

Computer Generated Transcript - We're going to be talking for the next few weeks here just about life we're going to be talking about what the Bible says about day to day things about about what the Bible says about just how to do life the Bible isn't just some book that. Was written you know a couple thousand years ago that doesn't have anything to say about today the Bible gives us so many instructions that are still a political today so many instructions that are still so important for us as we go through life together and and so that's what we're going to be for the next next several weeks we're going to talk about what the Bible says about marriage we're going to talk about what the Bible says about parenting we're going to talk about what the Bible says about work we're going to talk about what the Bible says about all kinds of things over the next few weeks. So you've got to put a power pill in there and so we're going to be going through all kinds of things and today I really want to start with this idea just about one concept of life together all right and this one is on on relationships here at the church I want to talk about being a generational church this is kind of a buzz word in in the Christian world I don't know if you guys are familiar with it but I hear about it all the time. In pastoral circles about a generational church a multi-generational church how many of you have ever had a hard time understanding somebody from another generation right either way older or younger you've struggled with understanding someone from a different generation so here's a deal today I'm going to be asking for a lot of crown participation and so at the end of the day if you have to raise your hand at least once by the end of the day your chair is going to spontaneously combust OK And so you're going to have to be running around and you're going to be doing a lot more than just raising your hand if you don't raise your hand at least once today all right so I know you're going to be asking for a walk. It's a feedback that is a joke for those of you who don't think pastors can tell a joke I am joking it will not catch on fire but I am going to ask for a lot of crown participation how many of you have ever struggled with understanding someone from another generation. OK only half of you that's awesome that's that's good half of you have never struggled with this before how many of you ever said so like why won't my kids play outside right why don't kids today play outside how many of you younger people a bit like why is it so hard to attach a picture to a text you know like this is not rocket science it's like three buttons this is no problem. We have these kind of things people ask Why doesn't anybody visit people anymore and other other people are from other generations like why is everybody always want to come to my house you know and it goes nobody writes anymore why don't people just text and soul and so it goes as generations for all time have had a hard time getting along with each other right it's one of those things research tells us that we are in an absolutely unique time in history if you study culture if you look at any of these kind of things I'm going to I'm going to discount pre-flood Genesis when I say this all right because I we're not we're not going to we're not going to do that we don't know exactly because it wasn't really finely recorded history but if you discount pre-flood Genesis This is the first time in recorded history that four generations have shared the work place first time in recorded general history that there are four generations simultaneously sharing the work place this is the first time in recorded history that five generations are sharing homes OK there are five generations all over the cross the country and world right now. That are alive at the same time and we're trying to do this thing called Family first time in recorded history the reason I discount pre-flood Genesis is because those guys lived like seven or eight hundred years I'm sure they had a few generations at home. But for us today this is a this is a new thing this is something that is not normal we are blazing new ground as people are living longer as as as kids are coming about right and we see all of these things that are just difficult to deal with right because it's hard we don't understand why people do this things they do you from both directions All right so let's look at some of these generations I'm going to ask you to actually raise your hands again all right as we go through this now there's some debate about when the generations begin and all of these kind of things are right but we're going to average them out and this is where we're at so how many of you were born and ladies I'm sorry but I'm going to ask you to put yourself in a generalization here because I'm going to ask you to put yourself in into a generation all right but how many of you were born in one nine hundred forty five or before Raise your hand nineteen forty five or before I know there's more than

one of you OK Raise your hand if you are a part of this generation all right there's a few brave souls who got people raising their parents hands right now that's great. That would make you a traditionalist or the traditionalist didn't like the name that the baby boomers gave them so they called themselves The Greatest Generation All right the baby boomers did all of the research the traditionalist don't like being called traditionalist so we know them now as the greatest generation right that is that as part of that generation they are represented by more than the three hands who raise their hands and here they don't need to be told what to do though so they're not going to raise their hand no matter what I tell them that you are right. Next how many of you were born from one thousand nine hundred forty six one thousand nine hundred sixty four Raise your hand nine hundred forty six to ninety. Hundred sixty four this is still in America according to most research the largest generation in America you are the. The baby boomers you did all the research so you got to pick your own name all right you guys are the baby boomers. This is still the largest Like I said generation that's out there you know if I would have asked a couple of times the baby boomers they'd like to cheer for themselves so they'll be out there. But that's that's one of the generations next is from nineteen sixty five to nineteen eighty how many of you were born from one nine hundred sixty five to nine hundred eighty All right you are officially Gen X. ers right they didn't have the Boomers didn't even care about you enough to pick a real name right they