

C.H.U.R.C.H. *It's Who We Are...* Covenantally Connected

Psalm 145

Last Sunday we celebrated our graduates... We also saw our youth lead us in worship... Every Sunday we have our BRC kids here in the service with us... What is our responsibility to them? What part are we to play in their lives?

Baptismal vows... *"Do you promise to love, encourage, and support this child by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service to this family?"*

How are we doing with these promises/vows as a whole church?

Membership vows... *"I will protect the unity of my church... by acting in love towards other members. I will share the responsibilities of my church... I will serve the ministry of my church... I will enhance the impact of my church..."*

How can we be effective as a church if we aren't investing in the next generation?

Biblical mandate.... Vs. 4-7 - *"One generation shall commend your works to another & shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, & on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, & I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness."*

Vs. 10-12 - *"All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, & all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom & tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, & the splendor of your kingdom."*

How are we doing with this? What impact are we making on our children?

God is a covenant making, and covenant keeping God... His promises are extended from generation to generation... and we are the heralds!

We, the Church, are to be "COVENANTALLY CONNECTED"! From our baptized infants to our senior saints... **WE ARE ONE CHURCH!** Do we act like it?

We, like many other churches, provide nursery care... Sunday school... Youth Group... VBS... Inter-generational mission trips... Integrated worship services... And yet *"64% of 18-29 year olds have dropped out of participating in any kind of worshipping community"* (Barna Group).

"66% of those who regularly attended church for at least a year as a teenager say they also dropped out for at least a year as a young adult." (Lifeway)

Of those... *"69% say they were attending at age 17, 58% at age 18, 40% at age 19... Once they reached their 20s only 1 in 3 were attending regularly."*

But what the research is also showing is that *"3x more young adults connect to a church when they move away from home or start college if they have a spiritual mentor in their home church"* (Renegotiating Faith).

"We believe that intergenerational relationships serve as the key to healthy, thriving churches." It keeps our young people (the next generation) tethered to the church, and our adults engaged in the work of the church!

It could have been very easy for me to have walked away from the church upon graduation... My parents were transitioning churches... I attended a youth group elsewhere... I was moving away for college... But what made me stick?

- My youth pastor and adult youth leaders...
- The Dean of the college...
- My favorite professor...
- A church that took a chance on me and invested in me...

When the Church takes seriously their calling (Titus 2) to teach... model... invest... urge... engage... the young people in the church, good things happen!

We see examples, all throughout Scripture, of the power of mentoring:

- Samuel mentored Saul & David
- Elijah mentored Elisha
- Jesus mentored Simon Peter and the other disciples as well
- Priscilla & Aquila mentored Apollos
- Paul mentored Timothy

How do we make this *"Covenant Connectedness"* a part of our DNA? How do we make this a mission of the whole church, not just the work of our "student ministry"? **Generation Spark**

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