

# Understanding the Times in Which We Live

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## I. Introduction.

## II. Generations.

### A. Builders. (1926-45)

1. They were hard-workers, frugal, patriotic, loyal, private, stable, intolerant, etc.
2. They were affected by the War, the Great Depression, and developments in communication.
3. School, family, and church were important.
4. Concerns: health, safety, family, preparation for death, forgiveness, dealing with leisure time, etc.
5. These can be great prayer warriors in the church.

### B. Boomers. (1946-1964)

1. They were highly educated, influenced by music, activist oriented, prone to divorce, weak with interpersonal relationships, distrusting of God, visual learners.
2. They were affected by the Cold War, television, education changes, computers and video games, Vietnam, Kent State.
3. They need to be treated as individuals, they will not commit to a denomination, and their involvement in the church is not as consistent.

### C. Busters. (Generation X)

1. More racism has come about, earning their loyalty never ends, they pierce their bodies as a way to control, they seek leisure before work, and they are more hands on.
2. They need to be exposed to modern worship and short-term mission trips. They like music with a beat. They do not like to be recognized individually. They do not like to be lectured.

## III. Intergenerational challenges.

- A. Worship style and feel of the service.
- B. One solution is to do different types of service.
- C. The older generations can adapt.

**Application questions:**

1. What are two of the biggest differences between the builders and the busters?

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2. What successful models have you seen for meeting the needs of an intergenerational church?

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3. What are some unsuccessful approaches to addressing intergenerational challenges? What do you think can be done better?

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