



## 2019 February Sermon Series: Generation

### Message #3 – Your Generation Affects Your Formation

#### Getting the Nod

#### Video Clip: **Technology Generation Gap**

**We're so glad you're all here today... in the house and online.** Thank you for showing up and tuning in.

- Welcome home to all our regular attenders. You make our church family a strong and effective church by seeking to be a fully devoted disciple of the Lord. Thank you for being here.
- Welcome first-time guests! Our desire is for you to find this place a spiritual place where you can encounter Jesus Christ and feel at home with the rest of us.
- Another cool thing is that because there are many new guests attending church now, so many of you have become new and first-time givers!! Just want to thank you for believing in what God is doing here. Your generosity... along with others... makes our ministry possible and is truly impacting the world.

Today we are continuing our series called, “Generations”, and the purpose of this series is to hear from the Lord how every generational culture can work together in God’s house to increase our effectiveness and not fall into the trap of a generational divide. **There are differences in our generations because of how we grew up...**

#### **Famous Movie Quotes of the Generations: Name that movie...**

- “I’m going to make him an offer he can’t refuse!”
- “Yo... Adrian!!”
- “To boldly go where no man has gone before!!!”
- From what generation did those come from? **Baby Boomers!**

#### **How about these...**

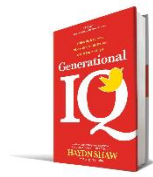
- “Fear does not exist in this dojo... does it? No sensei!!”
- “1.21 gigawatts?”
- “You can’t handle the truth!”
- From what generation? **Generation X.**

#### **Try this...**

- “To infinity and beyond!”
- “Frodo... I wish this ring had never come to me!”
- “She called me a noble steed!”
- This generation... **Millennials.**

**Transition:** And by the way, if you're wondering where to find a lot of the information that I am sharing... you can get the book **"Generational IQ"** by Haydn Shaw...

## Connecting the Congregation



**Generational IQ by Haydn Shaw.** Most of the information that I am using comes from a book by Haydn Shaw and a pastor by the name of Jeff Metzger. It is an excellent book on navigating the generational differences and understanding how each culture of a generation can be used by God to save and solidify the people in it. It is worth your time to check it out.

IN this book you can find out what are the strengths and weaknesses of your generation... and how your generation affects your secular life... family life... and even your relationship with God. Let's look at some of that generational information...

### Slides for Media

#### What influenced the Silent / Traditionalists?

- The Great Depression
- World War II
- Urbanization: moving from farms to towns.
- Belief in the experts.

#### What are the Traditionalist's Strengths?

- They cooperate.
- They serve with low expectations.
- They give financially.

#### What are the Traditionalist's Temptations?

- They lose their purpose in retirement.
- They cling to the past.
- They tend to lecture a lot.

#### What influenced the baby Boomers?

- The Baby Boom
- Affluence
- Television
- The shift from sacrifice to self.

#### What are the Boomer's Strengths?

- Individualism that accomplishes
- Moving religion to relationship
- A desire to make the world better.

#### What are the temptations of the Boomers?

- "Me Too" Hyper-Individualism

- A lack of loyalty
- Placing psychology over theology.

### **What influenced the Generation X?**

- Divorce and blending of families
- Downward trend in economy and mobility
- Skepticism of authority and family

### **What are the Gen Xer's Strengths?**

- Value community over individualism
- They see spiritual value in all of life
- They value family and life over work. (Latchkey kids)

### **What are the temptations of the Gen Xer's?**

- They build their own truth.
- They tend to be cynical of the parental failures

### **What were the Millennials Influenced By?**

- Heavy parental involvement
- The consumer age
- Technology is used everywhere
- Slower process into adulthood

### **What are the strengths of Millennials?**

- They desire meaning in their lives
- They are care about authenticity
- They work well with a team concept.

### **What are the temptations of the Millennials?**

- There are contradictions in their morality.
- They misunderstand the importance of the church.
- They have a hacked Christianity.

