INTRO

Leonardo da Vinci said, “Wisdom is the daughter of experience.” Saint Augustine wrote, “Patience is the companion of wisdom.” And Homer Simpson said, “I think the saddest day of my life was when I realized I could beat my dad at most things. And Bart [Homer’s son] experienced that at the age of 4.”

We all learn things from other generations. We’re raised by them and live among them, but we also tend to spend a good deal of time with people who are exactly our age – from kindergarten through school, and possibly beyond. What do we gain by limiting intergenerational interaction? What would we gain by fostering it?

WISDOM of the GENERATIONS

Stereotypes, Learning, Parenting, & Relationships

the tap list for a crafted conversation

Arguably, the church is among the last truly intergenerational institutions, where young and old gather, worship, sing, and learn. (Although with the church’s aging population, its intergenerational status may be debatable.)

At this Brewed Theology, we won’t try to diagnose or solve the changing landscape of the church. We will look at what makes up “generations”- their stereotypes, and gifts. We’ll also ponder some of the good, the bad, and the ugly of parent-child relationships and trust that nuggets of wisdom will emerge for all of us. As always, we’ll do this in the context of the grace-filled relationship we have with our Heavenly Parent, who never tires of identifying us as broken-yet-beautiful children.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What is your “generation”? What defines it? What generation are/were your parents? Your children? How many living generations can you name? What assumptions or stereotypes about them exist about them? What do you not understand about younger generations? How have your family’s values, priorities, or traditions changed? What has stayed the same? How has faith been passed down (or not) from one generation to the next? What are you anxious about for the next generation? What are you hopeful for? What one thing would you tell, share, or pass along to people younger than you?

BIBLE BASICS

- **Exodus 20:12** – The Commandment about honoring father and mother. Read around it, too.
- **Proverbs 22:6** – Teach children well and they won’t stray. Read the surrounding on this one, too.
- **1 Timothy 4:11-14**, and **5:1-2** – Don’t look down on youth, and respect your elders.
- **Deuteronomy 5** – Especially vv 9-10. God’s wrath, and blessing, transcend generations. Why?
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** – Different people have different gifts. What are the gifts of generations?

ESSENTIAL READING & VIEWING

Defining "Generations"

Skim this description of generations from an economic market research perspective, on the Library of Congress website. Feel free to peruse the many links for further reading.

Magazine Cover Depictions

TIME Magazine has a history of running cover stories about generations as they're born, emerge, or age. Peruse this "vault" of magazine covers. Maybe browse one that catches you. What do you notice?

Luther on the Fourth Commandment

The Fourth Commandment is "Honor your father and mother." Read what reformer Martin Luther wrote in excerpts from both his Small and Large Catechisms.

"12 Mistakes Even Good Parents Make"

Even good, wonderful, well-meaning parents mess up. Read about 12 common mistakes, as written in Katie M. McLaughlin's blog *Pick Any Two.*

"Five Mistakes My Parents Made that I'm Not Making"

Read this 2012 contributor piece to *Huffpost* by Len Filppu, who writes about mistakes his parents made that he strives not to repeat.

"What Motivates Teenagers on Social Media"

Kara Powell writes on her blog *Parent Cue* that before judging the rampant use of social media by youth, we need to understand the motivation behind their habits. (Hint: it's connection.)

Becoming "Grandma"

Journalist and author Lesley Stahl explores the changing roles of grandparents in her book *Becoming Grandma*. Watch this interview on PBS about the joys of grandparenthood (or read the transcript).

Watch: "How to raise successful kids — without over-parenting"

Watch this 2015 TED Talk by Julie Lythcott-Haims, former Dean of Freshmen Students at Stanford University. You can also follow along with the transcript (click "read transcript" below video).

Watch: "The Single Most Important Parenting Strategy"

Another TED Talk, from psychologist, mom, and *Good Inside* founder Becky Kennedy. Her recommendation for parenting? "Get good at *repair.* You can also follow along with the transcript (click "read transcript" below video).

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