

Tag Sunday: Warm is the New Cool

What comes to mind when you think of the Next Generation?

Every generation has massive concerns about the next generation.

This phenomena is referred to as “Juvenoia”.

“Every generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it.”

-George Orwell

Luke 2:41-52 (NIV) *Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” 49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 50But they did not understand what he was saying to them. 51Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*

I wonder if the experience of young people in our church is like Jesus’ experience.

We will welcome the next generation to the Family Table.

Fuller Youth Institute has released recent research on what churches are doing to Grow Young and what young people are looking for in a church.

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Young people aren’t looking for a Cool Church, they are looking for a

Warm Church.

One of the most common descriptors young people used to describe the churches they love was “like family”.

Romans 12:5 (NIV) *so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

It’s our responsibility as the older generation to train, encourage and connect the next generation to the family story.

It is our task to educate the younger generation about the History and Heritage of our Christian faith.

The older generation must lean toward the next generation.

The younger generation must honor the generation that came before them.

We need both heritage and innovation.
We need to know our history and the mystery of the Spirit.

Our churches need Abrahams, Isaacs and Jacobs.

Warm is the new Cool.

That’s good news because it’s something we can do today.

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