

Generation - cont.

A Chosen Generation

The truth is, we do not have to live disrespectful, self-righteous, proud, or violent lives. We can be different and must be different. Believe it or not, there are many people today who refuse to be led by the world. They are called by the Apostle Peter “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9).

These people obey the truth of God’s word (1 Peter 1:22), they show forth God’s virtue (1 Peter 2:10), and they are called Christians (1 Peter 4:16). Are you among that generation?

Our Generation Today

What about all the 8.1 billion people in the world today? Out of all those people, what kind of a person will you be? Will you be a part of today’s generation who knows not God (Judges 2:10). Will you be part of today’s crooked and perverse generation that is filled with sin (Acts 2:40).

Friend, what kind of generation will you prove to be in? Be a part of the generation of true, New Testament Christians who faithfully and lovingly follow Jesus. - *Chris Reeves*

- Though of the Week -

People around me, including my brethren, need a lot of things these days. But, one thing they need that is easy for me to give them is a word of encouragement. A simple “you can do it” or “you are doing a good job” will go along way to lift their spirit. This week I will give a “good word” of encouragement to someone in order to make them glad (Proverbs 12:25).

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

October 1, 2023



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

There Is A Generation

There is a generation that curse their father, and bless not their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

- Proverbs 30:11-14 -

Generation After Generation

The Bible tells us that generations of people come and go and differ greatly among themselves: *One generation goes, and another generation comes; but the earth abides for ever* (Ecclesiastes 1:4). Not every generation is the same. Some generations follow God's word and some do not.

Generations are defined by inward character and outward circumstances. And, so-called generation "gaps" exist only when godly principles are not passed down. The proverb writer tells us about four generations that existed in his day and still exist today.

1. The Disrespectful Generation

Some children are disrespectful to their parents (Proverbs 30:11). They curse their parents, they disobey their parents, they "talk back" to their parents, they are violent toward their parents, etc. This is sad and not according to God's word.

Parents should make their child's obedience a priority just as God does and train them to be obedient and respectful (Exodus 20:12; 21:17; Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Proverbs 20:20; 23:22; 30:17; 1 Timothy 5:4,8). Disrespectful and disobedient children sin (Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2) and they need to learn to honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-4).

2. The Self-Righteous Generation

Some people believe they are pure and right regardless of how they live (Proverbs 30:12). They are pure and right in their own eyes, but not according to God's word. In fact, God's standard, not man's standard shows one to be pure (Proverbs 16:2,25; 20:9; 21:2; Jer. 2:22-23,35; 10:23).

Self-righteousness is actually self-blinding and it keeps one from seeing himself accurately and coming to the truth and having real purity (Matthew 15:14; Luke 18:11; Romans 2:19; Revelation 3:17-18). The self-righteous simply need to learn to repent (Acts 3:19).

3. The Proud Generation

Some people believe they are better than others and God himself (Proverbs 30:13). They believe that they have done something to merit a higher position than others. But, God hates pride (Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:13; 21:4).

Those who think they are high and proud will eventually be brought low by God (Proverbs 16:18; 18:12; 29:23; Daniel 4:30-33; James 4:6). The proud need to learn humility (1 Peter 5:6).

4. The Violent Generation

Some people turn to cruelty, oppression, and violence to get their way (Proverbs 30:14). Man's way is often the way of violence. When a person cannot get his way through sound reason or hard work, he will often turn to violence. Violence is simply a "short cut" to getting what you want. God's way, however, is not the way of violence (Luke 3:14; Matthew 5:39; 26:52).

Violence is a sin (James 2:6; 5:5-6). People who are prone to violence need to learn to control their temper and practice more gentleness, peace, and compassion (Galatians 5:22-23).