

/// 0-0 /// BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Now we will talk about

/// 4-1 ///

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

1) *The revolution*

There is a revolution sweeping the world – it began with **Smart Phones**.

A whole new world culture is being established.

It has never happened before.

It is the Lord's doing as part of His **end-time program**.

We refer to it as the *electronic* and *communication* revolution.

It is bringing about a change in our young people.

They think different, they dress different, they act different, they **are** different.

Our young people will never worship in our churches again as we worship now.

Your own grandchildren are leaving our churches.

Take a look around Ukraine. Horses have disappeared, replaced by tractors.

The mechanized world is taking over.

People are no longer walking as they used to. Now it is transportation by car, city-bus, or bicycle. Walking is out.

Life is changing before our eyes.

And the **Smart Phone** change is even much more dramatic.

Here is the question we must answer:

What will I do to reach my grandchildren for Jesus?

/// 4-2 /// Do you want your grandchildren saved? _____

***Then enter their world.
It is the only way***

Then you, the mature ones, the leaders, will have to *minister* to your grandchildren. They are the immature ones.

The world used to belong to the mature and wise, and young people would be trained to enter into it.

The world used to belong to us. No longer — the world now belongs to young people.

Young people, those under 25, rule the world all over and we are now living in **their** world.

Now it is **THEIR** WORLD that we live in, not ours.

Your grandchildren will *not* bend.

/// 4-3 ///!!! You are the one that must bend!!!

If you talk to your little granddaughter and refer to that beautiful horse in the pasture, she will be bored quickly and ignore you.

If you ask the little girl to show you her cell phone and let you try it, you will win her admiration.

Fortunately we have 2 scriptural precedents to help us reach out to our grandchildren.

The first is God's personal example.

The first is that God always took the initiative.

It was not our forefathers who changed and took the first move.

God took the first move.

God came to Abraham and others, **God** reached out to form a whole new Jewish nation.

God sent many, many messengers (prophets and others).

Then finally **God** left heaven, changed Himself into the form of a human being and came to help us. Jesus left all His God stuff in heaven, changed Himself and reached out to minister to us.

If you want your grandchildren to be washed in the blood of Jesus, you, as pastors and church leaders, will have to change your ways of doing things. You will have to change your ways of your regular worship services. It is not that you are wrong, or that your grandchildren are right.

/// 4-4 /// Forget about that!!!

It has nothing to do with being wrong or right.

The simple truth is that our grandchildren cannot *understand us and our ways of worshipping*.

A 30 year old pastor of a large church here told me, "I can no longer understand or relate to 18 year olds."

Yes it will be hard.

Yes, you will NOT like it.

But it must still be done.

Jesus did not like being a human being.

He said, "How long do I have to put up with you and your evil junk?" Matt 17: 17.

Jesus did not like it, but he did it.

You will not like it either but if you want your own grandchildren to go to heaven you will have to build a whole new set of personal relationships with them.

For me personally it is very hard, and I would completely fail in this area of my life--completely.

Fortunately my dear wife is very aware of it and is constantly pushing me to spend time and build relationships with my grandchildren.

She forces me to adapt and change, and it is good.

It is not easy. I find it hard and repugnant sometimes, but I am doing it.

If you want your grandchildren in heaven with you, you too will have to spend a lot of time with them. The same is true for all your young people, your job is to become a missionary to them just like Jesus became a missionary to us.

(And who knows, along the journey that starts with obediently reaching out, you might just learn to love it along the way and find the beauty in doing things a new way. 🙏)

2) The young people will never worship in your church again the way it is now.

Young people are leaving our churches in droves, and it is only beginning.

/// 4-5 /// Here is the problem: use overhead chart

The main congregation of the church consists of those 45 years of age and over.

They are older and comfortable with the way we do things.

These older people are also paying for it and helping to clean, paint and maintain our church buildings.

You **too** are part of this regular congregation.

You think like them and feel like them.

It is very comfortable to minister to your regular congregation.

And there is nothing wrong with what we do. Nothing at all, it is perfectly right.

So what is wrong?

/// 4-6a /// use PP on attendance — people dying yearly

/// 4-6b ///

/// 4-6c ///

/// 4-6d ///

/// 4-6e ///

/// 4-6f ///

/// 4-6g ///

/// 4-6h ///

/// 4-6i ///

/// 4-6j ///

/// 4-6k ///

Within 10 years time hundreds and hundreds of our Baptist churches will close.

That is pretty bad isn't it?

That is pretty negative! Pretty depressing!!

But there is hope 🙏 ---- lots of hope 🙏

Let us begin by answering the question
Why are our grandchildren leaving our churches?

3) Because, they are different.

They look at life differently The way they see the world is different, and their *base values* are different than what ours were in the past.

We may compare them to Eskimos, or Chinese.

Our grandchildren are different on the *inside*. **They are not like us.**

They are shaped by smart phones and the internet.

Young people are a new group with many totally new unknown characteristics.

Think for a moment what you would do if you had to take care of two very different groups of people.

Forty Eskimos come and 30 jungle people. How would you minister to 2 such very different groups?

You may not have an answer.

And most certainly you would make many mistakes.

But one thing would probably be certain.

You would not put them together. You would separate them and minister to them in distinctly different ways.

You would put the jungle people in the attic, and the Eskimos in the basement.

Some churches in Ukraine are exactly doing that with their young people.

4) Providing a Worship Service for Youth

Wise pastors provide a second Worship Service specifically for and led by young people.

This way conservative churches can retain their traditional worship service.

There is nothing wrong with that.

