

Potomac River Baptist Association Annual Session
Men's Department
Workshop
Tuesday, July 28, 2020

*Transforming Another Generation
with the
Truth, Training and Tolerance*

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Generation Names

Generation Name	Births Start	Births End	Youngest Age Today*	Oldest Age Today*
Lost Generation of 1914	1890	1915	105	130
Interbellum	1901	1913	107	119
Greatest	1910	1924	96	110
Silent	1925	1945	75	95
Baby Boomer	1946	1964	56	74
X (Baby Bust)	1965	1979	41	55
Xennials	1975	1985	35	45
Millennials Gen Y, Gen Next**	1980	1994	26	40
iGen / Gen Z	1995	2012	8	25
Gen Alpha	2013	2025	1	7

Transformation

what does the Bible say ?

- The Bible speaks of something called **transformation** these two verses:
- **2 Corinthians 3:18:** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Romans 12:2: And do not be fashioned according to this age, but **be transformed** by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

- Source:

<https://blog.biblesforamerica.org/what-is-transformation-in-the-bible/>

Transformation

what does the dictionary say?

- According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, **transformation** means “a complete or major change in someone or something’s appearance, form, etc.” But what does this mean for us as Christians? Should we change our behavior to be more “Christ-like,” or live by a new set of rules and regulations? By looking closely at the two bible verses on the previous slide, we find that **transformation** in the Bible actually means something completely different than what we might think.
- In the New Testament the Greek word for **transformation** is **metamorphosis**. The definition of **metamorphosis** is “a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the **life** history of an organism, as from the caterpillar to the pupa and from the pupa to the adult butterfly.”

The Caterpillar

transformation process

- A caterpillar is born already possessing the life that will cause it to become a butterfly. Although an outward change does occur during ***metamorphosis***, it's the result of an organic ***change from within***. A caterpillar doesn't put on a butterfly costume or strive to act like a butterfly. As long as it eats, a caterpillar can trust in the metabolic process to assimilate those nutrients into its body and cause it to grow. Eventually, it undergoes ***metamorphosis*** and becomes a butterfly.

The Christian life

transformation process

- When we prayed and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were ***regenerated***, or reborn, with the divine life of God within to become children of God. This life operates within us to ***transform*** us into the image of Christ.
- However, like a caterpillar, we also need to eat in order to be ***transformed***. In John 6:35 (KJV), Jesus says, “I am the bread of life; he who ***comes*** to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who ***believes*** into Me shall by no means ever thirst.” The Lord wants us to take Him as ***spiritual food*** every day. This is the way for us to grow and be ***transformed***.

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deuteronomy 11:18-19 NIV.)
- But the **truth** is that God's desire is for the older men and women to train up and build up the next generation in the Body of Christ. (Titus 2:1-4
- KJV.) ***In other words, you get to parent the next generation even if the "children" are not your biological descendants.*** This was God's design from the beginning.
- And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32 KJV.)

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- The ***truth*** is that God commanded His people in the Old Testament to speak of His ***power and all He had done for them. He wanted them to share their history... their amazing stories describing their own personal experiences with God.*** He rescued them out of ***slavery***, parted the Red Sea, went before them into battle, and gave them victory and rest.
- *We often underestimate the power of our personal stories and experiences. But the **truth** is that these stories are what often leads us to turn our hearts to towards God, understanding fully why we should.*

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should make them known to their children, **that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children**, that they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments (Psalm 78:5-7 KJV.)
- **Power Point**: Don't deny the next generation by withholding your faith walk with Jesus Christ. Truth be told we all have powerful testimonies that we can recall how God brought us out of darkness into the marvelous light. Remember, you may be the only bible the next generation will ever witness.

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- Throughout the Old Testament, God made it very clear: *As parents, we are called to **train another generation to serve and love God***. This was made evident in the fact that the Israelites were commanded to share the stories of all God had done for them in the past. They were told to re-read the Law so that the next generation would know exactly what was in it and why it was important to honor it. Parents were instructed to teach their children all they could about God and His love for them. *The same is true today*. It is up to us to make sure the next generation knows how much God loves them and desires to be in relationship with them.

