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PART ONE

THE NOW GENERATION

By Jason Y. Frizzell

The following article is some comments and observations made from private study, notes taken from various sources: such as speakers, articles from old and current books, magazines, news papers and other material over the past few years.

How would the average citizen and parent describe the typical youth of today? Would he or she have short hair? Would he or she have long straggy hair that looked unkempt? Would the young boy have long sideburns with a drooping mustache? How would you consider the dress of the typical young person of today? Would you say they are neat and have a tailored well groomed look or would you observe that they are sloppy, unkempt, dirty, and uncouth in dress?

If the above is the description of all youth, in your opinion, you have a very much distorted picture. As far as the news media is concerned, the militants make the news, the protesters appear of T.V. These types of people of the young generation paralyze our schools and in some places terrorize the teachers, and disrupt most any form of social activities. They sometimes cause the civil authorities to make so called martyrs of them by having to deal with them so drastically. It is estimated from many sources that this particular group represents less than five per cent of our young people. Nothing do we hear, by comparison from the news media, of the SILENT MAJORITY who are not considered delinquent, who cause no trouble, who attend schools to learn, not riot.

Almost half of our young adults have lost respect of the home town law officers. They seem to find it impossible to communicate with the "fuzz" or the older people in the community. The so called "GENERATION GAP" is not nearly as wide as it may appear when the going gets tough for the youth.

There are great upheavals in the college-age generation about war, morality, education, politics, race relations and many other things that are serious concerns of the whole human race. Will the changes that the "Now Generation" want, bring about peace, safety, an improved society or will it

bring about destruction and chaos to the society in which we now live?

Some surveys show the members of the "Silent Majority" want war stopped, they are religious in some respects, they attend church service regularly and about ninety per cent of them believe in God. They are also well informed. They listen to the radio, read news papers, watch T.V. and in general know what is going on in the world but are disturbed and perplexed about what they can do about the situation. It is well known that part of our society and our organizations need some changes and some serious thinking done concerning the well fare of the state of mankind.

For more serious than either of the groups mentioned, is the attitude toward our youth and our youth's attitude about themselves and about the world we all live in. The young attitude of today contributes little or nothing to their preparation for tomorrow's world. Some psychologists call this attitude, "Child Sickness or Youth Sickness." They claim we as parents, overindulge our children and do not like them. (Some parents are afraid of their children: This I think is true.) The children, in turn, are overly dependent upon the parent and come to have a hatred or bitter feeling toward them. If this be true, here is the real problem that is of grave concern to all: as adulthood is approached with its demands, self-discipline, maturity, responsibilities, life commitment, and moral strength—will they succeed or fail?

What about the "Silent Majority" that seems to give no trouble at all? Will they perform as people with a purpose and goal in mind? How about the youth in our own community, are we concerned with their future enough to try to understand their problems? Do, or will we take the time to really know them and know what they are like and what problems they face? If we say, "Oh, they are just kids," we are contradicting our own statements when we say, "It wasn't like this when I grew up." Can't we see and understand that our young people are much more intelligent than to accept statements like this?

There are people in the world today that are firmly convinced that we are in
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Self Justification

It is likely that there is nothing more often enjoined upon God's children than self examination. I Cor. 11:28 and II Cor. 13:5 teach it strongly. The Bible often pictures the evils which creep into our lives when we examine others rather than ourselves. This is the basis for the warning against "judging" in Matt. 7:1 and failing to teach ourselves in Romans 2:21-23. These passages simply bear out the tendency on the part of mankind to blame others for all of his troubles and to whitewash his own conduct and shortcomings.

Here is a man who has not become a Christian. His big problem is his unwillingness to surrender to Jesus. The very thought of Luke 9:23 ("If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me") is distasteful to him. He is not ready to be the "living sacrifice" of Rom. 12:1; or to accept the "ye are not of your own" teaching of I Cor. 6:19. He knows in his heart that he is not ready to put the Lord FIRST before people as demanded by Matt. 10:37, and before things as required by Mat. 6:33.

BUT he knows he can't tell people his REAL REASON for not becoming a Christian. So he has to find something wrong with the church. It is filled with hypocrites. The services are unfriendly and cold. "They" are only interested in money. And on and on, so that he can feel justified in not doing what he knows needs to be done. This is self justification.

Over here is a couple who used to be members of the body of Christ. They obeyed the Gospel properly; but now they have become indifferent. They have been "choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." (Luke 8:14) "Yet he hath not root in himself, but dureth for awhile; for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." (Matt. 13:21) They become like those of Ephesus who left their first love (Rev. 2:4). This placed them in the condition of one who has, as Heb. 3:12 says, departed from the living God.

