

Abstract

Many Millennial Christians have grown up in specialised youth and children's ministries. Despite this significant church investment, Millennials have stopped coming to church and are the least represented generation in Sunday worship. This dissertation investigates how the age-segregated youth and children's ministries experienced by Millennials have grown a generation that does not want to be part of church anymore. Generational theory is explored and Millennials are defined, noting the cultural disconnect currently felt between all generations. The biblical relationship with generations is then investigated, revealing that faith is passed on from generation to generation within the intergenerational household of God. The origins of youth and children's ministry are explored revealing it to be a recently evolved age-segregated practice, backed up by scant theological reflection. These discoveries are compared with examples from the field of youth and children's ministry to add weight to the findings and learn from embedded practice. All of the research is gathered together to build a picture of how a lack of intergenerational integration has allowed a generation to be raised in isolation from the rest of their church family, to the detriment of the whole body of Christ. Areas for further research are then suggested.