just they were just like you can just be the xor is no one cares about you guys anyway all right this is this is right now the smallest generation in America right I mean it's strange to say that but it is numerically the smallest a traditionalist or catching up a little more every day all right but but right some of you will get that a little later all right some of you got it OK but this is the smallest generation in America the exercise and then that wonderful generation that everyone talks about so much right now born from one nine hundred eighty one to two thousand and one are you in here one nine hundred eighty one to two thousand and one you are officially the. Mole lineal Zariah it's everybody. Talking about the millennial zone right now there's a whole nother generation that's coming up now you're born from two thousand and two to now how many of you were in this room from two thousand and two Raise your hand all right we're just running out of names so you're Jhansi apparently we believe you're going to be the last one still Kinzie That's you all right we don't know a lot about GNC yet because most of them are this age all right they're still coming into their own there's actually Harvard studies. Now told us that there's a special new generation that I get to be a part of OK there's a special They call it a micro generation. It is from one nine hundred seventy seven to nine hundred eighty three and how many of your nine hundred seventy seven in one thousand nine hundred three all right you are actually officially called the Zen eels now OK because you're not truly agenda X. or because you were raised with technology all around you but you're not truly a millennia old because you have the work ethic of a gym X. are OK and you're used to playing outside you were spanked as a kid probably you know all of those kind of things so you're actually part of a proud microgeneration called the Zen eels now all right and so it's amazing as you study but all of these generations have their all and little things that they deal with and all of those fun little dialogue that you get to have the together and there's really not a lot of places where we all come together and just hang out with sides maybe work but even there it's not necessarily hanging out you just have a job that you are right sometimes family meals which I'm sure are always the most loving exciting affairs you've ever been through in your entire life right and then church this is another place that we're all kind of called to be but there are all kinds of different things that we have to deal with so let's talk about some ways that we misunderstand each other let's just talk about some words OK let's just and what isn't it amazing how words just change that you know that the word. Is me how many of you know what a consent is. A cassette right all right some of you most of you are raising your hand of his said plays what. A cassette player would play a tape right let's say it's a little piece of plastic that they had two holes in it and some actual tape that went around and it played music for about three or four months before it started to stretch out and then drag and then nothing. Sounded very well all right let's talk about the word lit if I say the word lick to you some of you who are older would probably think that that means something is lit up like wow it's got a nice lights on it it's well

lit area with light when I say the word lit in my generation it meant you were getting high right if you got lit you got high right now lit means exciting you know or fun all of these words change all the time how about that's so boss all right that's far and that's a word that some of you remember or groovy right that word that your parents love how about Jack if I say Jack that means all kinds of things right and I say you got jacked up to some of you that means you've been spending a lot of time in the weight room some of you means that means you're probably on your way to the emergency room all right. There's all kinds of different ways that we interpret words how about that so Fleak. That word makes me farming a little in my mouth just saying it OK teenagers what does it mean. C'mon you know you don't you know you just don't want everybody to look at you. Somebody tell me I'm not going to move on until somebody says it. It's it's stylish Fleak it's so much fun all of these words Mike sent me a text I asked Mike to send me some to some words that they were from his and I didn't even understand what most of them were so I'm not going to read them. Now if you don't even just take generational things together you start putting regional things together and you try to bring them together like I have been on three different continents. Or six different countries now and everywhere all over the world plays Duck Duck Goose except some parts of northern Minnesota where you play this weird game called Duck great duck OK I mean literally in Slovakia. It's Catia Concha who says OK duck duck goose eggs are way over the ocean but here we play Duck Duck Goose you know I've been on a bunch of different continents in a bunch of different places and anywhere there's snow they get on a sled and they go sledding but here you can on a sled and you go sliding I don't know what is wrong with northern Minnesota people it is a bizarre thing and we've got all of these differences and all of these things that make it hard to understand each other and we get all together like this and we're like I'll just get along and have fun and grow together. And there are some legitimate struggles in difficulties in that and I know we're talking about ones that can be kind of fun but we know that there's a lot of different things all kinds of. Issues that can come up one of my favorite things that we have going on in this church though honestly I love that in this church we do have I mean we talked about we had people raise their hands there are people from every generation represented in this service I'm not this is not a scolding message in any way this is just one of those things that I think we need to continue to be aware of and continue to choose to grow I don't even know if because most of you this is you know a church that you've been in for a while I don't even know if you know how rare it is that people from every generation are sitting in this church together I don't even know if you know how rare it is a lot of churches only target one generation they are targeting the older generations for your money. Or they target younger generations because that's the future in the old people can just have fun wherever they're out. And that's it that's the model of ministry