BUT do you suppose they are going to admit that they have turned their back upon Jesus? Never! They must therefore find something wrong with others. That

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THE NOW GENERATION

(Cont.)

the LAST DAYS as described in the New Testament. II Timothy 3:1,2,3,4 — "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." The words in the passage just quoted that hit the hardest, if we are God loving, God fearing people, "disobedient to parents," without self control, and lovers of pleasure instead of Lovers of God."

We know that the way of life has changed much we were the age under consideration. Just what is the normal for young people today? I think there are three factors that may well describe the youth of today.

For Number One, the "Now Generation" is highly self-centered and for the greater part as we have already stated, the parents are the cause and reason for this. When our youth are questioned about a situation today or a decision has to be made on their part, they reason and answer with a question like this — "What does it mean for me or what good will I get out of this?" This type answers and attitudes can easily become self-pity, because they give subjective reaction rather than a positive response. This type of answers also may be an easy way to throw the responsibility on someone else or their way of letting us know they can cope with the problem without giving us the how or any information they may concerning the situation.

Using one's self as a standard of conduct is one of the basic tenets of the so-called "New Morality." In other words, let me do my thing, you do yours, ask no questions, no scruples, no grudges, all will be well, accept each other as we are.

Just her may we take a biblical lesson. We find in the Bible where Christ did not act or speak altogether for himself. John 12:49,50—"For I have not spoken of myself: but the Father which sent me, He gave me a command, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His command is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, I so speak."

Jesus looked in three directions for his prospective on life and how to live it. He looked "up" for guidance, He looked down to those He must help, He looked forward to the things He must do to accomplish the will of the Father for the salvation of mankind.

The second thing that can be said about the "Now or Up-turned Generation," is that they are anti-establishment. Anything that is organized is suspected and anything that is traditional is rejected.

Young people as a whole are very perceptive and can often detect invalid, incorrect THIS IS HOW IT HAS TO BE DOGMAS, whether it be political, moral, ethical, economic or religious. These traits are fine but they have not just happened to the present generation.

Christ also faced a hardened set of ideal in civil, religious, social and age-old traditions that could not face the truth and had to be rejected. He also recognized a crippled, irrational form of institutionalism that He had to reject as well as the falsehoods handed down from the past.

Matthew 23:1-12— "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid, you observe, that observe and do: but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be born, and lay them on men's shoulders: but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works, for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms at all feasts and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ: and all ye are brethren. And call no man your Father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in Heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is great among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased: and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

A third characteristic in this mixed-up "Now Generation" is peer approval. Many young people of the day will listen only to other young people. They look to their peers for ethical guidelines and moral conviction. They do not obey the Fifth Commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother," —Exodus 20:12. We as adults just don't know or realize how strong this group approval is in young people's lives today. We sometimes throw up our hands and say, "They reject all authority." This is not so, they reject external direction from above and below, but not from a horizontal source.

Every person young or old lives under some kind of rule or authority. The difference between the Christian and the non-Christian is: Who rules me and my life? Is it some false god that is spoken of

in Romans 6:16, 17, 18 and 23: "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now, is it Jesus Christ that rules in my life, has authority over me and my world, and the universe as I know it?

Colossians 1:15, 16, 17: "Who is the invisible God, the first born of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him. and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.

Romans 14:7, 8, 9: "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord: and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's for to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living."

The Christian youth looks to the one who said (Matthew 28:18): "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth." (Christ is our supreme authority regardless of race, color, creed, parent, king, government, or any earthly dignity.)

In trying to understand youth and their problems, we as adults need to know what they really want. We must also be careful of the danger we may face that lies in hearing who speaks for the young people. We must not mistake: weight of their appeal for just so much noise. We must recognize anger not argument; we must not accept gripes for principles, militancy for virtue, passion for sense.

Most young people of today would like to be guided not driven, respected, encouraged, bragged on for a job well done, rebuked or corrected and told to use the good common sense that God gave them. Basically, our young people are trying to adapt to the problem of living in the last third of this century that has seen vast and disruptive changes that not many of us can actually visualize or comprehend. Let us strive to do and act as Mark 3:35—"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and My mother."

Ecclesiastes 12:13—"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

The Fulton County Gospel News

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen
and James E. Henley.

Bible Teaching for Children

Once a man remarked to Samuel Coleridge, "I will not teach my child anything about religion. I will let him grow up, and when he is old enough to judge for himself, he can choose for himself."

As the two men walked together, they paused in Mr. Coleridge's garden. "I thought I wanted to set out some strawberry plants here this spring," said Mr. Coleridge, "but you have given me an idea. I think I will wait until next August. Then I will see whether it would rather have weeds in it."

"But Mr. Coleridge, the weeds will take over the place by then," said his friend.

