

Generational Disillusion: 5 Major Reasons—and the Gospel-Based Solution

Generational disillusionment is a complex issue that has impacted every segment of the population, from Baby Boomers to Generation Alpha. Each generation has faced unique challenges and sociopolitical contexts that have shaped their worldviews and left them disillusioned in various ways. Disillusionment, in this context, refers to a deep sense of disappointment or disconnection with the expectations, dreams and ideals that shaped their formative years. Whether it stems from broken promises of prosperity, unmet emotional needs or the rise of a hyperdigital age, generational disillusionment shapes how each cohort interacts with the world. Let's explore the reasons behind the disillusionment of each generation.

Baby Boomers: The Material Dream That Didn't Deliver

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The Baby Boomer generation, born between 1946 and 1964, came of age during one of the most prosperous times in American history. Boomers grew up in an era marked by post-World War II economic expansion, the rise of suburbia and the advent of the American Dream, which promised a life of material wealth and success. Their generation witnessed far-reaching social and political shifts, from the civil rights movement to the Vietnam War, all against a backdrop of advancing consumerism and higher education opportunities.

However, despite this apparent success, many Baby Boomers have become disillusioned as they enter their retirement years.

This disappointment stems from discovering that the material benefits they worked so hard for—homes, automobiles and career advancement—didn't fulfill their expectations. While they were told that financial stability and material accumulation would lead to happiness, many found that their pursuit of the American Dream left them empty and unfulfilled.

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Those who sought meaning through faith and spiritual pursuits often found lasting satisfaction that transcended their material success. In contrast, those who placed their hopes in material gain have become cynical, realizing far too late that money, possessions and status could never be enough to meet their innermost desires.

Generation X: The Emotional Disconnect of the Latchkey Generation

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