for a lot of churches I'm not here to mock anybody else please don't misunderstand that if somebody feels that God is has called them to a generation specific church I guess so be it but it's just not the model I see in scripture I just I don't see generation specific portions of Scripture that are. That way that we see in church that it's something for all ages and we're going to get to some of that scripture in a little while you see some generational issues in the church as a whole Again I'm not going to be speaking specifically about Grand Rapids I'm going to I'm about to make some sweeping generalisations OK The thing that they tell you never to do in front of a group of people I'm about to do it. And so I want you to be aware I'm not talking just about you but we're going to make some something some some typical complaints about other generations right so in in in general the older generation looks at the younger generation as not willing to serve they just they don't want to serve they just want to do whatever they want to do and in general the younger generation sees the older generation as not willing to change OK. In general the older generation sees the younger generation is not willing to give They just want to take in general the younger generation sees the older generation is not willing to change. In general the older generation sees the younger generation is not willing to work and in general the younger generation sees the older generation as not willing to change. And we see these kind of generalized things where people automatically make judgments about each other younger generations we know you're busy but service is important. Especially if you want to grow older and older generations if you want

the younger generation to step up and lead you have to let them lead in the way that they feel led to lead not just lead the way that you feel comfortable with him leading the way it's always been done. Let's look at the Bible and I want to give you a few generalizations here before we dive in and that some of what the Bible has to say about this but if you want to talk about multi generational church how about we just look at the birth of Jesus how about let's look at Luke chapter one and let's look at a young Teenage Mary who goes and visits her much older probably old enough to be her mom relative Elizabeth just for encouragement and strength to grow. We could look at Queen Esther going to get advice from her much older uncle Mordecai we talked a few weeks ago about Moses and about how intentional Moses was with getting advice from his father in law who is more experienced than him in leading crowds and intentionally leading Joshua and building up Joshua who is younger than him so that there would be someone there to lead when he was gone this generational reach both directions from Moses we could look at the disciples have you ever thought I know most of us think about the disciples and it's interesting what happens when you put a bunch of people in glass windows stained glass windows for a long and often call them saying that we forget to think of them as real people. But if you are a thought about the fact that the disciples were most likely raging in and between fifteen and thirty when they were following Jesus. Peter was already married when he started following Jesus we know from Scripture John was most likely the youngest just the way that we look at at lineage is what church history says that that Peter was probably in his late twenty's to mid thirty's when that all happened and John was probably between about fifteen and eighteen years old he ever thought about the campfire stories that that kind of a wide and gap would have that many years ago. You know we talk about it in they're all at the table and they're all staring lovingly at Jesus and they all get along all the time but is that really what you see happen I mean if you really look at the New Testament don't you kind of see them fighting with each other all the time they're arguing about who is most important and who gets to go where and Jesus obviously had a couple of favorites he had an inner three which were Peter James and John and he had a one best friend who got to see more than anything else and that's John if you look through Scripture you'll see that that's there I mean Jesus I'm not saying he played. Favorites I'm just saying he had friends who were closer than others even in his disciples and that's not wrong that's just saying that that's obviously ways that people begin to look at each other and judge each other and then they start to. Write a little bit. But these are the eleven of these twelve men that traveled with Jesus ranging in ages between fifteen and thirty become the leaders of the church because they learn how to work together even though they're obviously would have been very specific differences I want you to turn to Acts chapter two verse seventeen. Acts chapter two I want you to actually turn there this time I'm going to I'm going to read from this accepted to verse seventeen I've got a few portions of Scripture that I want to read I just talk very specifically about that Peter is getting ready to give a sermon here and what's happened is they've been in the upper room the Holy Spirit has come upon them mightily they've been filled with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit there's tongues of fire there's this big rushing when they begin to speak at all in other times and all of this stuff starts to happen all around them and people look at them they're like wow it's nine o'clock in the morning and they're already hitting the sauce spirit is hard right they they accuse them of being drunk and and Peter actually stands up and he quotes something from the prophet Joel in the Old Testament OK And so I'm going to read from X. but this is actually prophesied several hundred years before this actually happens and we see this prophecy that I think is so important still for the church today Acts chapter two verse seventeen Peter says in the last days God says I will pour out my Spirit upon all people your sons and your daughters will prophesied your young men will see visions your old man will dream dreams listen this is an important picture of how the church is supposed to work from the time that Jesus poured out about to the Holy Spirit till he returns again this is our model for ministry. This is what work ha. Called to be. Does this say you get to retire from ministry after a certain age. No you still need it business say that you have to wait till you're a certain age to start being important to the church. No because at a young age you're still vitally important to the life of the church we are called to be a multigrain aeration whole body all the way back three or four

