THE INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH
CHURCH: Definition

• Greek: Ekklesia: “Congregation” “Called Out”
• Word was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens gathered to discuss the affairs of state.
• Christian churches come in an array of sizes, locations, beliefs, organizational structure and missions.
• With about 320,000 Protestant churches, more than 18,000 Catholic parishes, and more than 50,000 house churches, open in the U.S. church options abound
• While these are diverse, they hold several elements in common:

(“Churchless” / Barna)
CHURCH: A Place of:

- Godly relationships
- Good works affecting communities
- Peace
- Worship
- Christian Education
- Christian Witness
- Mentoring
- Unity
- Faith Focus
- Training
- Fellowship
INTRODUCTION

• “Many church leaders do not understand that generational differences and misunderstandings put their churches at risk.”
• “Without healthy intergenerational interaction most churches will become isolated and marginalized.”
• “While many churches are multigenerational, many of the generations act like ships in the night that pass by one another, but rarely have meaningful contact and interaction.” - Menconi
Generations

It is generally accepted that a new generation starts about every 17-20 years.

“There is the possibility of 6 generations attending a church’s worship service and activities each week.”
“GI” Generation
1906 -1924
“The Greatest Generation”

The Great Depression; WWI; WWII

Heroic/Leaders
Leaders and Founders of post-WWII Institutions
Learn as you go
Security-Minded
Survivors
GI Bill

Billy Sunday/ Billy Graham
Cadillac/ Father’s Oldsmobile

Experienced Tremendous Change
Senior Citizens

JFK; Ronald Reagan; Judy Garland; Walt Disney; Bob Hope

Suburbia
WWII to www.com

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Generational Issues

GI Generation

- Maintain independence as long as possible
- Work to make your resources last as long as possible
- Minimize end-of-life suffering for themselves and family
- Pass on wisdom to others
- Getting ready for Afterlife
The ‘Silent’ Generation
1925 - 1943

- WWII/ Post-War Prosperity/ Cold War/ Korean War
- Corporate
- More Managers Than Leaders
- Job Security
- Richest Generation
- Stay-at-home Moms
- Institutions are Important
- Loyal
- Service-Minded
- Retired and Retiring
- Buick/ RV
- Abused/ Confused
- New Life Stage Adjustment
- Hymns/ Organ/ Choir
- Sunday School
- Church Joiners/Supporters

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Generational Issues

Silent Generation

- Make money last
- Use extra time productively
- Retire or Rewire?
- Downsize?
- Stay health
- Relocate?
- Sage or Curmudgeon?
Boomer Generation
1944-62

Civil Rights/ Vietnam War/JFK, RFK, & MLK/ Watergate

Optimistic
Human Rights/ Environment
Competitive

“ME Generation”
Multiple Careers/ Two-Incomes

Flower Children
Most-Educated

TV Generation
Rock-n-Roll/ Rock

Hippies
Spiritual/ But Not Religious

Will Not Age Gracefully
Will Not/ Cannot Retire

“Still Can Change the World!”

“Baby Boomers”

New Age
Jesus People

Contemporary Worship

© Peter P. Menconi
Generational Issues

Boomer Generation

- Retire or Rewire?
- Saving Enough Money
- Being “sandwiched” between parents, kids, and grandkids as caregivers
- Finding and keeping significant work
- Staying “young”
- Keeping marriage alive
- Revisiting our spirituality
Generation X
1963 - 1981

Watergate/ Divorce Rate/ Latchkey Lifestyle/ Berlin Wall/ Break-up of Soviet Union/ 9-11

Skeptical | Diversity/ Global | High Risk/ Low Commitment | SATs
---|---|---|---
High-Tech | AIDS/ Abortion | High Divorce Rate | Wounded
Xperience/ Xcitement/ Xtreme | Grunge/ Rap/ Alternative
Post-Modern | "Prolonged Adolescence" | Multiple Jobs/ Careers
Don't Do Church Well | Anti-Authority | Independent
Honest | | Cohabitation
Reality TV/ FOX
Generation X
1963 - 1981

This generation is also known as:

• Gen X
• The Baby Busters
• The 13th Generation
• The .Com Generation
• The Computer Generation
Generational Issues