"My friend, the weeds will grow unbidden in the heart of your child also," answered the poet.

Mom and Dad, what is your attitude to the Sunday school? Do you see that your children come with you? Are you instilling in them the love of study and do you teach them that they should study to show themselves approved unto the Father in heaven?

You can rest assured that the liquor and cigarette and movie industry will seek to influence them. Satan is trying in every way possible to tell them that morals are not important. Free love, LSD, dope, and the like are almost as easy to obtain as a pack of chewing gum at the corner drug store.

This congregation is constantly trying to improve our Bible classes. This period of study should top the list of importance in our learning process. Sure, school work is important, but not nearly so important as the welfare of the soul. You can't get to heaven on a secular education.

There is one thing sure: if we have more crying babies in the nursery, it will mean fewer crying parents at the Judgement. See YOU Sunday morning!?!
—Selected

SELF JUSTIFICATION (Con't.)

church up there is getting too big. I like a small congregation. "They didn't treat me right. I'm just as good as they are anyway... All because they cannot bear to look inside and see what is really wrong. Because of self justification it is hard to find anyone who ever quit the church without "good and sufficient cause" ... in his own mind, that is.

Sometimes there are people within the church who lack total commitment to Jesus. They spend their time going through a form of being a member of the church ... up to a point. They like for other members to think of them as being "faithful" and "dedicated"; but they are not deeply involved in the program of work. A visitation program is not their "cup of tea." A zone assignment is a drudgery. The business meeting is on the wrong night. Somehow they have never transcended the point of "duty" and "obligation" and found any real joy in being a part of the church. The result is that they are "lukewarm" like those of Rev. 3:15-16.

The admittance of such a possibility, however, is too much to bear. That would make us feel guilty ... and none of us like to feel guilty. So we have to find something wrong with the programs in which we do not want to engage. So, it's not us, it's the program! And our excuses are endless ... All because we have to have self justification. It is a crying need within us.

Jack Gray

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Byron C. or C.	\$25.00
Dillhalf C. of C.	5.00
O.T. Russell	2.00
Ring C. of C.	5.00
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Wheeling C. of C.	6.50
Viola C. of C.	5.00
Clarence Edwards	2.00
Bethany C. of C.	5.00
Cora Smith	5.00
Mrs. Belle Taylor	5.00
Garland Mobley	2.00

NEWS!

There will be a series of gospel meetings at the Mammoth Spring Church of Christ July 24-31 with services each evening at 7:30 p.m. Bro. Charles White will be the speaker.

There will be a Teachers Workshop at the Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring, Ark. August 7-8, 10-11. All teachers and those interested in becoming Bible class teachers are urged to attend.

There will be classes for all age groups. Sessions will begin each evening at 7:30.

J.E.H.

What Is Scriptural Procedure for a Christian Who Has Been Offended By Another Christian?

FIRST, HAVE YOU REALLY BEEN OFFENDED?

Too many times some member of the church becomes "offended," either when no offense is intended, or no offense transpire. "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye. Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye," Matt. 7:1-5. Then FIRST, I should ask myself, "Am I really offended," or am I just offended in my own mind, or by judging the other person's MOTIVES? Was the word, or deed, offensive? Or does it depend on WHAT WAS MEANT by the word or deed? Was offense intended, or did I have to place my own interpretation on the word, or deed, to become offended. Was I offended at the time, or did I become offended after talking to someone else about the matter? Most offenses (?) would never get past this stage if all these questions were answered honestly. So many times we have to leave the motives to our judgement before we become offended.

D I F F E R E N C E S B E T W E E N BRETHERN, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT TO GOD

Even under the law of Moses, when God required his people to offer sacrifices, He thought it very important. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift," Matt. 5:23-24. In other words, when two of God's children, under the law of Moses, were estranged, God thought it so important, that He (God) would WAIT for the gift, until the two were reconciled! The reason, God would not accept a sacrifice under such conditions. The same is true today. No man can come and worship God in an acceptable manner who has "aught" against a brother. THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TODAY THAN UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, Heb. 10:25-29.

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WHAT IS THE SCRIPTURAL PROCEDURE? (cont.)

UNLESS WE FORGIVE OTHERS, GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE US

“For is ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses,” Matt. 5:14-15. As long as I hold “aught” against another, God will hold aught against me. I have to FIRST forgive those who offend me, before God will forgive my offenses against Him. So I MUST forgive in self defense! Those who do not forgive, can not be forgiven by God. This is too plain to need further comment. If we could only realize that our sins are retained before God, as long as we retain trespasses against our brother, truly we would be swift to forgive and slow to be offended.