### **Let me now share some information about what our baby's generation will look like...**

- Over one-half of babies today will live to 100 years of age. (Medical advances)
- They will be overwhelmed with an incredible amount of information and global human interaction. They will be the most educated generation in history.
- Our babies will be shaped by the strengths and temptations of their own generation.
- This generation will be the most aware of terrorism than any before them and will live this fear out in real time because of technology.
- **The real question... will your babies discover what matters most in life? And will we work together as church and families to teach them what matters most?**

**It is time for our generations to work together to leave a legacy at home, at church, at work, and in our world!**

**Week #1 – Make faith your family business.**

**Week #2 – What can we do to bless and appreciate the other generations?**

**This week – The world was changing before under every generation and it will continue to do so in the next generations.**

**Transition: The question for this week: How can we anchor our souls to something that never changes? The answer is found in four words... FIGHT FOR YOUR FAITH!!!**

### God's Take

**Because each generation has temptations... Proverbs 16:25 needs to be learned...NKJV | Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.**

### How Does My Generation Affect My Formation?

#### 1. Every generation fights a hijacked faith.

NLT | Ro 1:25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

##### Generational Distortions of Faith:

- Traditionalists battled religion over relationship.
- Boomers battled psychology over theology.
- Xer's battled relativism over truth.
- Millennials battle grace over truth.

#### 2. Every generation must wrestle with faith. (1 Timothy 6:2)

NLT | 1 Timothy 6:2 If the masters are believers, that is no excuse for being disrespectful. Those slaves should work all the harder because their efforts are helping other believers who are well loved. Teach these things, Timothy, and encourage everyone to obey them.

- What you have here is a diversity issue of faith. In other words, Paul is exhorting Timothy to teach the Christian slaves to fight and wrestle through the daily walk of faith... and not focus on the speck of other's faith... but work on their own mote in their eye. **And to show respect for authority and obedience. This is wrestling!!!**

#### 3. Every generation needs to share their genuine faith so all will fight for it. (Ps 78:4)

- NLT | Ps 78:4 We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.
- If we don't fight for our faith... our children won't

#### 4. Every generation should desire to own their own genuine faith. (Psalm 78:7)

- NLT | Ps 78:7 **So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.**
- Make it your faith. I need to make it my faith!!! Own it!!

**Transition:** This message is an urgent cry for generational and unified Christianity! We need to revisit the verse in Hebrews 11:7...

### Relevant Challenge

NKJV | Heb 11:7 **By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household... and also Paul's words in 2 Timothy 4...**

NLT | 2 Timothy 4:7 **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.**

**How Should We Fight for Our Faith?** (There is no such thing as birthright Christianity!!!)

1. **In your church involvement.** Where do you grow the most to learn how to fight? Being with God's Family! The Church.

NLT | Heb 10:25 **And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**

- **The challenge** is for you to add one more service a month for the fellowship and encouragement.

2. **In your Bible ingestion.**

NLT | Ps 119:11 **I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

- **The challenge** is to **internalize** the Bible by having an intentional time with God. So I challenge all of us to ready every day. For those struggling to get it in... we tell all of those in our Journey Class to ***The First 15... spend 5 minutes in the Bible; 5 minutes in worship; and 5 minutes in prayer. Get started tomorrow!!***
- Get it on your phone. Get it on your devices. Get a hard copy... free if you need.
- Get in a Christian Education Class or small group.

3. **In your personal and corporate prayer.**

- Just a conversation with God. Don't complicate it. Follow the First 15 Model! Tell Him your hurts, fears, struggles... and then get quiet and let God speak into your heart. **The challenge** is to set time aside every day to have a talk with God. Not talking about meal-time... but real -time.

4. **In your service to Jesus.**

NLT | Mt 5:16 **In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.**

- Serve for Jesus. Serve for those who follow you. Serve for fulfillment. Start with HMC.

### **Final Illustration: Marathoner Comes in Last—for a Purpose**

There were over 26,000 runners in the 2016 Boston Marathon. I don't have the name of the winner... but I do have the name of the 72-year-old lady who finished last... Fran Drozdz. The roaring crowds had departed. Workers were still tearing down the stands and barricades when she crossed the finish line at 8:45 p.m.

**But the real story is not her last place finish; it's about who she was running for.** Fran has run in more than 75 marathons throughout her life, and she ran the Boston Marathon this year for the cause of cancer. Her husband is currently battling cancer, and he met her with a medal at the finish line. He had called the police earlier in the day, thinking his wife might have gotten lost or hurt. As one media outlet reported, **"It turns out this race's 'loser' is quite the winner." She did it for him. No fanfare. No marketing. No accolades. She did it for him.**

**Transition:** To all the generations here today and watching via live stream... **Let's do it for Him!!!** If you want to pray this morning about God's place in your life... let's do it now.

This Sermon Series is partially adapted from the book "Generational IQ" by Haydn Shaw and a sermon by  
Pastor Jeff Metzger