

Challenged by Life...Powered by God

(Case Studies in Christian Challenges)

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This monthly series of case studies illustrate the challenges presented to us as Christians. Facing these common challenges is inevitable. How we respond to those challenges is what defines us as human beings and whether others observe and mimic or take notice and mock. It should be our desire as Christians to serve as that coveted example worth mimicking 100% of the time. See if this case study has presented similar decision points and challenges in your life. I would love to hear your reactions, thoughts and alternative approaches in the comments section below.

The Case of the Damaged Generation

Parents have been stating since the beginning of time, "What are we going to do with these kids? They don't make them like they used to!" I used to think this was isolated to what people were saying about my generation growing up in the 70's. "These kids are weak, they don't know how to work, they have it too easy, it's all about them, rock and roll will destroy the world, etc." Then I learned that my Grandfather had said my Dad's generation was weak because they had electricity! That is when I realized it was a rite of passage to have your entire generation condemned and be destined to have no future! In reality, my Grandfather's generation did rather well, so did my father's generation and those in my generation are now raising families and running corporate America with some distinct success. I have some problems and concerns about my children's generation but it is good to know that this is natural and "business as usual."

What are the Challenges?

Will they know how to live in the moment rather than on Instagram? I am all for recording "the moment" with a picture or video for posterity but sometimes it is good to look up from our smart devices and just enjoy what is in front of us, live and without distraction.

Will they know how to speak, spell or write a personal hand written note? Or will they be bound to 140 characters, or spell "you" as "u", or will they ever pick up the phone to actually speak to someone rather than sending a text?

Will they go to church and practice their faith? Will they bring their kids to church to form the great habits that shape successful, happy lives? Or will they profess to know and believe in God, without the need to go to church or openly profess and practice their belief with others?

Here is Our Saving Grace

Life goes on and it never is as bad as we picture it to be. Every generation finds ways to communicate, it's just different. There are advantages to the direct spoken word, the telegram, the phone call, the e-mail, the text, the instant message and the list goes on. What will the future hold? I don't know but I am predicting it will work out and we will find that new ways to communicate can be just as effective as the old ways. After all, Artificial Intelligence, robotics, virtual reality and implanted chips under our skin are all things that are available now that are just beginning to find their way into society.

Kids are smarter than we think. They know how to spell "you" vs. "u". It is their choice to be succinct and efficient and not an indictment regarding their intelligence.

In regards to the latest generation practicing their faith, the word here is patience. Sometimes it is helpful to understand that often there is a time in life when children who have been brought up in a faith based home, rebel or get complacent about going to church. It is in our best interest to not be critical, not to nag but continue to advise, offer a positive role model, talk about your relationship with God and see what happens. It has been my observation and personal experience that things have a tendency to cycle full circle. A great foundation and continued support often leads our kids eventually to the place we want them to be. It doesn't always happen exactly the way we planned, but it always happens according to God's plan.

What are your thoughts?