



SEVEN  
QUESTIONS  
WE'RE  
ASKING  
ABOUT  
GEN Z





# SEVEN QUESTIONS WE'RE ASKING ABOUT GEN Z



## 1. DOES GEN Z LOVE TO BE DIFFERENT?

The reality is that they are different (racially and in their sexuality), yet we are seeing that they can be hesitant when *who they are* or *what they believe* comes into conflict with the identity and beliefs of others. They are easily swayed by the opinions of others and susceptible to changing standards of morality.

**CONCLUSION:** Disciple them to make room for diversity without abandoning truth.



## 2. IS GEN Z THE LEAST RELIGIOUS GENERATION WE'VE EVER SEEN?

Yes, the data is showing that. They are religiously disaffiliating - not because of negative experiences but just because they are disinterested and Church doesn't feel relevant to them. Additionally, Gen Z is not highly confident about what they believe theologically and may be in danger of having a faith that doesn't stand up to trials.

**CONCLUSION:** We need to disciple teens to know why they believe what they believe and make Church a relevant community for them that they don't want to miss.





### 3. DOES GEN Z FEEL AUTHENTIC ONLINE?

Gen Z says they can be authentic online and that social media gives them a voice and an audience to share their story. But we are also seeing them prefer anonymous or impermanent platforms (aka Snapchat or “finstas” which are fake Instagrams) to create safe spaces to be themselves. Churches are not necessarily part of that circle of trust.

**CONCLUSION:** It's not unhealthy to stratify your social media presence and have an inner circle that you share with more deeply. As Christian leaders and mentors, work to become a part of that inner circle for your students.



### 4. WHAT IMPACT IS GEN Z EXPERIENCING FROM BEING CONSTANTLY CONNECTED?

Gen Z is constantly connected and can't live apart from their mobile devices, but they are paying a price for that dependence: physically with lost sleep and mentally in rising health concerns.

**CONCLUSION:** Find ways to help students use moderation and wisdom in their use of digital technology.



### 5. IS GEN Z AS ENTREPRENEURIAL AS WE THOUGHT?

An entrepreneurial spirit is a widely accepted hallmark of Gen Z, and they are already putting innovative career paths into action (For Example: Freelancing). But looking closer we see that an entrepreneurial appetite is more present at younger ages than older, and they are not actually that different from Millennials at their age. Covid may also be an economic disruption similar to the economic recession of 2008 that inhibited Millennials from starting their own businesses.

**CONCLUSION:** Gen Z needs mentorship from the Church to help them use their skills to fulfill their dreams and seize opportunities.



## 6. HOW DOES GEN Z LEARN BEST?

Teens have shorter attention spans than ever and say they prefer to learn by watching YouTube, collaborating with others, and creating for themselves. They are a generation of hands-on learners who no longer like to listen to lectures or read textbooks.

**CONCLUSION:** When it comes to youth ministry, we need to adapt the methods by which we are "teaching" Gen Z. Find ways to help them turn information into wisdom.



## 7. WHY IS GEN Z SO DRIVEN?

They are an achievements-oriented generation with a hunger to feel like they are moving up in the world. This is demonstrated by an expressed desire for financial security and career promotion. Money is a significant motivator because on a deeper level they see financial independence as a mark of maturity. But is this artificial maturity?

**CONCLUSION:** At the end of the day, Gen Z still needs leaders in their lives to guide them to maturity and help them shape their ambition in healthy ways. Find ways to give them space to exercise and develop God-given leadership skills within the Church.

