

FACTS AND TRENDS FALL 2017 FACTSANDTRENDS.NET GENERATION Z

Pastor Earl passed along to me a wonderful magazine called **Facts and Trends**. I have posted their website, but I just wanted to share a few thoughts with you concerning GENERATION Z.

Generation Z is defined as:

*Those born between 1996 and 2014 (ages 3-21 today) They are everywhere and by 2020 will have about \$3 trillion in purchasing power. In other words, they are influential.

*They have always been wired. They have never known a world without Internet or smart phones, Goggle and Wi-Fi. They spend 6-9 hours a day absorbing media. The mode of communication they most prefer is digital (social media, texting).

*They are racially diverse and multi-racial. They have friends of all races and are more likely to marry someone of another ethnic group.

*They are independent, self-directed and confident but they also lack real-life wisdom and don't have many boundaries. They live in an age of cyber-bullying, sexting, internet porn, hacking, scams and identity theft.

*They are aware we live in a troubled planet. Terrorist attacks, mass shootings, and they lived through a great recession where they saw parents and friends suffer through economic hardship. They are a hopeful generation but realistic. They see the world for what it is.

*They are justice minded. They want to make a difference in the world. They are kids who volunteer, have a heart for missions and sign up to do things.

*They are post-Christian. Many Z's are growing up in homes with no religion at all. We must start simple and basic and make sure they are acquainted with the Gospel.

*They are open to FAITH! They view religious leaders as better role models than celebrities, pro athletes, or political leaders. THEY ARE HUNGRY FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS.

These statements were based on collected data from interviews with Gen Z's. We must find a way to reach them and keep them coming to Christ. We must listen to what they listen to, watch what they watch, read what they read. Get on their social media and observe their behavior and posts. You don't need to comment, just check it out. It is helpful for them to remember that people do watch their social media. Let them know what you saw. Reach out if you see something of concern. They know you are doing this out of love and not prying.

They struggle with self-image and doubts. Be careful what you post about them on social media. What you think is "cute", they may find humiliating.

They have a short attention span, but we should always keep the lines of communication open for them. We must let them know it is OK to interrupt our day with their questions or concerns.

They feel lots of pressure in academics, in school, in college, in getting a job. Make them feel like they are being listened to. We must be the kind of parents who set a good example. They are watching, and they are open to learning. We must help them cultivate a relationship with God that they can pass down to their children. We do not want more generations growing up without God.

Many times you see kids today with their heads buried in a screen but these kids are multitaskers. They can talk on the phone while texting a friend while posting on Instagram while watching TV while doing their homework. I have seen it done! Most of them are also listening to what you are saying but we must say it in a way that they hear! Pray for them! Pray that the ones on a Godly path stay on that path and pray that those that do not know God will reach Him through us!