

## "Crossing the Great Divide"

Senior's Ministry Meeting

August 24, 2019

**TITLE:** *"Crossing the Great Divide"*

- The "Great Divide" ...the term 'Generation Gap' (the 70's ...but not the 80's, 90's or early 2000's ...Back with a Vengeance)
- "Crossing" ...do more than just learn to TOLERATE Millennials & Gen Z (ages 39 down to pre-teens)—We need to take up a role of PURSUING & CONNECTING & PARTNERING with them

### **The GREAT DIVIDE**

*"In about 25 years time, we've seen the most concentrated, high-velocity social change that human beings have ever experienced." ..."Pastor, you're not wrong when you think that the whole world has changed. It has." Al Mohler, Thom Rainer Leadership Podcast—Oct 2016*

*"The truth is that the world, as Christians have known it for many centuries, has gone—and gone for good. We are confronting a new situation. ... The recognizably Christian world that Christians helped to create and that has been dominant in the West for more than a thousand years has severely eroded, rival faiths (supremely secularism) are growing in both numbers and power, their damaging influence has spread far beyond their own circles, and the future we are all facing together is in some ways radically new for us all as human beings. " Os Guinness, "Impossible People: Christian Courage and the Struggle for the Soul of Civilization"*

...Helpful to realize—What You & I were afforded was a 'Christianized World' that is now becoming "Post-Christian" ...but what the N.T. was written into was "PRE-CHRISTIAN" (where everything of Christian patterns and morality was FOREIGN!)

#### GALLUP

***Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?***  
[1999 – 35% thought they should; 2014 – 55% thought they should]

***Is being gay or lesbian something a person is born with, or due to upbringing and environment?*** [1982 – 17% -born with and 52% - upbringing/environment; 2014 – 42% born with and 37% upbringing]

***In 2002, 38% thought gay/lesbian relations were morally acceptable; in 2014 58% thought gay/lesbian relations were morally acceptable.***

**CROSSING**

1 **Corinthians 5:9-13** | wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler— not even to eat with such a one. <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? <sup>13</sup> God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

**?? - So How do we Relate to People with Different Views on Sexuality?**

**?? - Are we Condoning? ...Should we be Shunning?**

1 **Corinthians 9:19-23** For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

**...This is Much More than "TOLERATING"—This is Personal Adjustments for the Sake of PURSUING!**

*A deepening pool of ink has been spilled over the “generational gap” problem. ... the real problem, and the real solution, isn’t organizational—it’s personal. The real problem is that, increasingly, we’re no longer making friends across generational lines.” Joseph Rhea, "Why the Church Needs Intergenerational Friendships"*

*"...it is striking that even in the Bible, one of the ways that human community becomes disrupted is the generational divide.*

*If the generational divide was a gap then, it is a canyon now. We are niched by generation as never before. Thirty years ago, families had one TV with three channels; and if people watched something, they watched the same something together. Today there are more channels than you can count, and they no longer broadcast; they narrowcast to a little sliver in the age spectrum.*

*I serve at a 135-year-old Presbyterian church with a wide span of ages in the congregation and a leadership team with members who range in age from 26 (not me) to 68 (also not me). They are a fabulous group of human beings. Navigating change wisely is the subtext beneath almost every conversation we have. I will tell you what we are learning about generations working together.*

**LCC**

Senior's Ministry Meeting  
Pastor Keith Collins

*Multi-generational church ministry in our day is uncharted territory. ...Today, church life has largely been contextualized to reach people in popular culture. But pop culture has fragmented into all kinds of micro-cultures. Generations are generally segregated by media, clothes, music, entertainment, and technology. Trying to reach different generations simultaneously has become like trying to design one church that will work in both Spain and France." John Ortberg, "The Gap", Christianity Today*

Today, this is about much more than "Music Styles"!!

**...more current issues include:**

- work patterns (more two income households, flex-hours, casual dress)
- social connections (social media components)
- parenting approaches (higher need for grandparents help)
- views of authority & absolutes ...
- Pace of Life
- Leisure ...Travel ...Material Possessions

***Questions & Concerns from Your Experience and Observations***