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2Tim 3:16-17 ESV.)
- Of David. Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle (Psalm 144:1 ESV.)
- Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6 ESV.)
- Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (1 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV.)

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- First, as a Christian, you will never know it all. So training is vital to our walk with Christ. We all are trained in different professions to earn a living because we are educated and our parents did the best they could to support our career dreams and aspirations. For some of us, we were introduced to bible learning and teaching at an early age because our parents or relatives were very active in the ministry.
- Now, know this, and having never seeing the righteous forsaken nor his begging for bread. Its our duty to establish strategies to reach the next generation. How? Here is a proven method that worked the first time with twelve ordinary men – probably aged between 18 - 30. Keep in mind Jesus was around 30 years of age when he summoned them to follow him.

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- This method is known to us as making disciples (Matthew 28:19 KJV.) Notice the first thing you do is teach before anything else is done.
 - This is generally called the conversion process – whereby converts are taught about who Jesus is, his character, his behavior and his purpose.
 - Second, step is the call to ministry. There is no time limit on this process because everyone learns at a different pace. Some commentaries on John 14 made mention that Thomas, one of the twelve, was a slow learner*. I disagree with that label for Thomas. I believe Thomas wanted to get an understanding about where Jesus was going.
 - Third, here's where the rubber meets the road. After investing time, talent and resources into the new disciples – spiritual gifts shall begin to surface. From this revelation, some may be called to preach, teach, administration etc. (1 Cor 12:8 – 10, 28-29 KJV.)
 - Last, we must live to die for Christ our redeemer sake. Die once live twice.

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- **Power Point**: The four abbreviated methods described on the previous slide is the model Jesus used to effectively train the apostle. The strategy didn't failed although some of them failed at the final exam but couldn't turn back. Jesus was on his way to Calvary – the plan had to succeed. The training was purposed, planned and prosperous. Jesus told them 'Very truly I tell you whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the father (John 14:12 NIV.)
- Those same methods are free to us to train the another generation. We have to meet them where they are not where we want them to be yet. It takes time and energy.

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2 ESV.)
- Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land (Psalm 37:7-9 ESV.)
- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6 ESV.)

Biblical Approach

the truth, training and tolerance

- **Power Point:** A famous recording artist wrote years ago – it went something like this – patience is thin I want revenge – the big payday. His name was James Brown. We must teach that vengeance belongs to the Lord (Deu 32:35 NIV.) Well its ironic that the whole world is an up roar – patience is dwindling away. The next generation is on a move to seek fairness and equality across many spectrums – especially racism, healthcare and police brutality. Some of their public messaging expresses disappointment in an government system that has failed their generation and those to come. We witness that failure and most have gone through similar if not worse conditions than we see today. But it was our patience, waiting on the Lord, and watching his hand move even when we couldn't see it. It was our patience and the wisdom of the elders who taught us about a thing called faith that kept us and is keeping us now. Patience is a virtue.

Summary

truth, training & tolerance

- The next generation, as we have learned, will challenge the status quo – specifically the house of worship. We must begin a process to raise up young leaders and equip them for the ministry. For this approach to be effective, seasoned servants must continue sharing the goodness and never ending mercies of the Lord. Our testimonies are powerful and prayerfully they will fall on soil that God can water and bring forth increase.
- Second, training is critical to the success of effectively transforming the next generation. Some say we have lost a generation to violence, prisons, and the world. So, we must take who is willing to try Jesus and invest time, effort and resources to help them to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ.
- Last, but not least, patience is truly a virtue. The next generation moves quicker, always multi-tasking, places little value on waiting and demands that their rights be honored. They are vocal and free spirited. We must encourage them to wait on the Lord and be of good courage. Is there anything too hard for the Lord? (Genesis 18:14 KJV.)
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