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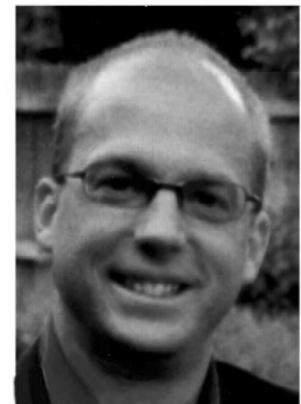
From the Lone Ranger to a Pierced Stranger

Understanding the Different Generations

presented by

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The
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Generations in the United States

Matures (born prior to 1946)
Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)
Generation X (born 1965-1980)
Millennials (born 1981-1999)

Generational Themes

Matures

Overcoming adversity
Thriftiness
Loyalty
Sacrifice for the common good
Respectful of authority
Honor and integrity
Resistant to change

Boomers

A general sense of optimism
Willingness to bet on future earnings
Nostalgic for youthful endeavors
Focus on the newest and the best
Still believe they can change the world
Used to being the favored generation

Generation X

Watched the world around betray them
Do not suffer fools
Little affinity for Boomers
Resourceful due to bouts with adversity
Comfortable with confrontation
Lifelong skepticism
Large network of friends/acquaintances
Adaptable

Millennials

Belief that life should be fun and entertaining
Technology junkies
General sense of optimism
America's next great generation?
Sheltered and favored as children
Confident, yet pressured
Ultra-connected
Accepting of diversity

Worship Expectations

Matures

Expect loyalty to tradition
Loyal to the institutional church and “brick and mortar”
Look for simple and direct answers
Deliberate in their decisions
Initially trusting, but will never return if the resulting worship is poor or insensitive
Consider themselves frugal and would rather fix something than replace it

Boomers

Becoming impulsive because of time constraints
Lovers of convenience
Love personalized worship
Love to be the expert, yet can be overwhelmed by choices
Believe they deserve good worship because they are Boomers

Generation X

Innately skeptical of institutional church claims
Thoroughly research churches and worship prior to entering sanctuary
Comfortable challenging leadership
Xers value authenticity
They consult their peers before making significant decisions

Millennials

Have grown up hearing about the worship wars being preached on every corner
Tend to be highly influenced by their friends and worship in groups
Experience-oriented and cultural diverse
80% of 18-19 year-olds say for a worship service to be “cool,” it must be of high quality
Are comfortable speaking their minds about worship
Are sometimes there just for the entertainment

Providing Intergenerational Worship

Be careful of assumptions based on your own experiences of worship
Observe non-verbal behavior
Take your time in determining needs and desires
Ask questions about the person’s expectation of worship
Verify that you are providing the service they desire
Read and Listen outside your comfort zone

Remember...

Matures —	Deliberately faithful
Boomers —	Impulsive and convenient
Xers —	Skeptical and thorough
Millennials —	Impatient and influenced by friends

Jeff VanKooten is a senior consultant for The Center for Generational Studies and specializes in exploring the interface between cultural change and biblical faith. He holds a Masters of Theology degree from Denver Seminary. He may be contacted at jeff@mazeway.org