

The Last Pentecostals



First Church ~ Sunday, August 12, 2001

Luke 18:8 Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Judges 2:7-12 ⁷ And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel. ⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. ⁹ And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. ¹⁰ And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: ¹² And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

THE FIRST GENERATION: JOSHUA

- Dedicated to _____ because they experienced the reality of God and saw His miracles firsthand
- Set their values by: _____
- Their question was: **What's right in _____ eyes?**
- In one word: _____

THE SECOND GENERATION: ELDERS

- Dedicated to the God of _____ because they knew all the secondhand stories of His mighty works
- Set their values by: _____
- Their question was: **What's right in _____ eyes?**

- In one word: _____

THE THIRD GENERATION: KNEW NOT THE LORD

- Dedicated to _____, refusing to be dedicated to a God they had not experienced personally
- Set their values by: _____
- Their question was: **What's right in _____ eyes?**
- In one word: _____

Joshua 24:13-15 ¹³ And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. ¹⁴ Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Traditionalists (1925-1945)

Traditionalists tend to see subsequent generations as disrespectful, and disdain their "warm and fuzzy" mindset. They are Foreign Missions oriented and very committed to their home, church and denomination. They enjoy Bible studies and worship in reverence, and they tend to minister from a perspective of duty. They "need to be needed," and are generally loyal, dependable, hard workers who discipline themselves to save for a rainy day. They deal well with boredom, and are patriotic, respectful and stable.

Baby Boomers (1945 - 1965)

The Baby Boomers perceive the older generation to be overly cautious, too conservative, and inflexible. An educated generation, they perceive a conflict between rights and rules, question authority and want everything now. They desire quality and want to lead a slower life style; therefore, they are not loyal to jobs, churches or institutions that prevent these goals. They will not attend church because of guilt, tradition or someone else's expectations, but tend to choose a church based on its style of worship (they like contemporary music and sermons), its "excellence factor," and the opportunity to build relationships.

Baby Busters (1965-1975)

This generation was created during the era of the Pill, legalized abortion, liberalized divorce, and a stampede of women into the labor force. For these and other reasons, baby busters are competitively few in number, and have been called the disillusioned or the neglected generation. While they can be materialistic, they're more likely to measure success in terms of achieving "peace of mind." The Baby Busters view the Traditionalists as old, outdated and rigid, and the Baby Boomers as workaholics, unrealistic and idealistic. They are community-oriented and willing to work, but they tend to be oversensitive and lonely. They desire a practical education, freedom from structure and a faith that meets their needs. They are music-oriented and slow to marry, and are prone to a short attention span and feeling neglected. They like to break the rules, and refuse to "buy in" until they find out "What's in it for me?"

Generation X (1975-1985)

(From a Gen-Xer's Website) It seems we have come to be called Xers simply because we represent something negative to our elders. Of course, they overlook the fact that we are their responsibility, or actually their fault. Our generation will be called upon to look after our parents knowing that they failed to look after us. Inter-generational justice failed somewhere along the way and it will be our task to either rectify it or make it worse. We are a group of individuals who grew up with no one at home after school. It appears we have little hope for the future. No jobs, no homes, and basically no money are almost expected of us. These bleak prospects, along with the fact that we will be forced to support the largest amount of senior citizens ever, do not provide much

hope. Some believe that these blockades will be too much for us to handle and we will for the most part fail at life, but many see our individualism and resourcefulness that have been built up through our childhoods as our savior. We will soon discover who is right and who is wrong.