Gen X

- Establish a stable lifestyle; make enough money
- Find work/life balance; having enough fun
- Make relational commitments
- Marriage or Cohabitation
- Heal past wounds
- Engage your spirituality
- Need for wise mentors and coaches
Millennial Generation
1982-2000

- Realistic/Optimistic
- Baby-on-Board
- Most Watched-Over Generation
- Trophy Kids
- Entitled
- Postmodern Worldview
- Environmentally Aware
- Multicultural/Global
- Post-racial/Diverse
- Barney, Britney, Back Street Boys and Buffy
- Harry Potter
- More Accepting of Authority
- “The Next Great Generation”
- High Expectations
- “New Industrial Revolution?”
- Higher Tech
- Columbine/September 11, 2001/OKC Bombing
- Fast, Fast…
- WirelessWorld/Always On
Generational Issues

Millennial Generation

- Entitlement meets unemployment
- World of work out of sync with their lifestyle
- Boomerang kids return home
- Social networks changing relationships
- Parenting valued over marriage
- Chaotic/relative morality impacting spirituality
- Need for wise mentors and coaches
Generation Z (?)
Born between 2001 - ?

This new, unnamed generation started with those born in 2001
Generational Generalities

• The words “generation” and “generality” come from the same root word that means “to bring forth.”

• A closer look at our generations “bring forth” certain generalities. These generalities do not fit all members of a generation, but they are representative of the majority of people in any given age group.

• People born within a few years of the end or beginning of a generation are “cuspers” and may show the characteristics of two generations.
Generational behavior is affected by a number of factors such as:

- Location and Regionalism
- Socioeconomic mix
- Ethnicity and race
- Education
- Family Life
- Religious life
### Characteristics of the Generations

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<td>Work Hard Do Whatever It Takes Work is a Duty</td>
<td>Work Hard Expect to be Rewarded Work is Obligation</td>
<td>Workaholics The One with the Most Toys Wins Work is an Adventure</td>
<td>Work to Live, Not Live to Work Work is a Necessary Evil</td>
<td>Work Should be Fast and Fun Work Should Meet My Needs</td>
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<td><strong>Play Ethic</strong></td>
<td>Work before play</td>
<td>Work until Retirement, then Play</td>
<td>Work Hard, Play Hard</td>
<td>Play Hard, Work only if Necessary</td>
<td>Work and Play All the Time</td>
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<td><strong>Motivators</strong></td>
<td>Sense of Duty</td>
<td>Need for Respect</td>
<td>Being Valued and Needed Adventure and Action</td>
<td>Freedom for Personal Time Friends and Family</td>
<td>Flexibility (Social) Networking Causes</td>
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<td><strong>Communication Style</strong></td>
<td>Direct Impersonal</td>
<td>Formal Guarded</td>
<td>Informal Face to Face</td>
<td>Irreverent Direct and Short</td>
<td>Through Technology Constant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership Style</strong></td>
<td>Chain of Command</td>
<td>Hierarchical/ Titles Organizational Chart Committees</td>
<td>Informal Networks of Relationships</td>
<td>Everyone on Their Own Give me/you a job and Just Do It</td>
<td>Level Playing Field Work Together Using All Tools Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology</strong></td>
<td>Black and White TV Foreigners to Technology</td>
<td>Transistor Radio Immigrants to Technology</td>
<td>Computers Most are Immigrants to Technology</td>
<td>iPods Natives to Technology</td>
<td>Wireless Everything Restless Natives To Technology</td>
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<td>Formal/traditional</td>
<td>Traditional/predictable</td>
<td>Informal</td>
<td>Eclectic/artistic/informal</td>
<td>Eclectic/informal</td>
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<td><strong>Worship Music</strong></td>
<td>Traditional hymns</td>
<td>Traditional hymns/choruses</td>
<td>Contemporary choruses</td>
<td>New emergent songs</td>
<td>Some of all types of music</td>
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<td>Practical</td>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>Relational</td>
<td>Interactive</td>
<td>Integrated</td>
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<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Family-based</td>
<td>Collegial</td>
<td>Networks of relationships</td>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td><strong>Leadership Style</strong></td>
<td>Chain of command</td>
<td>Corporate/committees</td>
<td>Team</td>
<td>Individualistic</td>
<td>“Three-dimensional”</td>
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<td><strong>Theology/ Faith</strong></td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Propositional</td>
<td>Practical</td>
<td>Contextual</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td><strong>View of God</strong></td>
<td>Distant father</td>
<td>Creator and truth giver</td>
<td>Friend and ally</td>
<td>Compassionate healer</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td><strong>Worldview</strong></td>
<td>God is in control of the world</td>
<td>The laws of the universe are at work</td>
<td>The physical, emotional and spiritual worlds are all interrelated</td>
<td>The world is chaotic and broken</td>
<td>The world can be “fixed”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Values</strong></td>
<td>Family/country/security</td>
<td>Truth/education/security</td>
<td>Tolerance/money/time</td>
<td>Genuineness/acceptance/fun</td>
<td>Competence/options</td>
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<td><strong>Work Ethic</strong></td>
<td>“Do whatever it takes”</td>
<td>Loyalty/stable work/longevity</td>
<td>Work hard/play hard/meaningful work</td>
<td>Work to play/frequent job changes</td>
<td>Work as a “video game”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationships</strong></td>
<td>More formal and positional</td>
<td>Congenial and sense of propriety</td>
<td>Informal and competitive</td>
<td>Individualistic and tribal</td>
<td>Friendships within groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs</strong></td>
<td>Acceptance/companionship</td>
<td>Inclusion/stability in midst of chaos</td>
<td>Sense of purpose and significance to “change the world”</td>
<td>Sense of belonging/hope/opportunities to “heal”/mentors</td>
<td>Intergenerational acceptance and understanding/mentors</td>
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Taken from *The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to www.com* by Peter Menconi
What is the Generational Profile of Your Organization?
Intergenerational ‘Tension’

