

**Intergenerational Participation in Ministries and
Worship:
The Relationship between Worship & Witness**

A Millennial Perspective

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What is worship?

Four Definitions:

- Derives from the Old English word **weordhscipe** meaning, 'worthiness' and thus giving God the recognition God deserves.
- Hebrew word, **aboda** (also abad or asab) when translated is normally associated with the work done in the temple.
- Greek word, **leitourgia** (where we get the English word liturgy) referred to a monetary gift collected for the Jerusalem church. It also means the operation, mass, function or service.
- Greek word, **proskyneo** (Hebrew equivalent: **shachac**) refer to a posture of submission and this an acknowledgement of God's sovereignty.

Worship is a lifestyle!



Case Study

John 12: 1-11

- Authentic worship COSTS
 - Nard (or spikenard) cost a year's worth a wages
 - Mary was willing to use her glory to glorify God through Jesus.
- Authentic worship CONVICTS
 - Mary is convicted about Jesus' PERSON, POWER, AND PURPOSE
 - Judas is convicted by his motives
- Authentic worship CONSUMES
 - This costly fragrance FILLS the whole room. Everyone who left the house, left smelling a little like the nard.



Worship & Ministry

“Worship is not something you turn on and turn off. Worship is ongoing... In some cases, we're more concerned about the time spent between the Call to Worship and the Benediction, that we forget to worship after the Benediction and before the Call to Worship.” - Bishop Kenneth Monroe

“God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another. God through Christ actively seeks relationship to us through worship.”

“Worship equips and encourages people and calls them to alter their paths as they grow in Christ-likeness.
Worship changes behavior...”



1. Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), 34.
2. Schnase, 36.
3. *Grace Polaris Church*. <https://gracepolaris.org/about/mission-values/> (Accessed February 13, 2020)

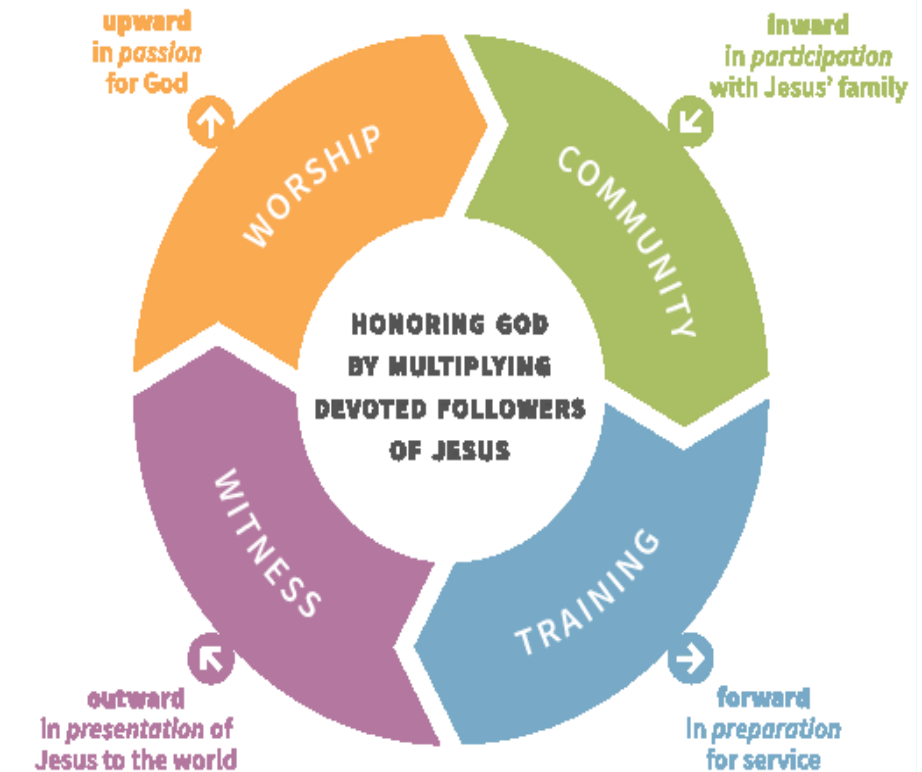
Worship & Ministry

“Passionate Worship connects people with God **and with one another**, opens lives to the experience of God’s grace and to the **hearing and doing of God’s Word** and forms people into the body of Christ... *Worship leaves people challenged, sustained, and led by the Spirit of God, and it changes how they view themselves and their neighbors.*”

“Part of the challenge of reaching people under thirty while keeping those over sixty is a generational issue because generations have different preferences for how they worship, minister, learn, lead, relate, and interact with one another... They also experience community in different ways.”

Our WORSHIP directly impacts our WITNESS

1. Schnase, 39.
2. Edward H. Hammett, *Reaching People under 30 while Keeping People over 60: Creating Community Across Generations* (Columbia: TCP Books, 2015). Kindle
3. *Grace Polaris Church*. <https://gracepolaris.org/about/mission-values/> (Accessed February 13, 2020)

