

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



How To Be A Multi-Generational Church - Part 1

Here are a few of the things we gain by making friends across generations:

1. Wisdom. The most obvious gain is the wisdom that comes from perspectives other than our own. I’m sure every generation is different from others, but our current ones have grown up almost in unique worlds. The Great Depression and World War II. Vietnam and the Sexual Revolution. The end of the Cold War and the Digital Revolution. Each of these eras has reconstructed Western culture on a somewhat different set of beliefs and goals and presuppositions.

Spending time with people from other generations will expose different preferences and beliefs. This could lead us further into generational narcissism (“Boy, do these whippersnappers/geezers have a lot to learn!”). But it also can—and should—lead us back to God’s Word, because the conflict might expose blind spots in our generation.

2. Wonder. God is at work in every generation, just as in every human being. He brought my grandparents’ families through the Depression and World War II, redeemed my parents out of the bacchanalian early ’70s, and saved me from the bog of postmodern pluralism. God reached into the turbulence of each era to speak to us individually. He’s begun growing us all into the one image of Christ.

3. Godliness. Intergenerational friendships can lead us to grow in godliness. They do this first by forcing us to love more maturely. The more I have in common with someone, the easier it is to love him.

Loving someone different from me requires me to love more deliberately. I’m going to have to ask more questions and listen better. To hear things I don’t understand and maybe things I don’t agree with. I might have to sacrifice things on my schedule or my style. But developing that intergenerational friendship will make me into a more maturely loving person.

Intergenerational friendship will also help me develop humility. No matter my age, I must set aside my generation’s narcissistic tendency to think that we figured it out and everyone else had better listen up. My generation-saturated views—on politics, on entertainment, on church music—may not [gasp!] be the only ones a godly/rational/socially aware person can hold. I may find issues that, on biblical reflection, godly people can freely disagree on. Or mine may be flat-out wrong. Making friends with people of other generations teaches me godly humility.

KEY VERSE

I Timothy 5:1 (NKJV)

Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I Timothy 5:1-2; Psalm 78:1-4; Matthew 20

Being A Multi-Generational Church

1. The article on the cover lists benefits of having friendships with people from other generations. Which reason is most impactful to you?
2. We all come from different family backgrounds. I Timothy 5:1-2 looks at the church as a family. How might our positive or negative relationships with our family impact our ability to understand these church family dynamics?

Tuesday: I Timothy 5:1a; Titus 2:2; Matthew 21

Fathers

3. According to I Timothy 5:1, how should you interact with the older men in our church?
4. Why are older men important to our church family?

Wednesday: I Timothy 5:1b; Titus 2:6-8; Matthew 22

Brothers

5. According to I Timothy 5:1, how are you to view younger men?
6. Why are younger men important to our church family?

Thursday: I Timothy 5:2a; Titus 2:3-5; Matthew 23

Mothers

7. According to I Timothy 5:2, how are we to view older women in our church?
8. Why are older women important to our church family?
9. Describe a time where you personally benefitted from a relationship with an older person in our church family.

Friday: I Timothy 5:2b; Titus 2:4-5; Matthew 24

Sisters

10. What does it mean to treat younger women in our church as sisters?
11. Why are younger women important to our church family?
12. Next week we will continue the topic of How to Be A Multi-Generational Church. Our cover gives us benefits of having multi-generational friendships. What are some challenges in pursuing these friendships?