Regardless of what we DO, or do NOT do, for our fellow man, THIS VERY SAME THING, WE EITHER DO, OR DO NOT TO CHRIST! This really does make a great difference does it not? Read Matt 25:31-46. Many will be at the judgment, who just LOVED Christ to death they thought, and did many MIGHTY WORKS in the name of religion, yet they were not honest in their obligations to their fellow man. Too late, they learn that the ONLY way one can serve God, or Christ, is to labor in behalf of God’s creatures here on earth. To do good to Christ, do good to your fellow man. To neglect Christ, neglect your fellow man. It does make a difference when we understand this!

FROM THE WORDS OF JESUS CONCERNING THE DAYS OF THE CHURCH

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican,” Matt. 18:15-17. Yes there is no doubt that Jesus was speaking of problems in His church. So this is Scriptural and safe to follow.

A PERSON IS OFFENDED, WHAT SHOULD HE DO FIRST?

If one offends me, I AM TO GO TO HIM ALONE, AND TELL HIM HIS FAULT! HE MAY NOT KNOW THAT HE OFFENDED ME! SO WHY MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT? If he “hears” me (Listens and apologizes, makes thing right with me), I HAVE GAINED A BROTHER AND THE MATTER IS SETTLED BEFORE GOD AND BETWEEN US! I have NO RIGHT to gossip to others about it or tell one or

two witnesses! Again, the matter is settled once and for all, before God and man! Unless I, the offended, want to become the offender, I must stop there. I sin when I go beyond that which is written!

IF THE OFFENDER WILL NOT “HEAR” ME, I MUST TAKE ONE OR TWO WITH ME

If the person who offends me, will not respond to my talking to him and telling him his fault between the two of us, I must go again, not give up. He did not say TELL one or two witnesses, he said TAKE them with me. If the offender “hears” now, the brother is GAINED and the matter is closed! I HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAKE IT TO THE CHURCH, OR CONTINUE TO GOSSIP ABOUT IT TO OTHERS. If I do, I sin by . . . going beyond what is written. I, as well as the offender, am BOUND by God’s word. Because you offend me, this does not give me license to declare open season on you and to try to assassinate your character and become perennially offended. In the name of justice and to have my wounds healed, I can not continue to perpetuate the matter. I MUST close it, here and NOW!

STEP NUMBER THREE

Now if you offend me and I go to you alone, and you will not hear me; I then according to the Scriptures, take one or two people with me and you still refuse to hear, I MUST take it to the church. Then if you “hear” the church and make matters right, I have gained a brother and I must stop it here. To take one step further is to sin and go beyond that which is written. I am still bound by God’s word! The matter is closed, God is satisfied, all sins are forgiven and I too must be satisfied. Too many are like Jonah, they are afraid that God will forgive and spoil the wounded pride! Jonah was not happy that he had “gained” the great City of Ninevah but on the contrary, he was angry that God had spared it!

If the offender will not hear the church, the church is to withdraw from him and have no fellowship with him. Please note! The effort is to TRY to SAVE (gain) the offender if he CAN be gained. At what ever stage he is GAINED, the matter is closed and is not to be carried any further and no more publicity is given at any point than is necessary! The one or two witnesses can NOT Scripturally go go if the matter is already settled. The Church can not receive a matter that has been settled between the two alone, or with the one or two witnesses! Let us “HEAR” God! How much trouble and heartache could be saved if the Lord’s way became our way! The witnesses and the church would investigate whether the case is already

Noah Will Be in the Audience

There’s a story going around of a man who got to heaven and asked about a crowd he saw.

“Oh, it’s ‘show and tell’ time. Would you care to participate?” asked one standing by.

“Why, sure,” he said, “I’ll tell about the big flood we had in 1889 when I was a boy in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Twenty-two hundred people drowned.”

“That will be fine,” he was told, “But remember, Noah will be in the audience.”

It will be a little hard to tell Noah about Johnstown or for that matter how a wicked world kept us from doing God’s will. It will be difficult to tell of our aches and pains to Job. I wonder if Isaiah who spent fifty years preaching to a deaf Israel will appreciate preacher complaints?

There is something very humbling when one tries to match story for story, problem for problem, with God’s faithful servants through the ages. What will be our excuse for not attending every service in our highpowered cars when we tell the chariot driving Ethiopian Eunuch our troubles? What will Ezra who walked a thousand miles to rebuild the temple think of our inability to get to midweek service? What will Abraham who was willing to sacrifice his son in obedience to God think of the way our boys take us from God to serve little league? What would the widow who “of her want did cast in all that she had” think of our level of giving to the Lord’s cause?

Wasn’t this what the biblical writer was trying to say to us when he encourage, “Seeing that we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us . . . looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.” TWP

closed before God, before bringing it to “trial”! How many times should I forgive? Read Matt. 18:21-22.

Glynn Purdy

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