

THE NEXT GENERATION

SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

1 PETER 3:8-16

...if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

ACTS 17:2-4

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

**NEW APOLOGETICS TO SPEAK TO THE
NEXT GENERATION
PRAGMATIC EXISTENTIALISTS (PE)**

IMMORAL

VS.

AMORAL

POSTMODERN PRAGMATIST: A DEFINITION

- Postmodern: a rejection of absolute truths & skepticism on modernistic definitions of truth, morality, & our place in the universe.
- Pragmatism: relativistic, rejecting ideas of absolute right & wrong, good & evil, truth & error. If it doesn't seem to work, it must be wrong.
- Existentialism: a modern philosophy stressing the importance of personal experience & self defined responsibility, the individual, is a free agent in a deterministic & seemingly meaningless universe. I live for my own pleasure.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PRAGMATISM

1. The foundation of postmodernism is pessimism
2. Pragmatism is much more relative
3. Both are humanistic
4. It is short term in its view
5. It is subjective
6. By way of summary, pragmatism is what is expedient

- Pragmatism: The most detestable act is to impose ones moral code on another.
- The new truth is that there is no moral code.

- Modern = The lines are clear
- Postmodernism = The lines are blurred
- Pragmatism = We make the lines

- Modern = I believe in something
- Postmodernism = I believe in nothing
- Pragmatism = I believe in everything

- Modernists = The Bible credible and is the standard
- Postmodernists = The Bible desirable but It's not the standard
- Pragmatists = I like parts of the Bible and we are the standard

COMMUNICATING TO PE

- Word pictures are essential
- Time – Living in the moment
 - Short Term Commitments
- Engage Emotions & Sensory

MULTI-SENSORY COMMUNICATION

- Video
- Music
- Worship Narratives
- Drama
- Dance
- Arts
- Spoken Word
- Poetry
- Online Preparation
- Facebook fellowship

EMPATHY IS KEY

- What is felt matters most
- Authentic Love and care is essential
- Acceptance of the person precedes influence
- Expertise and Agenda's will close doors

WORDS ARE WEAK ACTIONS ARE EVERYTHING

- Social concerns matter more than ideas
- Doing the Gospel matters more than preaching it
- Action is the Program
- Embrace a sacrificial message
- Liberating captives is the focus

NOVEL AND AUTHENTIC

- They love variety over predictability
- Effective presentation will have the following traits: 1. Listening; 2. Supporting; 3. Encouraging; 4. Vulnerable; and with, 5. Common goals.
- Find terminology that is current to package biblical truth
- Music is my psychologist...worship is more important than preaching to them

LOVE IS THE BEST APOLOGETIC

- Love is the key to reach them – They Responds to love
- Biblical unconditional love destroys their idea of what love is. Love is an Action
- Anything not rooted in love is hypocrisy to them.
- Knowledge and Information is power and a means to keep control of their own lives.
- They understand what light and darkness is
 - Johns gospel and epistles are the best apologetics for them.

APPEAL TO THEIR CONSCIENCE

- Since they believe truth is relative.. Your definition of right and wrong is not accepted.
- You can't preach truth as they will reject that it is truth, but you can appeal to their conscience. Thankfully everyone has a conscience.
- You package scripture in ways to speak to their conscience. Even those who reject the scripture.
- Inwardly they know what's right and wrong..
- Patiently and with love, their conscience will lead them.
- The Holy Spirit will speak to their conscience and they will intuitively follow him. Because they hunger for a true transcendent experience.

PASTORING POSTMODERN PRAGMATISTS

- They will only allow you to pastor them if you allow them to become partners in their experience.. They want to know you care....all authority is relational.
- PP are more interested in style than in almost anything else.. It is a bridge that shows you are trying to understand them. You can't bend scripture but you can bend your methods... Any style 20 years old, is boring
- They can appreciate all church styles, but only respond to what is current.
- Conclusion: We must reach the culture in a relevant way, a way with which PP are familiar; but we must also make sure that we do not compromise the revealed Word of God, and we must not let the revealed truth of God's Word be subjugated to cultural or personal pressures.