

Sermon Notes – No Such Thing as “Other”

A picture of what the goal looks like for God’s people, the church:

Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

Biblical Takeaway: **Real Community Seeks Understanding**

- The current climate of generational differences is one of the most powerful things that gets in the way of unity.

Fuller Youth Institute asked their research advisors to identify the lies that adults believe about young people, at the top of the list was the lie that young people are completely “other”.

Here’s some true-to-life descriptions of the world that Millennials and younger have been brought into. Hopefully this helps all of us understand why younger people think and feel the way they do:

- They’ve never known a world without *smartphones*.
- They live in a post 9/11 World (they’re aware of a troubled planet).
- It’s now less common for young people to *not* have an LGBT friend than to have one.
- The average American holds 6 different jobs between 18 & 26.
- Public support of same-sex marriage in the US in 10 years has gone from 54% opposed / 37% in favor to 62% in favor / 32% opposed.
- They are not simply living in a post-Christian cultural context. They do not even have a memory of the gospel.
- They are leaderless. Little if any direction is coming from their families, and even less from their attempts to access guidance from the internet.
- Kids today have more access to worldwide news than any generation of previous, at a younger age.
- Ease of access to news and travel has been a powerful contributor to the way that we take on “a greater share of stress” than is normal/healthy as we observe the world around us.

What’s more, young people are more confused than ever about when adulthood begins. Key identifiers such as marriage, career, house and kids are happening later in young people’s lives, while puberty and cultural pressure are starting earlier.

All of this affects the **worldview** of young people today.

Consider this quote from Lesslie Newbigin: *“The call to the Church is to enter vigorously into the struggle for truth in the public domain. We cannot look for the security which would be ours in a restored Christendom. . . . We are called, I think, to bring our faith into the public arena, to publish it, to put it at risk in the encounter with other faiths and ideologies in open debate and argument, and in the risky business of discovering what*

Christian obedience means in radically new circumstances and in radically human cultures."

We must embrace our secular age as the context within which God has called us to minister **(1 Peter 2:11)**.

Psalm 78 Sets a great example for us of how we can raise up the generation coming after us.

I will speak mysteries from the past –
Things we have heard and known and that our fathers
Have passed down to us.
We must not hide them from our children
But must tell a future generation the praises of the Lord,
His might, and the wonderful works he has performed.
So that a future generation – children yet to be born – might know
They were to rise and tell their children so that they might
Put their confidence in God
And not forget God's works, but keep his commands.
~Psalm 78:1-7

Home Group Questions

- 1) What stood out to you from this sermon on unity and generational differences?**
- 2) Have you personally felt the effects of different worldviews at Hope or in your home group?**
- 3) How are your intergenerational relationships today? Are they positive or negative....are they many or few?**
- 4) What memories do you have of someone putting Psalm 78 on display? [You can read the first 7 verses together again if it helps.] Who has come alongside you to share with you the might, praise and works of God?**