• If a church is ‘multigenerational’ it is safe to say it has intergenerational ‘tension.’
Intergenerational ‘Tension’

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• ‘Tension’ exists when the needs of a particular generation are ‘pushed aside.’
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- Understanding and communication between the generations is a must
Intergenerational ‘Tension’

• If a church is ‘multigenerational’ it is safe to say it has intergenerational ‘tension.’
• ‘Tension’ exists when needs of a particular generation are ‘pushed aside.’
• Understanding and communication between the generations is a must
• When different generations stop caring about each other ‘tension’ continues to grow
Intergenerational Mission

• “The most effective way to turn tension into an asset is to involve all generations in defining the primary mission of the church.” (Menconi)
Intergenerational Mission

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TWO MODELS

• The “Attractional” Church - Offers a variety of programs that attendees come to ‘consume.’
• The “Incarnational” Church - Moves out into the culture (Coffee houses, homes, schools)
Intergenerational Leadership

• Effective leadership realizes change is necessary
• “Have an understanding and respect for the past while having your eyes open to the future.”
• Older leaders have a responsibility to develop and nurture a new generation of leaders
• Don’t condescend. Compliment. Learn to listen
• Intergenerational leaders should develop their spiritual lives together (Prayer, Bible study)
• Conflict is normal during times of change
• Appreciate differences - Stretch out of ‘comfort zone’
• Seek to develop programs that support and encourage all ages
Intergenerational Worship

• The biggest barrier to achieving intergenerational worship is that every generation wants their style to dominate!

• Effective intergenerational worship is taking the best offerings of each generation and blending them in a meaningful way.

• There must be an appreciation of all the generations in the church.

