

THE STATE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS OF BELIEVERS

I was in a video store about five years ago down in California. It is sort of strange to reflect back on that day for two reasons. The first reason for my strange feeling about that is that it is very hard to find video rental places anymore; they're rapidly becoming a thing of the past. If you've ever been in one of those stores you know that the people employed by such places are usually teenagers. The second strange thing that I noticed is that the clerk that helped us was a teenager, but he treated us with respect and he spoke like someone who was out of place in his own generation. I was so taken back that I made the comment that he was a pleasant oddity; he was respectful and treated people with dignity. The young man commented and said that he was told that a lot and that he was aware of the fact that he was a member of a very small member; a remnant so to speak, of decent kids in his generation. We left the store and I remarked to my wife at the time, that this kid was remarkable and that his demeanor showed me that perhaps there is hope for his generation. I also remarked that he would probably suffer a lot of persecution at the hands of the majority of young adults who live contrary to him.

I grew up in the 60's and 70's of the last century. During that time the Hippies and other liberals were running around yelling "don't trust anyone over thirty." To those people, anyone over the age of thirty was intolerant and unbending toward new ways of looking at things. The good thing about people my age is that we were too young to be associated with the Hippies and way too young to be associated with those over thirty. We fell into some sort of gap. People my age might not have agreed with the hippies (well, most of anyway) and we more identified with those who the hippies reviled. Most of the people that I know, people my age, finally saw that dope smoking was wrong and we quit. Many of us quit smoking cigarettes and we have seen the damage that abusing dope and alcohol can do. I don't know, perhaps I have some sort of radar that keeps me away from people my age that involve themselves in such activities, but all of my friends and associates are pretty clean where their lives are concerned.

While I see the phrase, "don't trust anyone over thirty," very bigoted and inclusive of all people that age, I have to say that I have adopted a similar but more careful phrase. My cautious approach to younger people is "be very wary of people under forty." As time goes on that will probably change. For instance, in five or so years I might change it to "be very wary of people below fifty," simply because those who were forty or below five years ago will be fifty or below in five more years. Simple math, right? People born after 1965 are part of a different generation,

so say the people who place nomenclature on members of society. I'm afraid that I have to agree that those born after 1965 are a different generation.

Let me explain what I have said above. It is my firm belief, that for the most part, traits tend to skip generations. For instance, I see myself as more of a clone of my grandfather rather than my father. My grandfather saw things as black and white, there were no colors or grays. He was firm in his convictions and not afraid of speaking his mind, even if it got him into trouble. My dad's generation on the other-hand were easier going; they were more willing to roll with the punches. So, it would stand to reason, that if my grandfather was firm in his convictions, my dad was not so much, I am again firm in my convictions, then the next generation will be easier going. Well, it has turned out to be true. It is also interesting how political things play out in this regard. When my grandfather was middle aged, he had to deal with the likes of Franklin D. Roosevelt, an ardent socialist, or probably closet communist, which my grandfather disliked so much that his name was never allowed to be mentioned in his household. Currently, we have a communist in the Oval Office who has left such a bad taste in my mouth that his name is not allowed in our household unless spoken with negative connotation.

I am sort of disappointed with the younger generation of so-called believers. It seems that even with Yeshua's warnings that being lukewarm and his urging that we only participate in Yahweh's things without compromise, these younger people seem to be going down that "if you don't bother them, they won't bother you," mentality. Yes, it is true that we are to live at peace with all people, but that doesn't mean that we scrap our own values to embrace political correctness.

Not too long ago I posted something on my family Facebook page. In that post I made mention to the homosexual man next-door who was giving us the cold shoulder and reporting false claims against us, even though we have tried to treat him with respect. The spiritual realm has caused a divide between he and us. Someone dear to us mentioned to my wife that it wasn't right that I mentioned that the man was a homosexual. Well, if his style of life and his spiritual condition is causing him to be hostile toward us then it is proper to explain to people that this man is opposed to us because of his lifestyle. No foul on my part, but our friend could not see it that way. She is from the younger generation.

A friend of the woman mentioned above has been the same way toward me. This person goes to the church that had the "Church Sucks" campaign. In case you don't remember or haven't read the article here is what was involved. A local church here in Eugene thought that

they could bring in people by agreeing with them that Church basically sucks. They were trying to appeal to people who have had bad experiences in church. Boy, can I agree with that; but there would be so many other ways to bring that message than to be vulgar. It was a worldly attempt to appeal to worldly people, and it backfired on the church and pastor. Even the worldly people that I polled about it thought it to be improper for a church to conduct such a “backdoor” campaign to get people into church, and they too saw it as vulgar and disgusting. It was never mentioned again by the church. Now, a friend of this other person was on Facebook espousing this ploy as a wonderful idea and they were trying to get people to come to church to see this wonderful new tactic. I asked this person if they thought that this campaign was such a good idea and if Jesus would approve of it? Well, this person got very snotty with me in her answer and avoids contact with me to this very day.

