

Reaching the Millennials

Proverbs 23:23 "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

In the news, I often hear some liberal telling the conservatives what they need to do to reach people. As in so many areas of life, our focus is being pulled from the main priority of our existence. That MAIN priority is to do the RIGHT thing, not to reach people. What we have to do, is to do right. If it works or not, right is its own reward.

We are being told what we have to do to reach "millennials." We are being fed every idea imaginable except one thing — DO RIGHT. This foolish teaching is spreading all through our religious circles.

Let us be honest about a few things. In the 1960s, the hippie movement was in full swing, college students were taking over administration buildings, and declaring "sit ins" by blocking access to offices and stopping the affairs of colleges. Revolt was taking place among the long-haired, pot-smoking youth toward the Vietnam War; college students were burning their draft cards, and some were leaving the country.

I was in elementary school in the '60s, but I would guess that the churches were not "reaching the young adults" of that day. I think if we went back to the previous decade and studied the '50s, we might hear some say things like, "We are losing our youth," or "What is happening to young people today?" Do I need to consider the "ROARING '20s?" I would guess we might have allowed a few of our youth to slip through the cracks then too.

I do think our nation is less involved in church than in the past, but for a church to see some young people run away from religion and act as if something new and terrible is happening among them, and then decide that we need to completely restructure the church is foolish. No! We need to get our 30-50 year olds out from in front of the TV and ball games, and get them back in church; maybe that would help us reach the young adults. If we could pull our senior citizens out of their motor homes and away from casinos and bring them back to teaching Sunday school classes, that might create role models to get our young people back in church. We might even try to get our preachers away from their TV sets, movies, computers, and pornography; maybe get them back to prayer and holiness, Bible study, and visiting the widows and fatherless. Perhaps that would affect the next generation.

It is foolish to act as if we are losing a generation of young people for the first time in history, and that the answer lies somewhere in rock music, light shows, or a night club atmosphere in the church. To say we need bearded pastors with two-tone hair who "dress down" like magazine models and stroll around the stage chatting with their listeners about life will reach the next generation is all nonsense. To have sermons that resemble a counselors office or motivational speaker more than a Bible preacher in order to reach "millennials" is absurd.

Young people have always wrestled with authority. Multitudes of young people have stepped away from their childhood religion, only later to return to God when their hearts have been broken. Survey any congregation and see how many people came back to God after staying from Him a time in folly, and you will see that those people make up large percentages of every good church. These people become wonderful workers blessed by God and a serve to be a blessing to their fellow members.

Proverbs 22:28 "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

Let us refer back to where I began... I will tell the liberals what we need to do. We need to do right! No great generation will follow inexperienced youth for long before realizing that young people have a great deal to learn about life. To turn from truth in hopes of reaching anyone is satanic, but to follow children or young people when we have received the wisdom of ages from our fathers is nonsense.

What we might be missing was mentioned above: holy preachers, devoted members, separated parents and teachers, grandparents who love Sunday school and church, and a lifestyle among believers that makes it obvious to young people that we believe what the Bible says — we might be missing that! But leave the young folks to God, He has been doing this for generations.

www.thepreachersfriend.com