Large churches with hundreds of people naturally do not want to lose their congregation.

They want to keep their traditions, their old Baptist way of doing things that is comfortable.

But these visionary church leaders realized something completely different was needed for their young people.

Young people are going to have guitars and loud music. They will use Bibles on phones , they will clap their hands, and they will do many other things that we normally don't approve of in our churches.

Things that we often call charismatic, even though it is false to say so.

(Reading the Bible from a modern version is not charismatic. Including the Holy Spirit in your prayer is not charismatic.)

So church leaders with a love for their youth and a vision for the future are taking drastic action and starting new services.

A worship service very specifically for young people with the even more specific purpose of attracting unsaved young people.

Such pastors are very wise.

They did not call their new church, "church".

They did not even get another building.

They simply started another service specifically for young people right after lunch on Sunday afternoon.

Praise God for such wise church leaders, they kept the name "Worship Service" for the traditional morning service.

The afternoon event is called the "Youth Service."

In the summer the young people meet in a park or in the woods with their guitars and sing and share testimonies with unbelievers.

Sometimes they meet after the Sunday evening service.

But in fact, in reality, they started a new church.

A special church for their youth, and this is what you should do.

It is my understanding that such youth services usually attract other youth; new youth are being saved regularly and churches begin to grow.

In modern cities today unbelievers sleep in late on Sunday morning. They will not go to church in the morning. But they are free and available after lunch.

God is on the throne in such churches, God is moving in these churches, and why?

Because the pastors obeyed the Bible; they followed scripture in ministering to their young people.

5) Examples from Scripture

Jesus had some difficulties with the older church leaders, but had a perfect solution.

This brings us to example 2 from the Bible. We find it in Matthew chapter 9.

Let us read verses 14–17. (Orally read it as a group together – make sure everyone participates – then repeat.)

Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

This is not a story, but a discussion.

It is not a discussion about fasting only, but rather about the larger aspect of church traditions.

Jesus did not say that traditions were not good. He did not criticize traditions in any way.

But He did say in verse 15 that there are times to ignore traditions and do something completely new.

Then in verse 16 He said that if you try to put something old and something new together you will **fail**.

As a matter of fact He said you will **ruin** both the old and the new.

Jesus is talking about groups of people here. Groups of people that have different feelings and different ways of doing things.

And what did Jesus say?

What was His advice to us?

He said, "Don't mix up these 2 different groups!!!"

Then in verse 17 Jesus gives us even further insights.

What should we do with this group of Eskimos and jungle people?

6) Jesus said, "Keep them separate"

Put the old group in old familiar containers and put the new group into new containers.

Then He goes on to say "Then both groups will be successful." (for more info see Lecture BC13)

Here is the vision Jesus has for your church.

Jesus knew that many groups of new believers, or young people, or special sub-classes of people such as university students, do not fit into our existing worship services.

Jesus shared the idea with John's disciples that it would be best to care for and nurture such groups separately.

Jesus clearly stated to keep such young believers apart. His vision for us is to start a new church specifically for your young people.

This is a vision Jesus shared with John the Baptist's **followers**.

The vision of Jesus is to start a new church specifically for your young people.

Jesus also practiced this himself. All of his disciples were young people, some perhaps teenagers.

It was young people who started Pentecost!

7) Look at the beauty Jesus had in mind for you.

/// 4-7a /// US PP On Growing a New Church

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Jesus' vision for each generation is to replenish themselves with new converts. This way, as the older ones move to heaven, the new converts replenish them. Jesus' intent was also to add additional converts so churches would continually expand.

So the exciting idea Jesus had was for our churches to experience growth every 10 years.
 New converts come from unbelievers that are turned into believers by your contact with them and your example to them. This needs to be an ongoing oral involvement.
 Jesus' intent for your church is to constantly increase.
 It can be done!
 Jesus DID it!
 Churches **are** doing it!
 Wow!!! Praise God.
These is hope --- Lots of hope!
 Yes, **there is** hope even for many dying churches.

Such wise pastors did what Jesus advised; they kept the older people in the regular worship service and created a new youth service.
 Brothers, God's answer to the dilemma with our very own grandchildren is to start new churches. Jesus said these young people's services would be wild, and noisy, even charismatic perhaps. Those concepts are included in "the wedding idea" or "the new wine" idea. Weddings are unpredictable and noisy.
 New wine bubbles, and is strong.
I don't like it, but that is the way it is, and Jesus said let it be!
 Five years from now these same young people will be the parents of small children in your church. Take good care of them.
 Jesus also said: don't throw out your old congregation, keep them, minister to them as well.
 Do not throw away your old traditions.
 We will take some time now to discuss these ideas and write in your very own conclusion.
 May God bless you as you apply these ideas in your church — Amen.

/// 4-8a /// My dear friends, do you really want that your grandchildren will not go to hell? _____

/// 4-8b /// What will you do to minister to them? _____

/// 4-8c /// Will you give them freedom to listen to their fast, loud Christian music? _____

/// 4-8d /// Name some of the first steps you will take to build fresh new relationships with your youth.

/// 4-8e /// Can you adapt the example of a Sunday afternoon youth service to your situation?
 Yes ... / ... no ... / ... other ... / ... later (*Circle one*)

/// 4-8f /// How? _____

8) Good news for older leaders

The Bible has some encouraging instructions for the older spiritual leaders among us.

If you are in the "grandfather" category fill out the following suggestions from Deut. 6:4 about

building relationships with your grandchildren, great grandchildren and other youth in your church.

When? _____

Where? _____

What? _____

How? _____

Why? _____