



Message Reflections

October 13, 2019

Today's message kicks off a three-week series on the importance of "handing off" to the next generation. Statistics are pretty discouraging...60 to 80% of our young adults are leaving the church. How can that be? And what can we do about it?

It is urgent that we engage this next generation. In fact, our Consistory concluded at our 2018 retreat that, "We believe there is an urgency for us to address the real issue of our young people leaving the church. We are realistically in danger of not passing on biblical Christianity to the next generation."

Does it feel that urgent to you? Have your observations been consistent with those statistics?

Take a few moments to picture what our church would look like with 60-80% of our next generation gone? Write down your mental pictures and thoughts about that devastating picture.

2 Timothy 3:10-17 gives us a beautiful picture of Paul "handing off" the church to Timothy. In this morning's message, I talked about some "vulnerable moments" in handoffs. Take some time to reflect on your own opportunities to be "handing off" to this next generation.

- **If it is not relational...**
 - Who are the young adults in your life that you have strong relational opportunities with? Are you "handing off" the faith to them? How so, or how not?
- **If it is less than it should be...**
 - Paul was able to point to what Timothy observed in Paul's life and doctrine. Are you living out the faith in such a way that you are modeling the full Gospel to those around you?
- **If we/ I do not even try...**
 - Moment of honesty...am I really, intentionally trying to "hand off" the faith to this next generation? If you are a parent, grandparent, sibling, single person...(it doesn't matter who you are), how can you play a part in "handing off" the faith to those around you? If you are not doing it, then what is preventing you from trying?

Hopefully, this sermon series will be challenging to you in your faith (and especially in passing on your faith). Please let us know if you would like to talk about any of these things in person.

Todd