

Millennials

What is a Millennial?

Generations in the U.S. by birth year:

- Greatest Generation (Silent Generation) (1930-1946)
- Baby Boomers (1946-1964)
- Generation X (1965-1981)
- Generation Millennials ([Pew research](#) latest definition 1981-1996)
- Generation Z...TBD...

Millennials in the U.S. are:

- The largest generation
- The most diverse generation
- Delaying marriage
- Connected online
- Entrepreneurial
- Contradictory

Negatives about Millennials

Self-centered (Time article—"Millennials are the Me Me Me Generation"):

- The incidence of narcissistic personality disorder is nearly three times as high for people in their 20s as for the generation that's now 65 or older, according to the National Institutes of Health;
- 58% more college students scored higher on a narcissism scale in 2009 than in 1982.

Fame-obsessed

- They're so convinced of their own greatness that the National Study of Youth and Religion found the guiding morality of 60% of millennials in any situation is that they'll just be able to feel what's right.
- Technology is designed around self-expression and self-understanding.

Entitled

- From the self-centeredness comes the sense of entitlement.
- A recent study showed that 40% believe they should be promoted every two years, regardless of performance.

Healthy and yet unhealthy

- They work out, eat healthy, and don't smoke.
- They have heightened levels of anxiety and depression.

Impatient

- Seek self-gratification
- Live in a world of instant gratification
- Only 2 in 10 Americans under 30 believe attending a church is important or worthwhile (an all-time low).

Are leaving the church

- 59% of millennials raised in a church have dropped out.
- 35% of millennials have an *anti-church* stance, believing the church does more harm than good.
- Millennials are the least likely age group of anyone to attend church.

Positives about Millennials

- Care about larger community
- Movers and shakers
- Want to lead—especially women
- Technologically savvy
- Want authenticity

Ministering TO Millennials

- Tell them that they're loved.
- Exegete our culture. Talk technology, racism, etc.
- Don't major on the minors, but keep Christ at the center.
- Listen to their voices and remember they are active, not passive learners.

Ministering WITH Millennials

- Begin handing off the ministry to them now: planning, executing, and leading, especially social causes.
- Millennials believe they will change the world. They might just be the greatest untapped resource in your ministry today.
- They often need re-parenting as they lead.