hundred years before the time of Jesus it was prophesied that this is what we should look like generations hand in hand reaching the king reaching out with the Kingdom of God together turned First Timothy Chapter four twelve the first half of the half of this verse is incredibly famous First Timothy Chapter four twelve that's in the New Testament as well turn a little bit more toward the back and you're going to actually let's stop and Titus for still go back you'll go past him at the first and second Timothy and Titus will go to Titus Chapter two first. Titus Chapter two we're going to read verses three and four. Titus Chapter two verses three and four. Similarly teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers Instead they should teach others what is good these older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children and it goes on and it talks about submission and all those kind of things which I think we take that word make it mean all kinds of things we don't that it never was intended to mean but but but you see this idea that these older women must teach the younger women how to love their husbands and it's such an important thing. And when I ask a funny question at least as a question I think it's funny maybe some of you won't. How many of you reached a point in your marriage those of you who were marriage. You reached that point in your marriage where one day you either looked across the. A ball or maybe you rolled over looked over in bed or you were on a date and you looked at that person you were like wow it is a choice to love you today. Right four of you are honest OK Raise your hands maybe that happened on your honeymoon Maybe not but you got to a point. Where it was not sure it wasn't just a feeling anymore right I mean God bless you young people who are just married I'm so happy for you but you don't you know there's a comes a point where they're not going to be the most amazing person every moment of every day OK and there's going to comes a point where you have to choose love them listen I am in no way saying that that cheapens long as a matter of fact what I think that is is when you choose to come back to each other day in and day out despite the good and despite the bad throughout all of the life things that your love only grows deeper and richer if you really stoke that thing this is not me saying love but this is me saying that love is a choice OK. And sometimes younger women need just some help learning that that is an important thing to choose day in and day out and some of the older women need to not beat them over the head with that. Which is need to train them. How to. Be a good wife and good husband don't you wish some of you who are in here don't you wish that somebody would come alongside you just help you with some of that stuff as you grew in your in motherhood as you grew in him being a wife I know I wish I had a little bit more of that as a new husband as a new father somebody who would have come around and put an arm around me and said hey you're doing a great job here or hey. That now was not good you know and I did have that to a degree and still have that but it's such an important thing for us to help grow the point of the fact the point that I'm making here though the point that Paul is making when he writes otitis. As we are to be working together we have something to offer each other now you can turn to Timothy it's just back to books it's very short letters in between there turn back to the front just to first in the second term of the Titus person is the fourth while the first half of this verse like I said is so famous. First Timothy four twelve Don't look don't let anyone think the less of you because you are young some of your translations if you want to say that is don't let anyone. Know one knows it OK how about of the militarisation that you memorize as a kid Don't let anyone. Say OK I really want you to say it now OK Don't let anyone. Despise your youth OK Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young and this gets used in all kinds of ways usually this is the only half of this verse that we see and we see people particularly young people walking around strutting their stuff like you can't tell me what to do the Bible says so read First Timothy four twelve. Respect me. Because the Bible tells you to read first Timothy four twelve and then somebody actually reads the whole thing like it says what. If you keep reading. It says don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Being an example to all believers in what you say in the way you live in your love your faith and your purity Paul is writing to a young man named Timothy when he's writing this and he's writing to him This is called a pastoral a pistol which means a pastoral letter of Paul's writing to Timothy and Titus in both of these letters teaching them how to Pastor. And he's writing to Timothy who's not a teenager but he's a

young man to be leading a church particularly a church in F.S.S. that is under incredible persecution OK and he's writing Timothy how to lead this this would involve. Probably hundreds of small churches meeting in homes around the city of Alpha sis because they couldn't get into a big building like this because if they were they'd be rounded up and killed. OK And Timothy is trying to Pastor this entire area of people and he's a young man he's probably in his early thirty's maybe late twenty's when this is happening and Paul says Timothy don't let people look down on your youth instead be an example. He's saying Your youth is an excuse for you to be lazy in your faith what is saying is you're young. If you still set the tone in faith in. In love in a home in what it means to be like Jesus then if people are going to look at you as less because you're young that's their issue. But he's saying Don't let him look down on you because you're young don't use your youth as an excuse instead raise the bar instead be the person they look to when they're trying to figure out how to model the life after Christ. You know so many young people you know we want to just use the first of that's like you can't tell me what to do. When in reality Paul is calling this young man. Not giving him an excuse to be dumb. OK. But again if you look at that this is Paul empowering Timothy. To lead a church that is in horrible position that is in terrible circumstances and he's empowering a young man to go see it done Timothy pastored in this church for upwards of sixty years most people think he was probably. In his ninety's or some people depending on the