• Involve multiple generations in worship

• Use young, old, singles, and families in worship
Intergenerational Preaching

- “Trying to communicate with different generations is a daunting task”
- Each generation responds differently to sermons
- Length of sermons needs to be reassessed
- Make sermons speak to real life – not theological theory
- Illustrate practical ways of applying the message
- Use Illustrations and examples from current events
- Speak to the needs of people
- Pastors should seek input from all the generations
- Ask questions - Surveys – What are the needs?
- PREACH THE WORD!
Intergenerational Teaching

• “Older generations are the last that will sit in a classroom-type setting and listen to a lecture”
• Younger generations have difficulty listening to a ‘talking head’ for very long (Influence of the remote)
• Boomers (1944-62) like circles where they can see everyone and relate to them
• Gen Xers (1963-81) learn primarily through participation
• Establish classes on topics of interest to all generations
• Establish intergenerational teams to lead children
Intergenerational Community

• “Since the word ‘community’ is often ill defined, there is much confusion, frustration and futility in trying to establish it”
• God’s definition: Acts 2:41-47, Romans 12:4-8
• All members of the body have gifts, abilities and skills to offer in service to God – We must not suppress them.
• Use people from each generation to lead in prayer, read scripture, teach, greeters, give announcements, teacher assist, altar prayer teams, hobby night, etc.
• Intergenerational outings, activities, trips, family night.
• “Grandfriends” - ‘Adopting’ children of single parents
• Sharing parenting knowledge with new parents
Intergenerational Outreach

- “Externally focused” outside the church walls
- Mercy ministries – food pantries, soup kitchens
- Short term missions trips
- Homebound seniors – Nursing homes
- Home repairs – Yard work – Hands on help
- Local City/State / Community projects
- Parent’s night out / Single parent support
- Para church ministries serving others
The Intergenerational Challenge
Intergenerational Challenge

• **Primary motivation**: A desire to follow Christ

• **Leadership Challenge**: Helping congregation members find their calling

• Addressing what people need so they can serve and give to others

• **Assisting new believers in taking a first step**

• Convincing ‘seasoned’ believers that they are still viable for service in the Kingdom of God
Developing Intergenerational Participation

• Preaching/Teaching / Instruction
• Congregational survey
• Contacting prospects
• Team participation (older/younger)
• Observation / Overview
• Give Encouragement (1 Thes. 5:11)
• Provide Tools for growth
• Feedback
Developing Intergenerational Participation

• Evaluation

• **Matthew 25:21 principle** “Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many things.”

• Continue to encourage

• **Continue to develop participation**

• Continue in the faith! (Col. 1:23)

• Continue in prayer (Col. 4:2)
The Un-Churched
Book: Churchless – George Barna / David Kinnaman
Five Trends

1. Increasing secularization among American adults with 38% of adults surveyed indicating that they are – ‘post-Christian,’ meaning that they do not attend church, believe in God, or read the Bible. 10% of the 38% identify as ‘highly post-Christian.’” The younger the respondent, the more likely they are to consider themselves post-Christian.”
2. Barna found that people today are less open to the idea of church. Even though a personal invitation by a friend continues to be the most successful method of getting someone to come to church. Over the past 20 years this tried and true method has declined from 65% to 46%.
3. Church attendance is no longer considered a normal part of American life. Surprisingly, and of most concern, is the fact that the vast majority of persons reporting said that they do not attend church, but did at one time.
5. Today’s un-churched are not interested in Sunday morning services. At least 43% say that if they did attend, they would not limit themselves to attending one church.
Five Trends

5. Finally, the un-churched have no idea of what Christianity has done for America. Almost half (49%) of those surveyed could not name any positive impact that the church has had on American society.
Who Are the Churchless?

• “Someone who has not attended a Christian church service, other than a wedding or funeral during the last six months”

• Barna data shows that American adults fall into four segments when it comes to their relationship to a church.
Four Segments of Church Relationships

1. Actively Churched
2. Minimally Churched
3. De-Churched
4. Purely Un-churched

• The De-Churched are the fastest growing segment, (1/3 of the population)
2 in 3 unchurched Americans say they are spiritual people

More than half say their faith is very important to their life

99% are aware of Christianity and 69% hold a favorable view of it

Yet ... nearly half see no value in personally attending church
Churchgoing Is Losing Traction

Percentage of all US adults

1993
- Have Attended Regularly: 85%
- Have Never Attended Regularly: 15%

Current
- Have Attended Regularly: 76%
- Have Never Attended Regularly: 23%

Source: Barna Group annual OmniPoll
Trends Among The Un-Churched

• There is not a single demographic for which church attendance is on the increase.

• Young adults have the highest levels of church avoidance.

