

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 56: Generational divides and the wisdom of age

Topic introduction

We're turning our eyes to cultural attitudes toward old age, and how we should think about it as parents and mentors raising our kids in a world of growing technology and changing attitudes.

Key terms: *ageism, the "cult of youth," reflective capacity, memento mori*

Questions

Quick quiz: How many generations are currently living in the world? What are their names or common features?

How many people of these different generations are in your acquaintance? How many with whom have you intimate relationship (family, close friends, etc.)?

How does our January theme of slowing down to engage with reflective intention transfer into your lives in this area? How could it specifically transfer into intentional action/acts of loving service?

What do you know of the 1960s? What words are used to characterize that era?

What do you notice about how age is depicted in magazines and media? And is there a difference between how the different sexes are depicted?

What is it about our heart's posture that can affirm the externals of age in a masculine expression of those things, versus really the struggle and the resistance to those external signs of age in women? Why is there a disparity there? How is it speaking to our core, that we would be having that kind of reaction? What's going on at the heart level?

How does that factor into the way we relate to others?

Why should a believer resist a fear of death?

Why should a believer pursue a diversity of relationships—with a diversity of people (old, young, rich, poor, etc.)? What is the Lord's intention for relationship in the lives of His people?

How does modern technology affect relationships between generations (think of the good along with the broken)?

How does our relationship with knowledge (our ways of pursuing knowledge) and information affect our interpersonal relationships? What can be learned only within the context of relationship?

How does this relate to “tasting and seeing that the Lord is good”?

How can we repair the intergenerational breaches that we see? What part does each of the individuals/generations play?

What can we learn from each other? Where are our weak spots that can be filled by the knowledge of another generation?

What makes something *good*? (Think of the discussion of the practical/useful/pragmatic versus enjoyment and delight.)

What stories can help us see and experience the goodness of one another in our diverse reflection of the Father?

What practices do you have in place to give your children exposure to older generations, to care for them, to listen to their wisdom, to delight in them, to bear the Lord’s image to them, and to remind them that they are *delighted in*? And if you are a member of an older generation, how are you doing the same for the younger? How do you bear the Lord’s image to them?

Scriptural anchors/provision

The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair. — Proverbs 20:29.

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty . . . Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.—From Psalm 90

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace. — 1 Peter 4:10

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