

Grandparents Day On Grandparents Day

I have a passion for a generationally diverse church.

2 Timothy 1:3-7 (ESV)

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

The blessings of generational diversity:

Foundational truth to build upon

Substantial love to sustain

Timeless character to pass along

The challenges of building and maintaining a generationally diverse congregation and how to overcome them.

Who gets to be in charge?

What should be our mission?

How do we respond to difficulties and disagreements?

We need the raging inferno of the Holy Spirit in order to overcome the challenges and enjoy the blessings of a multi-generational congregation.

Three blessings of the Holy Spirit for us to enjoy.

Power

Our power is the gospel of the finished work of Christ.

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Timothy 1:8-9a (ESV)

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace...

Love

The substance of love makes a body much stronger than the sweetness of style.

John 21:15-19 (ESV)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

Self-control/Discipline

Sophronismos

Soos = sound, safe, steady

Phren = Diaphragm = the inner organ that regulates physical life, controlling the breathing and heartbeat

A highly trained opera singer controls the length, volume and pitch of her song by using her diaphragm; her heart, lungs and voice are all perfectly regulated to create a beautiful sound.

Titus 2:1-8 (ESV)

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.