THRIVING THURSDAYS
INTERGENERATIONAL SYNTHESIS: 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES TO TRADITIONAL CHURCH PRACTICES
The Shifting American Religious Landscape

Where we are today.

Data: GSS (1972-2016)
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

1400's
Democratization of INFORMATION

1500's
Democratization of PIETY

1600's

1700's
Democratization of SALVATION

1800's

1900's
Democratization of SUCCESS

1400's
Democratization of CHRISTIANITY

1600's

1800's
Democratization of TRUTH
GENERATIONS THROUGHOUT HISTORY
## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation Name</th>
<th>Births Start</th>
<th>Births End</th>
<th>Youngest Age Today*</th>
<th>Oldest Age Today*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Lost Generation</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>126</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Generation of 1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Interbellum Generation</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Greatest Generation</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Silent Generation</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Boomer Generation</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation X (Baby Bust)</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xennials</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>Millennials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generation Y, Gen Next</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>iGen / Gen Z</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Gen Alpha</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2025</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*age if still alive today)
WHO IS THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION?

• Born between 1982 – 1995
WHO IS THE ¡GENERATION?

• Born between 1995 - 2012
GATHER NO MORE

DISTRACTED
DILUTED
DIVIDED
THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH
Today I quit being a Christian. I’m out.

I remain committed to Christ as always, but not to being ‘Christian’ or to being part of Christianity… I refuse to be anti-feminist. I refuse to be anti-artificial birth control. I refuse to be anti-Democrat. I refuse to be anti-secular humanism. I refuse to be anti-human science. I refuse to be anti-life.

In the name of Christ, I quit Christianity and being Christian. Amen.
I awoke this Sunday morning grateful that I didn’t have to go to church anymore. I still believe in the living God but after years of moving from church to church, I feel that I can wing it for now without risking my immortal soul.

The church preached the Bible only, but of course only the parts that pounded the tithing message, the ‘name it and claim it’ message, and endless salvation threats, I left in disgust when disagreeing with the pastor meant you were not being faithful to God.
CHRISTIANITY AFTER RELIGION

Believing  Behaving  Belonging
CHRISTIANITY BEFORE RELIGION

Belonging

Behaving

Believing
ADAPT BUT NOT ABANDON

ADAPT

- Educational Models
  - Inherited faith → Cultivated faith
- Membership Models
  - Transactional → Relational
- Leadership Models
  - Solitary → Shared

NOT ABANDON

- The Gospel
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
- The Gathering
  - Acts 2:42-47
- The Good
  - 1 Peter 4:10-12