• Their children are less likely to attend churches, increasing the likelihood that they too, will void churches in their adulthood.

• “The raw number of un-churched people in the U.S. is staggering.” (Churchless -Barna)
Trends Among The Un-Churched

- Research shows that the un-churched are becoming less responsive to churches’ efforts to connect with them.
- An invitation from a friend is the top-rated way churches can establish connections with the un-churched (80%)
- Barna’s tracking going back to 1990 reveals a slow-growing calcification of the un-churched toward churches
Un-Churched Negativity

• 49% could not identify a single favorable impact of the Christian community

• Among those who had a complaint about Christians in society, the reasons were:
  - Violence in the name of Christ - 18%
  - Church’s stand against gay marriage - 15%
  - Sexual Abuse scandals - 13%
  - Being involved in politics - 10%
  - Critical/Intolerant/Bigotry - 3%
#1 Reason Students Leave the Church
(Study: Fuller Youth Institute)

Research shows that between 40-50% of high school graduates leave their faith in college. This indicates that almost half of young people drift from God and the church after they graduate from high school with a feeling that they have “graduated from church as well.”
“Sticky Faith”

Studies at the Fuller Youth Institute are pursuing ‘sticky faith’ research, endeavoring to understand why youth leave the church and finding ways to keep them involved and ‘sticking’ to their faith after graduation.
Doubt

“One of the greatest surprises out of the Sticky Faith research was data related to doubt. In their 3 year study of over 500 students in the first three years of college, they found doubt is fairly pervasive in young people. What is toxic is unexpressed or unexplored doubt. When young people have the opportunity to express or explore their doubt, it is correlated with stronger and more mature faith. Researchers say it’s often tough questions that help God become even more real to us.”

Fuller Youth Institute
“Messages of doubt start young. When something bad or scary happens, it’s typical for a third or fourth grader to say, ‘I don’t understand why God would allow this earthquake to happen.’ So often, well-intentioned Sunday school teachers quiet the young student instead of offering an answer. This tells kids that the church can’t handle their questions and neither can God.”

Fuller Youth Institute
“The church should be the first place young people feel they can go to with their questions. This starts with adults. We must address difficult questions and talk about tough sections in scripture. This shows students God is bigger than our toughest questions. The three most negative words can be “I don’t know.” Maybe you don’t have a ready answer, that’s okay! But it is imperative to answer the question! Discover the answer together or get back to them. The worst response is to do nothing.”
“Researchers shared the number one reason why young people are walking away from their faith - it’s a lack of intergenerational worship and relationship. But we can be part of the solution. Focus on connecting and cultivating relationships between youth and adults within the church. Make that a primary focus for your ministry and we’ll see those statistics start to shift.”

Kara Powell / FYI
## How Can Churches Contribute Positively to Their Communities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Un-churched</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addressing poverty</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serving youth/families/elderly</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivating biblical values</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assisting in recovery</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introducing people to God</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing workplace, educational, financial issues</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serving the community</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging politically</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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PRACTICING CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS MAINTAIN A HIGH VIEW OF SCRIPTURE

It is their top source for moral truth:
- Bible: 39%
- Church: 16%
- Parents: 14%

They are more likely to believe it is the word of God:
- Christians: 96%
- Non-Christians: 27%

96% believe the Bible contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life.

Barna Group
Intervarsity
American Bible Society
barna.org

MillennialPoll™ 2014 | N=1,000
WHILE MILLENNIALS PREFER TO READ THE BIBLE IN PRINT, THEY ARE WILLING TO ENGAGE SCRIPTURE ON THE SCREEN

MILLENNIALS MOST OFTEN READ THE BIBLE...

81% IN PRINT

78% ALOUD IN CHURCH

66% ON THE INTERNET

THE PERCENT OF PRACTICING CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS WHO HAVE SEEN AT LEAST ONE BIBLE-BASED MOVIE OR TV SHOW RELEASED IN THE PAST YEAR

THE PERCENT OF PRACTICING CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS WHO HAVE POSTED SCRIPTURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST YEAR

Barna Group
INTERVARSITY
AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
barna.org
MillennialPoll™ | 2014 | N=1,000
NON-CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS HOLD AMBIGUOUS AND SOMETIMES NEGATIVE VIEWS TOWARD THE BIBLE

THE TOP 5 WORDS NON-CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS CHOOSE TO DESCRIBE THE BIBLE:

- 50% Story
- 38% Mythology
- 36% Symbolic
- 30% Fairy Tale
- 30% Historical

> 6 IN 10 WHEN THEY SEE SOMEONE READING THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC, NON-CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS...