I’m afraid that a lot of Christians are like the women above. They embrace things because it appears that all others are embracing them and they don’t stop to discern or investigate if these new doctrines or ploys are Biblical. Whether it is a certain aspect to the Rapture, or replacement theology, preterism, prosperity doctrine or anything else, people run to it and they don’t take time to think about the fidelity of the message. I do believe that a lot of this running blindly, comes from people not being in scripture, studying it for themselves. We are exhorted by scripture to be like the Bereans, who when they heard a message, went back to their bibles to see if what was said was in fact the truth.

It is politically correct to run with the crowd. It is socially acceptable to take on worldly ways and to forsake biblical values. Let’s face it, nobody likes to be in the minority and it is difficult to have an opinion that is contrary to what is commonly thought to be true. Let’s take a look at one instance of this. Now, this might seem trite and it might seem like I’m picking on this person, but they are the best example that I have of compromise with the world and the things of this world. Just yesterday, it was a day that has been set aside to honor Martin Luther King. My opinion of King is one of my brothers in Yeshua. I think that he had ideas that are wonderful. He was a visionary and dare I say a prophet. I like to quote King because his speeches have a lot of Biblical principles and I do believe that King’s vision will be seen one day, but it will be after Yeshua returns to establish His Kingdom on Earth. I quote King all of the time because his words were righteous words. I had a sort of contention with one of my Facebook friends yesterday. This person quoted a King speech that said that love is the only way that peace can be achieved. This is true, but it lacked one major component; that being that the peace can only be achieved when Yeshua lives inside of us; when we are crucified with Him. So, I posted a scripture that established this fact, hoping that the original poster would agree with me; after all,

they call themselves by Yeshua's name, right? Well, that person got defensive, saying that "Jesus has many good quotes, but I was just quoting King because it is Martin Luther King Day."

Well, it was nice that she wanted to honor King but there are some problems here. First, Yeshua's words aren't just good quotes, they are the Word of God Himself. Their post made it sound like King's words were his own, but anyone who knows who King was knows that he was a Pastor, and his words were speaking Biblical truth, not King's own words. Secondly, I have a hard time with honoring men; I'd rather venerate Yahweh. Third, if I was to honor a person, I wouldn't just do it on a day when everyone else is doing it; I would honor them all of the time. To honor King only on King's day of honor is the "politically correct" thing to do. What was done was done (as far as I can ascertain) to be like the others and to proclaim that they were on board. Here's a for instance. My dad was known for being a wise man; a man who studied to show himself approved. My dad had a lot of wonderful sayings that were all biblically based. He was wise beyond his years and I am proud to be his son. Do I just wait for his birthday to honor my dad? Do I wait for the day of his death to remember him? No, I mention my dad and his wisdom all of the time. My close old friends mention my dad all of the time too and it seems like he comes up whenever we talk on the phone. That is true honor, not just doing it because other people are doing it.

I have to wonder what was going through Yeshua's mind and heart when He said in the Tanakh, "these people honor me with their mouths, but their hearts are far from me." If people nowadays are politically correct where the things of the world are concerned, are they also politically correct where the things of Yahweh are considered? To be honest, I have to examine my own heart from time to time to see if my motives are for Yahweh or am I trying to manipulate my thoughts and actions for my own wants and needs. I think that all believers should do that on a consistent basis because we are always bombarded by this world. We have to constantly shore up our defenses against such wiles.

I have to ask a question though, one that must be asked. Who can Yahweh deal with easier? Can he work with a prideful person; one who knows everything and spurns correction by their elders? Can he work with stone easier than he can work with clay?

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isaiah 57:15

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. Isaiah 66:2

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51:17

The Hebrew word for “contrite” in those verses is “daka” and it means to be crushed or to be broken. It is the opposite of what many in the younger generations exhibit nowadays. They want to be in the limelight, they want to be popular, they want to be in the in-crowd and they hate to be corrected or disciplined. They are usually the first to argue and debate, and are the last to concede or to admit that they are wrong. I know, many of you are saying that many of us were like that when we were young, and that is true to a point. I will say however that me and many of my contemporaries, when being admonished by older people would at least consider the words of the older folks, and many times we conceded that we were wrong and we humbled ourselves before our elders and Yahweh.

What have I tried to accomplish with this article? Well, it was to point out a major flaw in the younger generation. Hopefully some of them will read this and will concur and will repent. I hope to spur on those of us who are older so that we can pray for the younger people. If a person calls upon the name of Yahweh then they are redeemable, so we need to pray that Yahweh redeems them. I truly do hope and pray that Yahweh Yeshua will work overtime to bring correction to a arrogant generation and that they come to know the wisdom of their elders. If they can't honor their elders, they will not honor Yahweh the way that He needs to be honored. We also need to pray that the blinders are taken off and that all people see this pleasing and politically correct doctrine as being what it is; a lie from Hell that needs to be cast off as far as east is from west.