



LOCAL CHURCH | PT.3 GENERATIONS | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

THE WORD “CHURCH” HAS BEEN DEFINED, REDEFINED, AND MISIDENTIFIED BY THE GENERATIONS OFTEN FILTERED THROUGH THE LENS OF: VALUES, TRADITION, AND BACKGROUNDS, IDEOLOGIES, SOCIETY, AND HERITAGE.

THE CHURCH IS MEANT TO BE A PLACE OF PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, WITH ONE HEARTBEAT, ONE LORD, ONE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE FAITH.

EPHESIANS 1:21-23

CHURCH IS DEFINED AS ONE INTITY, WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSES... AND BRANCHES

BUT THE WORD FOR CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS A VERY SIMPLE ROOT...

CHURCH: “Ekklesia” (Greek: ἐκκλησία): “assembly” or “gathering.”

BOTH LOCAL AND UNIVERSAL

THE CHURCH IS THEOLOGICALLY A GATHERING OF PEOPLE CALLED OUT BY GOD....

JOHN 1:11-13

WE DON'T "DO CHURCH" WE ARE THE CHURCH, DOING LIFE TOGETHER

FELLOWSHIP:

ACTS 2:42

FELLOWSHIP "koinonia" (κοινωνία) originates from the Greek language, carrying the core idea of shared participation, mutual association, and fellowship.

SO, THE CHURCH IS PEOPLE WHO CALLED OUT TO

***BECOME* SOMETHING: HIS FAMILY**

***ACCOMPLISH* SOMETHING: HIS WITNESSES**

***WHILE TOGETHER*: HIS FELLOWSHIP**

THE LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD BE:

-a place of faith talk, not stinking thinking

-a place of belonging and hope, not divisive religious fluff

-a place to grow, not stay sidelined

We're simply going back to the source to receive a fresh breath of air (REVIVAL)

CHURCH IS IMPORTANT

IT'S TRUE: "CHURCH" CANNOT AND DOES NOT SAVE ANYONE. BUT "CHURCH" IS GOD'S PLAN TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS FULL GOSPEL, WHICH POINTS TO JESUS AS THE ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR AND MEANS FOR SALVATION.

CHURCH ALSO IS MEANT TO BE A PLACE THAT EMPHASIZES CHRISTIAN KOINONIA.

Koinonia places a practical call on followers to cultivate fellowship through:

1. **CARE:** Encouraging, praying for, and mentoring one another. Paul speaks of “building each other up” in passages such as 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

2. **SUPPORT:** Assisting and helping each other (Romans 12:13).

3. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Genuine fellowship gently corrects and restores members who stray (Galatians 6:1-2).

HEB 10:19-25

THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF IMPERFECT PEOPLE, TO SERVE AND LOVE A VERY PERFECT GOD.

CHURCH IS 1 ENTITY, WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSES...

TODAY'S SUBTITLE: GENERATIONS

Mark 10:13-16

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE CHURCH HAS 5 GENERATIONS AS ADULTS WITHIN IT!

BUILDERS: 1929-1945

BOOMERS: 1946-1964

GEN X: 1965-1980

MILLENNIALS: 1981-1996

GEN Z: 1997-2009

GEN ALPHA: 2010-2024

GEN BETA: 2025-2038

Every generation is full of stereotypes: The Greatest Generation pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, the Silent Generation OR BUILDERS were low-key, Baby Boomers got a bad rap, Gen X are seen as cynics, Millennials are often slammed as industry-disrupting brats by elder generations, Gen Z will someday save the planet via TikTok, Generation Alpha is defined by the digital age, while Gen Beta will be deeply attached to artificial intelligence.

WITH ALL OF THAT SAID... THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO NEVER CHANGES... GOD.

HEB 13:8

EX 3:13-15

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH 3 PEOPLE... ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB?

HE IS SAYING HE IS THE GOD OF THE GENERATIONS!

CHURCH IS ABOUT WHAT GOD WANTS DONE, WHAT GOD DOES THROUGH US, AND HOW HE FEELS... AND IN THAT HE SHOWS HIS LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY...

THE CHURCH THEN HOLDS A LEGACY

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

PAUL CONNECTS "FAMILY" TO "CHURCH"

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE ORIGINAL FAMILY CONSISTENTLY HAD BROKENNESS:

ADAM AND EVE SIN AGAINST GOD (GEN 3)

CAIN MUDERS ABEL (GEN 4)

LAMECH INTRODUCES POLYGAMY (GEN 4)

NOAH GETS DRUNK AND CURSES HIS SONS (GEN 8)

ABRAHAM LIES ABOUT SARAH BEING HIS WIFE (GEN 12, 20)

ISSAC AND REBEKAH PLAY FAVORITES (GEN 24)

JACOB STEALS HIS BROTHER'S INHERITANCE (GEN 27)

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS TRY TO KILL HIM, THEN SELL HIM INTO SLAVERY (GEN 37-50)

BUT GOD BOUGHT “THE FAMILY” BACK IN JESUS, AND THIS TIME WITH A NEW KIND OF FAMILY:

MARK 3:31-35, Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:15, John 1:12

FAMILY IS IMPORTANT: WE HAVE BOTH OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY (GOD’S CHURCH) AND OUR BIOLOGICAL/EARTHLY FAMILY, WHICH MODELS GOD’S DESIRES FOR UNITY.

CHURCH IS NOT A BUSINESS... IT’S A FAMILY.

OUR LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD BE BUILT WITH GENERATIONAL AWARENESS AND GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS.

YOU BECOME IMMEASURABLY IMPORTANT WHEN YOU ARE THE ONE HELPING TO RAISE UP THE NEXT GENERATION.

OUR KINGDOM FOCUSED MISSION AND VISION AT TEC ISN’T ONE BASED ON THE NEXT GENERATION, NOR THE ELDER GENERATION, NOR THE ONES IN THE MIDDLE... RATHER, IT’S A MISSION AND VISION THAT SEES EVERYONE AS IMPORTANT AND VITAL, TO THE SPREADING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

THE GENERATIONS SHOULDN’T JUST CO-EXIST IN THE CHURCH. WE SHOULD CONNECT.

IF THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY, WE SHOULD EXPECT CHURCH TO HAPPEN FAMILY STYLE.

TO BE CLEAR, THOSE WITHIN CHURCH CANNOT, AND SHOULD NOT, REPLACE THE HOME AS THE STARTING POINT FOR DISCIPLESHIP.

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE PARTNERS WITH PARENTS IN THE DISCIPLESHIP OF THE NEXT GENERATION.

PSALM 78:5-7

WHAT CAN WE DO TO KEEP THE FLAME BURNING THROUGH THE GENERATIONS???

OUR LIVES IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A RACE...

HEB 12:1-2

THIS RACE IS NOT A LONG DISTANCE RUN, WHERE ONE RUNNER CARRIES THE WHOLE TEAM.. IT'S A RELAY RACE WHERE EVENTUALLY THE RUNNER HANDS OFF THE BATON OF FAITH.

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR THE NEXT GENERATION:

- **FIRST: MAKE SURE WE HAVE SOMETHING WORTH HANDING OFF.**
- **SECOND: INVITE THE NEXT GENERATION.**
- **THIRD: INCLUDE THE NEXT GENERATION.**
- **FOURTH: HAND OFF TO THE NEXT GENERATION**

THOUGH WE DO HAND OFF THE BATON TO THE NEXT GENERATION... HE'S SO GOOD, WE ALSO GET TO KEEP OURS AS WELL.