

Generational Definitions/Tendencies

	The Greatest Generation	The Silent Generation	The Baby Boomer	Generation X	The Millennial Generation
Born	Before 1928	1928 - 1945	1946 – 1964	1965 – 1980	1981 – 1996
Age Range		75+	56 – 74	40 – 55	24 – 39
Brief	Saved the world when they were young (World Wars)	Conformist and civic instincts	Noisy, anti-establishment; demography driven	Savvy, entrepreneurial loners. Long for community.	Confident, self-expressive, liberal, upbeat, open to change
Unique		WWII, Depression, Smart, Honest	Work ethic, Respectful, Values/Morals	Technology use, Work ethic, Conservative /Traditional	Technology use, Music/Pop culture, Liberal/tolerant
Sleep with Cell Phone	0%	20%	50%	68%	83%
Internet Use		40%	79%	87%	90%
Text in Past Day		4%	35%	63%	80%
Desired Ministry Characteristics	Elders and Builders need to feel that they still matter.		The worship Boomers favor is celebrative. Boomers are a spiritually searching generation.	Institutions tend to be irrelevant, but they see faith as a means of building relationships.	This generation wants spirituality and faith experience, not the traditional routines and dispassionate worship they see at a typical church.

Resist the temptation to see other generations as “wrong” – we are interdependent, not distinct, disparate entities. Each generation is an asset. We need to develop creative strategies for meeting the needs and utilizing the talents of all age groups. We need each other, as parts of the Body of Christ. Regular intergenerational interaction will help churches face the challenges of the future and our communities to be healthier and happier.