timeline that think it was maybe thirty years and it was. In the sixty's and one day if you if you think back about the Bible they had this huge temple in FS this and they were celebrating their God in this big festival and Timothy is walking down the street and he begins to say as an old man this is not OK and a mob beats him to death in the street for standing up for Jesus that's the church in the city that Timothy led in and he led in that he pastor in that town from the time he was a young man to the time he was an old man you think you probably saw a few changes in that city and in that town and that church as you went along and such an important thing and here's the deal. We were never called as a church just divided into tiny little pockets. And be like OK well we're going to separate it out in this church over here that's for us old people. And you young people you go over there hang out with all your fancy lights and smoke and music right. And you young people we were never called to just go chase whatever's latest and greatest and be like oh. That's great let the old people have their boring services as long as we get our way that's great. I would honestly challenge you again I'm not mocking any other church. And how they feel called to do ministry. But what I'm saying is I would challenge you to find me anywhere in Scripture where people are called to completely divide and separate themselves from other generations. I would challenge you to find one place in scripture or God like yeah that's a great idea. I don't see it anywhere. Instead I continually see God calling the generations to work together to reach an area. And it's such an important thing and can I tell you that honestly and in my opinion. That that's the only way a church can function in every way that it's supposed to function. Is when we're all together working together leading together living life together. And can I tell you that that's the only way the church is supposed to function and that can not happen only on a Sunday morning. It's one of the reasons we talk about growing guide so one of the reasons we started pushing this making sure you're intentional with relationships with people who are going to help you grow and you're reaching to people who are going to help you're going to help guide. I want you to turn to some seventy eight this is the last piece Scripture we're going to read this morning some chapter seventy eight. Some chapter seventy eight we're going to read verses one through eight this is a song of a sad he wrote many of the the Psalms not nearly as many as David but he wrote a lot. Some seventy eight I want to reverse one through eight. All my people listen to my instructions open your ears to what I am saying for I will speak to you in a parable I will teach you hidden lessons from our past stories we have heard unknown stories our ancestors handed down to us first for we will not hide these truths from our children we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord about his power and his mighty wonders where he has issued his last of Jacob he gave his instructions to Israel he commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children so the next generation might know them even the children not yet born and they in turn will teach their own children and here's the real crux of what I want you to hear verses seven

and eight. So each generation should set its hope anew on God not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying His commands then they will not be like their ancestors stubborn rebellious and faithful refusing to give their heart. What this is saying is. Each generation is responsible to turn its own heart to God. Let me just make that a little bit more clear. Your parents' faith isn't enough for you. Your grandparents face isn't enough for you let me turn of the other way because we have a go the other way sometimes parents your kids faith isn't enough for you. We're all called to reach to Jesus and when we forget about God I'm not I'm just going to read scripture again OK because I don't want to name call. But when we were fused to acknowledge God as who he is the Bible describes us as stubborn rebellious and unfaithful. Probably not how most of us want to be identified. Especially when it comes to our relationship we are responsible in each generation to make a decision for Jesus and then we were responsible to work together as a church again this is not a hand slap to this church I feel like by and large our church is a good job but I feel like we also have room to grow. There's a couple really practical things you can do. Be intentional with your relationships ask somebody to help you grow. Grown guy guide somebody else along be intentional with relationship. Older people we have some people who do this all the time but I'm going to encourage you to go to baby showers and weddings. Younger people. Go to funerals. You're not going to build a relationship with a person in a box. But there are a lot of family. And you can show great support for people who are hurting and grieving. And reach that direction. And help things out. We can be there with each other when there's calls to help move. When we serve meals there's all kinds of room and again this is not me scolding anybody by and large is grad love when I walk out there and I see kids serving in student serving adults serving side by side this is not a scolding thing. This is just an encouragement to keep being intentional about making sure we're reaching both directions in generations we're the first ones that ever have to deal with five in recorded history. Which means people are going to be talking about us for a long time should the Lord tarry. We're going to be an example Harvard is going to do studies on what's happening right now in the future and how this group of people handled this transition. You're going to read about yourself some day in a study. Let's as a church make sure we're intentional about leading the right way. Let's be an example of what it looks like when generations are working hand in hand side by side for a common goal. We might not always like the way to other dress or the style of music we listen to we might not like each other the way you know we don't might not understand all the things people say. We can understand mission and heart and we can understand passion and we can understand common purpose. And that common purpose for the church is always one thing. Bringing in as many people as possible to the throne of Jesus. It's such an important thing and we do it best. When we do it together. We do it across generational lines working side by side. Such an important thing.