

Challenges Facing Our Generation

Goal: to become Christ-centered, counter-cultural, church-building disciples with resilient faith

Rom. 12:2 Do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Challenge 1: Truth—reality is thought to be relative and subjective

Eph. 4:15 Speaking the truth in love...

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Phil. 1:9-10 This I pray, that your love may abound... in full knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve by testing the things which differ and are more excellent...

Challenge 2: Identity—we define ourselves by how we feel and by what we accomplish

2 Cor. 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away...

Phil. 3:20 Our citizenship exists in the heavens...

Phil. 2:15 ...In the midst of a crooked and perverted generation... you shine as luminaries in the world.

Challenge 3: Anxiety—the accelerated complexities of our digital age are spiritually choking

Matt. 13:22 The one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Phil. 4:6-7 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Challenge 4: Delayed adulthood—self-centeredness prevents joy-filling service to others

Phil. 2:20-21 ...No one... will genuinely care for what concerns you; for all seek their own things...

Phil. 1:25 ...I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith.

Phil. 4:1 ...My brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown...

Challenge 5: Friendship—isolation, distraction, and idealism undermine meaningful relationships

3 John 14 I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face... The friends greet you...

Phil. 2:2-3 ...Think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul... doing nothing by way of selfish ambition... but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves.