Research at the University of Notre Dame.

According to Cable, in books such as *Souls in Transition* and *Lost in Transition*, Smith identified five disturbing patterns found in emerging adults. The sociologist argued that most emerging adults are morally adrift – their morals are personal and subjective; they are captive to consumerism; they have little civic and political engagement; they believe that sex is not a moral issue, and they engage in intoxication, or fake feeling of happiness.

“We need to focus on the upcoming generations, saving the lost, saving the captive believers. Don’t stop when they leave high school. Most people’s brains are not fully formed until they are in their early 20s,” Cable said.

Several studies in recent times have tried to analyze the questions young Christians are struggling with, and why many of them are leaving the church. Bestselling author Eric Metaxas shared in an article posted in [The Christian Post](#) in July what one student who has left the faith once said: “Christianity is something that if you really believed it, it would change your life and you would want to change [the lives] of others. I haven’t seen too much of that.”

Metaxas noted that such remarks are “pretty sobering.”

“This puts the ball in our court. Are we living lives that show our children that we actually believe what we say we believe?” he asked.

In his presentation on Friday, Cable analyzed a number of charts and graphs, including work done by Barna Research, Christian Smith, the General Social Survey, and the Baylor Religion Survey, which mostly came to the same conclusions about ...

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