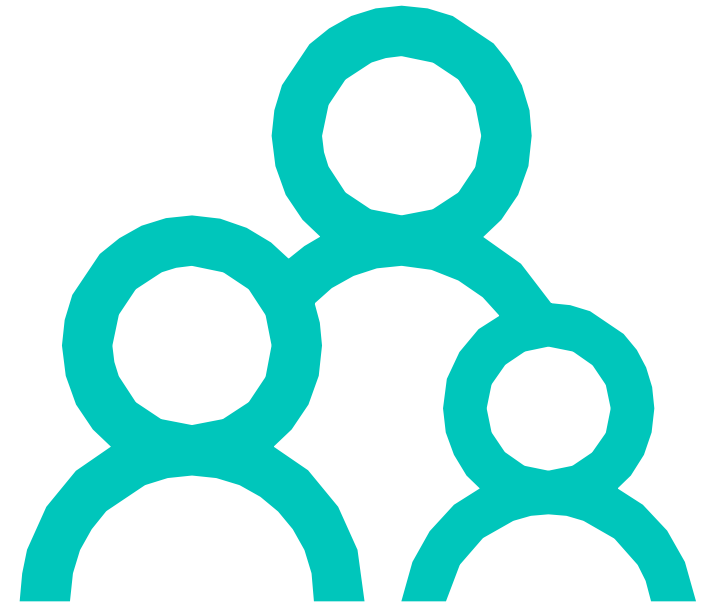


Generational Challenges

○“For the first time in history, churches face the challenge of ministering to five generations... what pleases one generation often doesn't satisfy the next generation, much less the third, fourth, or fifth.”

○“Postmoderns (many believe we are beyond postmodernism, but for our purposes think of those outside the traditional church values) and those in the unchurched culture often do not trust or respect churches, church leaders, or the motivations of church people. The moral crises found in many churches and denominations these days and the high visibility given to these by the media have fueled cynicism, fear, and distrust by many inside and outside the church.”

1. Hammett, *Reaching People under 30 while Keeping People over 60*. Kindle
2. Hammett, *Reaching People under 30 while Keeping People over 60*. Kindle



Generational Challenges

BUILDERS

- Influenced by Great Depression, rationing, World Wars, Pearl Harbor, the automobile, radio, and big band music.
- Born into a 'horse-and-buggy' world. Many began their life without indoor plumbing and read at night by an oil lamp.
- Overcame the Depression and the Second World War
- This generation has shaped the church and most of the church related institutions. They believed in and supported missions and evangelism. A higher percentage of Builders call themselves Christian than any subsequent generation.
- Have an intrinsic trust in institutions (including the church) and are frustrated because they don't see the younger adults supporting the church with the same determination and unquestioned loyalty they had.

Generational Challenges

Boomers

- Born after World War II. Influenced by the introduction of television, the Cold War, leadership assassinations, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, Kent State, rock and roll, the sexual revolution, the birth control pill, legalize abortion, illegal drugs, etc.
- Boomers quickly became known as the 'Me' Generation, no longer willing to sacrifice for the good of the community.
- They witnessed their parents either laid off by companies they were loyal to or given a meager celebration for their years of service.
- Generation that works hard and plays hard. In the family, both spouses work. Known more for their spending than their saving
- Their relationship with the church became more personal than institutional. Boomers are the first generation with genuine distrust of the institution of church. They desire relationships. Boomers support individuals but not institutions.
- Made to go to church as children, many quickly abandoned the church at their first opportunity, only to return when their children were born. Today they control many churches. 60 percent of Protestant senior pastors of Boomers, while fifth- eight percent of currently lay leaders

Generational Challenges

Busters

- Born between 1965 and 1983, Busters have been shaped by the AIDS epidemic, legalized abortion, technology, a varying economy, video games, the Challenger disaster, the fall of the Berlin wall and the end of the communist threat, the first Persian Gulf war
- Accepts situational ethics, truth being in the eye of the beholder, and living in shades of gray instead of black-and-white. Believe that absolute truth and morality no longer exist.
- Generation that intentionally delayed getting married due to the increase of divorce between their parents
- Move from job to job, changing careers if they don't feel good about what they are doing or to move ahead. They didn't see companies honoring their parents, so they see no reason to stay with an employer
- They see the values of their parents' generation as empty, meaningless, and unrewarding. They see leaders who lack even basic ethical values.
- Since their perception, and perhaps experience, is that one truth is as good as another, many bounce from one church, denomination, or even religion to another or begin to incorporate a little of each into their lives. If they go to church, they prefer one that has definite beliefs, 'clear and convictional doctrine'. About one in seven is an active churchgoer.

Generational Challenges

Millennials

- ‘The Next Generation’ or ‘The Mosaic Generation’ has grown up in an age of technology and prosperity. They are the children of two-parent income or single-parent families. Have been shaped by live reports from war zones, loss of integrity (and respect) for authority figures (government, sports heroes and even clergy)
- Worry about everything. To deal with the stress, they turn to drugs and alcohol. Millennials have seen more teenage crime (and school shootings) than any of their predecessors.
- Materialistic. Want the best of everything. Aspire to have two or more cars and a vacation home.
- Highly mobile and tolerant of other’s ideas. This generation is spiritual not religious. They are truth seekers, but want to determine for themselves what is true, accepting all religions as valid. Even if they identify as Christian, they determine what beliefs they hold and those beliefs may or may not be based on the Bible.
- Millennials need unconditional love, a safe space for building relationships, and leaders who won’t abandon them. In the church, they do well in teams with shared responsibilities. They will demand the best from their church. They expect technology and media to have an important part in worship and education.

- Build relationships
- Utilize technology
- Engage different learning styles and faith levels
- Importance of mentorship
- Provide opportunities to lead without micromanaging

Developing Multigenerational Ministry

In review

- Worship is a **lifestyle** not a timeframe or a place.
- Authentic worship **COSTS, CONVICTS, & CONSUMES**
- Our worship (or lack thereof) is directly correlated to the potency of our witness
- There are (at least) four generations in our churches: Builders, Boomers, Busters, & Millennials
- In 2020, there is a fundamental distrust in institutions (including the church), and our lifestyle of worship is essential to our witness.
- Build relationships, utilize technology, engage different learning styles, & give opportunities to lead without micromanaging

