

Generational Hermenutics Comparison

Research compiled by Timothy A. Floyd November 18, 2014

	Elder	Boomer	Gen-X-er	Millennial
Birth years	1900-1940	1940-1960	1960-1980	1980-2000
Synonyms	Silent, Builder, GI	Baby Boomer	Generation X, GenXers, Baby Busters, Generation 13	Generation Y, Generation We, Wave 2
Percentage of US Population	13%	27%	16%	26%
Percentage of SDA Population	31%	30%	10%	14%
Life Shaping Events	WWI, WWII, the Great Depression	the Cold War, Vietnam, Civil Rights movement, the space race, Watergate scandal.	Roe vs. Wade, the Challenger disaster, the fall of the Berlin Wall & Communism, AIDS, the Clinton sex scandal.	World Trade Center attacks, Oklahoma City Bombings, the Internet, the death of Princess Dianna and Mother Teresa.
Characteristics	Hard workers, savers, patriotic, loyal to institutions, private and dependable.	Educated, desire quality in most things, independent, cause-oriented, fitness conscious, tendency to question authority. Boomers are used to being the center of attention, have never been an ignored generation.	"Latch-key kids"- borderline neglect from parents, self reliance, loyalty to relationships, skeptical nature. Technologically savvy, results oriented, impatient.	Not typically religious, but highly spiritual. Highly educated, caring, cause oriented and service driven. Grown up with helicopter parents, have a tremendous respect for older generations. Entrepreneurial spirit, groomed to achieve, law abiding, socially conscious, upbeat, full of self-esteem, open-minded & tolerant. Motivated in almost every way by relationships.

	Elder	Boomer	Gen-X-er	Millennial
Values	Dedication, Sacrifice, Hard work, Conformity, law and order, respect for authority, patience, delayed reward, duty before pleasure, adherence to rules, honor.	Optimism, team orientation, personal gratification, health and wellness, personal growth, work, youth, involvement.	Diversity, thinking globally, balance, techno-literacy, fun, informality, self-reliance, pragmatism.	Optimism, confidence, achievement, sociability, morality, street smarts, diversity, civic duty, volunteerism.
General Approach to Religion	More likely to attend worship services weekly; prefer traditional styles of music, spend regular time in private devotional activity; have a strong sense of belonging to their denomination; be involved in church-based community service, justice or welfare activities; involved in community based service, care or welfare activities.	More likely to attend worship services weekly; prefer traditional styles of music, spend regular time in private devotional activity; have a strong sense of belonging to their denomination; be involved in church-based community service, justice or welfare activities; involved in community based service, care or welfare activities.	More likely to be involved in small groups; prefer contemporary styles of music; feel that their gifts and skills are encouraged; have helped others in a range of informal ways; value outreach, be involved in evangelistic activities, and actually invite others to church; and be newcomers to church life, have switched denominations or transferred congregations in previous five years.	More likely to be involved in small groups; prefer contemporary styles of music; feel that their gifts and skills are encouraged; have helped others in a range of informal ways; value outreach, be involved in evangelistic activities, and actually invite others to church; and be newcomers to church life, have switched denominations or transferred congregations in previous five years.
Sources for God	Perceive God and the church with loyalty; Committed to the church, support foreign missions, enjoy bible study. The Elder hermeneutic is what ever the established church tells them.	Believe they know better than what the church says. Studies scriptures first hand. Take an active role in the development of theology.	Denominations are not important. Everyone's ideas become a potential truth	Sees God in people more than institutions. Gets view of God and worship from traditions and stereotypes rather than the Bible itself. Spiritually eclectic.

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View of the Bible	58% is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches. 34% is the actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word. 22% is not inspired by God.	46% is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches. 23% is the actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word. 22% not inspired by God.	39% is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches. 27% is the actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word. 19% not inspired by God.	30% is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches. 27% is the actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word. 25% not inspired by God.
View of EGW	Full support of her writings. View them as authoritative and on the same (if not greater) level as the Bible.	Mixed supportive, in some cases over-use of her writings.	Resistant, skeptical, many feel they were beat over the head with her writings and lacked Biblical emphasis.	Ignorant for the most part about her writings. Although ignorant, they maintain a similar resistance to the Gen-X
Theology	View the theology of the church as foundational, absolute truth, and are passionate about following it to the letter because it is what the church has decided.	Agree with the church's stance on the majority of issues, not because of the church's authority, but because they have studied it for themselves and they concur.	More skeptical about what the church teaches and form independent ideas which are sometimes in line with a stance the church has taken and sometimes more influenced by secular culture.	Skeptical about dogmas in the church, chooses to find practical applications of the church's beliefs. Wants to know how to use truth, seeks tangible and practical theology.