

# Multigenerational Church Challenges

Why We Don't Understand Each Other and How to Unite in Mission



“I have no greater joy than to know that my children walk in truth.”

III John 4

# **I. Our Current Losses**

## **A. Loss of Truth**

“I have no greater joy than to know that my children walk in truth.”

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# **I. Our Current Losses**

A. Loss of Truth

**B. Loss of Youth**

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# **I. Our Current Losses**

A. Loss of Truth

B. Loss of Youth

C. Loss of Mature

“I have no greater joy than to know that my children walk in truth.”

III John 4

## **I. Our Current Losses**

A. Loss of Truth

B. Loss of Youth

C. Loss of Mature

**D. Loss of Majority**

# Population Percentages by Religious Perception WWII-2000

<b>Atheist</b>	<b>3–7%</b>
<b>Other Religions</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Mainline Protestant</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Evangelical</b>	<b>33%</b>

**Current Population Percentages**  
as Indicated by *Self-Reported* Religious Affiliation

<b>Atheist</b>	<b>3–7%</b>
<b>Other Religions</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>Nones (nonaffiliated but “spiritual”)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Mainline Protestant</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Evangelical</b>	<b>24%</b>

# **Population Percentages of Weekly Worship Attenders as Indicated by Cell Phone Data**

<b>Not attending worship weekly</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Attending worship weekly</b>	<b>5%</b>

# Cell Phone Patterns of Church Attendance



## **II. Effects of Generational Differences**

A. Majority Generation Mission Perceptions

B. Minority Generation Mission Perceptions

# Comparison of Generational Expectations and Issues

	Evangelicals Ages 50s+	Evangelicals Ages 40s-
<b>Perception</b>	“We are (or were) a <i>majority</i> ” in a <i>Christian</i> Culture	“We are a <i>minority</i> ” in a <i>Pluralistic</i> Culture
<b>Mission</b>	<u>Take control</u> of culture	Make credible our faith
<b>Means</b>	Bring a <i>halt</i> to . . .	Help with . . .

# Comparison of Generational Expectations and Issues

<b>Evangelicals Ages 50s+</b>	<b>Evangelicals Ages 40s-</b>
Abortion	Adoption and foster care
Homosexual agenda	LGBTQ+ witness
Pornography	Sex-addicted and -trafficked
Illegal drugs	Addiction counseling & rescue
Gambling	Gaming & gambling addictions
Green movements	Creation care
Illegal immigration	Refugee compassion & care
Racial discrimination	Racial reconciliation & justice

# Comparisons of Generational **Loss**

A. Evangelicals Ages 50+

- **Loss of Influence**

B. Evangelicals Ages 40-

- **Loss of Acceptance**

C. All Evangelicals

- **“Zeal of Loss”**

(Echoing in Benedict or Boniface Solutions)

(Magnified by Politics and Social Media)

# Depth of Differences Revealed

- Different Heroes

J, Falwell/P. Robertson

D. James Kennedy

James Dobson

(F. Schaeffer/C. Colson)

Tim Keller

Ed Stetzer

Russell Moore

Beth Moore

Doug Wilson

John MacArthur

- Different Priorities (Same Scripture)

**Rescue those who are being taken away to death;  
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.  
If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it,  
and will he not repay man according to his work?**

Proverbs 24:11-12

# III. Our Future Hope

## A. Spiritual Principles Shared

- Loyalty to Scripture
- Sanctity of Life (esp. Imago Dei)
- Commitment to Mission

# Comparison of Generational Expectations and Issues

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# III. Our Future Hope

## A. Spiritual Principles Shared

## B. Spiritual Trends/Opportunities Present

- Rising Generation Trends
- Growing Church Trends
- New Spiritual Dynamics

# III. Our Future Hope

A. Spiritual Principles Shared

B. Spiritual Trends/Opportunities Present

- **Rising Generation Trends**

  - Millennial (35-45) Return

  - Gen Z (13-30) Interest (esp. Male)

  - Promiscuity and Drug Rates Dropping

# III. Our Future Hope

## A. Spiritual Principles Shared

## B. Spiritual Trends/Opportunities Present

- Rising Generation Trends
- Growing Church Trends (Spiritually Alive)

Large

Immigrant

Blended

Parish/New

Sunbelt

Boutique

### III. Our Future Hope

A. Spiritual Principles Shared

B. Spiritual Trends/Opportunities Present

- Rising Generation Trends
- Growing Church Trends
- **New Spiritual Dynamics**

Plateau of the “Nones”

Death of “New Atheism”

Openness to Spiritual Conversations

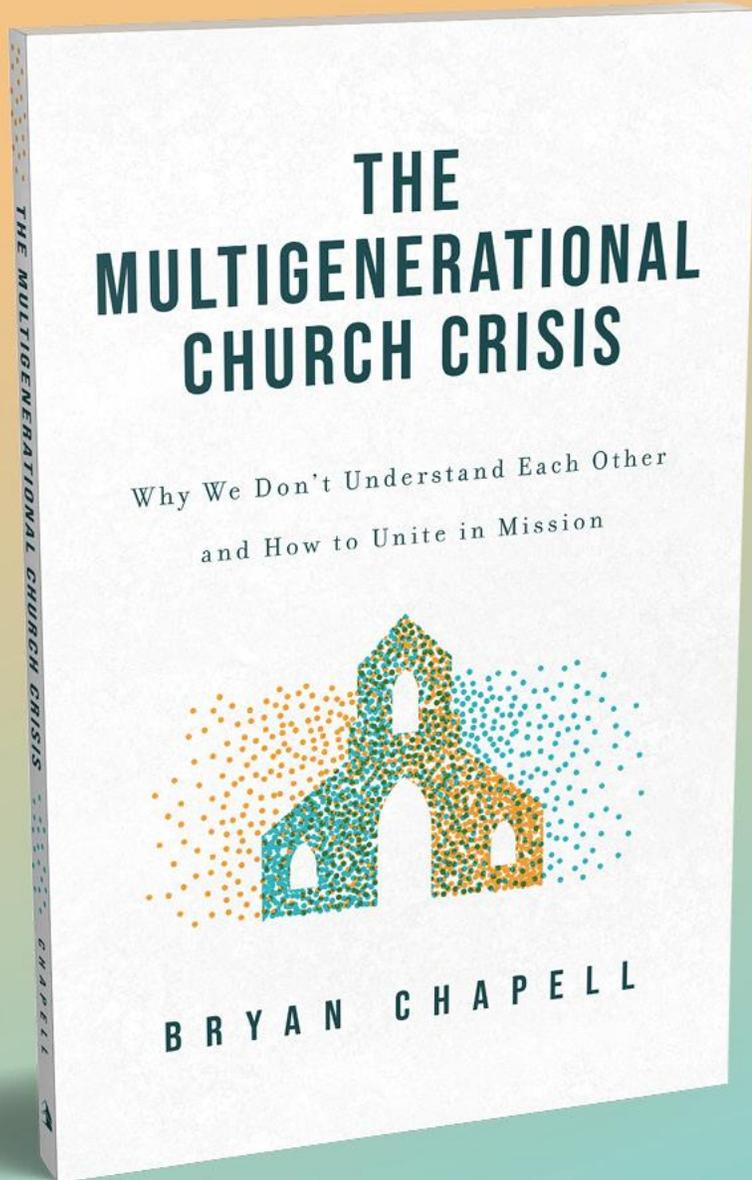
# III. Our Future Hope

A. Spiritual Principles Shared

B. Spiritual Trends/Opportunities Present

C. Spiritual Power Evident

- Globally
- Nationally
- Personally



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