- Assume the person is politically conservative (22%)
- Figure they don’t have anything in common with the person (21%)
- Think the person is old-fashioned (17%)

PRACTICAL / DANGEROUS / IRRELEVANT

- 30% The Bible is a useful book of moral teachings
- 27% The Bible is a dangerous book of religious dogma used for centuries to oppress people
- 19% The Bible is an outdated book with no relevance for today

THE PROPORTION OF NON-CHRISTIAN MILLENNIALS WHO HAVE NEVER READ THE BIBLE (62%)
MILLENNIALS AT CHURCH

Data from the Barna FRAME Sacred Roots. Nationwide interviews conducted in 2013. For more information, visit www.barnaframes.com

30% say attending church is not at all important.

40% fall somewhere in the middle.

30% say attending church is very important.

Those who say church attendance is not important point to the following reasons:

- 39% "I find God elsewhere"
- 35% "It's not relevant to me"
- 31% "Church is boring"
- 20% "It feels like God is missing from church"
- 8% "Church feels out of date"
- 4% "I don't like the people"

Those who say church attendance is very important point to the following reasons:

- 44% "I go to be closer to God"
- 27% "I learn about God there"
- 22% "The Bible says to go"
- 13% "My kids learn about God there"
- 8% "The church does good work in the world"
- 5% "My friends are there"
Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
“The New American Religion”

• A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
• **God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible & other religions**
• The central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about oneself.
• **God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when God is needed to solve a problem.**
• Good people go to heaven when they die.
Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
“The New American Religion”

After conducting more than 3,000 interviews with American adolescents, the researchers reported that, when it came to the most crucial questions of faith and beliefs, many responded with a shrug and “whatever.”

“American youth are incredibly inarticulate about their religious beliefs, and are virtually unable to offer any serious theological understanding. They do not comprehend their own religious traditions, or if they do understand it, they simply do not care to believe it.”

(National Study of Youth and Religion – University of No Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Dangers

Many young people are leaving the church in spite of ‘entertainment style worship’ coffee bars, and relaxed worship. A recent Pew Forum asked the question why young people were leaving the church. Among the answers:

• “Churches seem over protective”
• “Shallow Christianity”
• “Antagonistic to science”
• “Church’s stand on sexuality”
• “Church feels unfriendly to those who doubt”
• “Church is too exclusive”
• “Where is Jesus?”
“If you try to woo us back with skinny jeans and coffee shops, it may actually backfire. We’re not looking for a hipper Christianity. We’re looking for a truer Christianity. Like every generation before and after, we’re looking for Jesus — the same Jesus who can be found in the places He’s always been; in bread, in wine, in baptism, in the Word, in suffering, in community and among the last of these. No fog machines are required.”

Rachel Held Evans
“Searching for Sunday”
Another Danger: Apostasy

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness, but denying its power”

2 Timothy 3:1-5
Another Danger: Apostasy

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”

(1 Timothy 4:1-2)
Preach The Word of God!

“I urge you before God and before Christ Jesus – who will some day judge the living and the dead when He appears to set up His Kingdom - to PREACH THE WORD OF GOD urgently at all times, whenever you get the chance, in season and out, when it is convenient and when it is not. Correct and rebuke your people when they need it, encourage them to do right and all the time be feeding them patiently with God’s Word. For there is going to come a time when people won’t listen to the truth, but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear. They won’t listen to what the Bible says, but will blithely follow their own misguided ideas.”

2 Timothy 4:1-4 LB
Our Challenge

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write to you, and exhort you that you should – earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

Jude 3

“When we depend upon education, we get what education can do. When we depend upon programs we get what programs can do, but when we depend upon prayer, we get what God can do.”
Q & A TIME