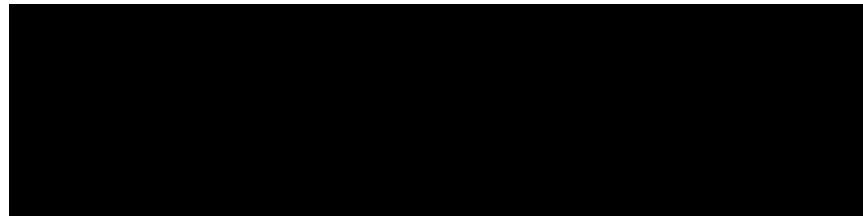


Generational Distinctives of 6 Living Generations
Reflection Exercise for Your Church & Community
 For All Generations: 1 Corinthians 9; Matthew 28:19–20;
 (Based on presentation in local church)

Characteristics	Builders	Silent	Boomers/ Bridgers	Generation X Survivors	Millennials/ Gen Y	Generation Z/ Homeland Generation?
Birth	1901-1924	1925-1945	1946-1965	1966-85	1986-2003	2003- present (Now 10 yr old)
Religious Expression	Presbyterian	Episcopalian	New Age	Religiously Independent	Not yet clear	Yet to see
Percentage of US population	2%	7%	30%	21%	28%	13% under age of 10 now
Typical of Your Church Statistics (raise hands of those present)	2%	54%	28%	10%	3%	9%
Relate to your community demographics	2%	19%	22%	26%	20%	11%
Defining events	World Wars I & II, Great Depression	Korean War, WWII, Space Race, Moral Majority, Communism	Vietnam War, human rights, never dealt with Great Depression	Challenger Disaster, AIDS, never dealt with world wars, affluence, educated, Sept 11 attacks	Iraq, Columbine, War on Terror, affluence, digital age, recession, educated, 9/11, Iraq War, Global Warming realities, 2008 election	Not yet known

Characteristics	Builders	Silent	Boomers/ Bridgers	Generation X Survivors	Millennials/ Gen Y	Generation Z/ Homeland Generation
Defining People	Walt Disney, Ozzie and Harriet, John Wayne	Colin Powell, Martin Luther King Jr., Phil Donahue, Gloria Steinem	Oprah Winfrey, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Bill Clinton	Barack Obama, Michael Jordan, Michael Jackson	Mark Zuckerberg (though technically a Generation Xer), Jennifer Lawrence, Malala Yousafzai; Truman Burbank (Truman show – reality TV); broken super heroes.	Not yet clear
Defining Values/ Culture	Greatest Generation, stability, civic duty, save now to buy later, loyalty, doing over feeling	Similar to Builders, economic downsizing, value facilitation, importance of being and doing good, conforming to society norms, value spaces, institutional loyalty	Boomers. committed to serving poorest of poor; idealism. anti-institutional unless they built it (paradox) preachy, still impacting others	Values and perceptions not formed by modernism; unique spiritual formation appetites; community; Twitter, Facebook, searching; skepticism is healthy; diversity, not conformity should form foundation on which values are based. latchkey; postmodern	Do not bother with midterm elections; politicians working to engage their vote; post-postmodernism; open to spiritual conversations; 'just believe it sincerely'; service oriented; hurt by societal institutions; 'next greatest generation'– stability, civic duty, loyalty to peers; spirituality; self-preservation; doing over feeling; authenticity	Not yet clear

Characteristics	Builders	Silent	Boomers/Br idgers	Generation X Survivors	Millennials/ Gen Y	Generation Z/ Homeland Generation
Church/ Buildings	Service, sacrifice, establish institutions	Value spaces, a place of consistency, church led by professionals	Commitment related to service, not church membership; ministry done by people of passion; not tied to church but to communities; distrustful of church today unless they built it; faith = spirituality; nondenomina tional churches	Feel institutions have societal abandonme nt; church hypocritical; defined by what it is against rather than what it is for; too judgmental; irrelevant to lives; "not my job to convince anyone of their sin, but to share truth"	Church not a worthy investment; give money and energy to helping the poor and their communities; teaching/preaching/wo rship online	Not yet clear.



Characteristics	Builders	Silent	Boomers/ Bridgers	Generation X Survivors	Millennials/ Gen Y	Generation Z/ Homeland Generation
Look at world today	How did we get here? Lack of community; deserve a rest for their sacrifice and service; entitlement earned.	Feel ripped off by downsizing; pinched between Builders/Boomers today	"Live life worthy of your calling"; live by selflessly listening	Skeptical; searching for community; seeking authenticity	Not yet clear; deserving, communal, tomorrow confuses them. How did we get to this bad place? No boundaries; waste in culture; 'going green'; lack of community ahead of them; creating new forms of community; entitlement inherited; work at the management level or not at all; systemic abandonment; societal institutions have abandoned them; have not learned to 'lose well'; feeling hurt and pain because of abandonment	Not yet clear

Information compiled and adapted by Edward Hammett from various resources including: *The Next America: Boomers, Millennials and the Looming Generation Showdown*, Paul Taylor, 2014; *Truth, Understanding, Purpose and the Five Living Generations* by David Garrison, 2013; *Being the Church in a Multi-ethnic Community*, by Gary McIntosh, 2012; *Sticking Points: How to Get Four Generations Working Together in the 12 Places They Come Apart*, by Haydn Shaw, 2013.