



Biblical Foundations, Exhortations, and Models for Engaging Culture

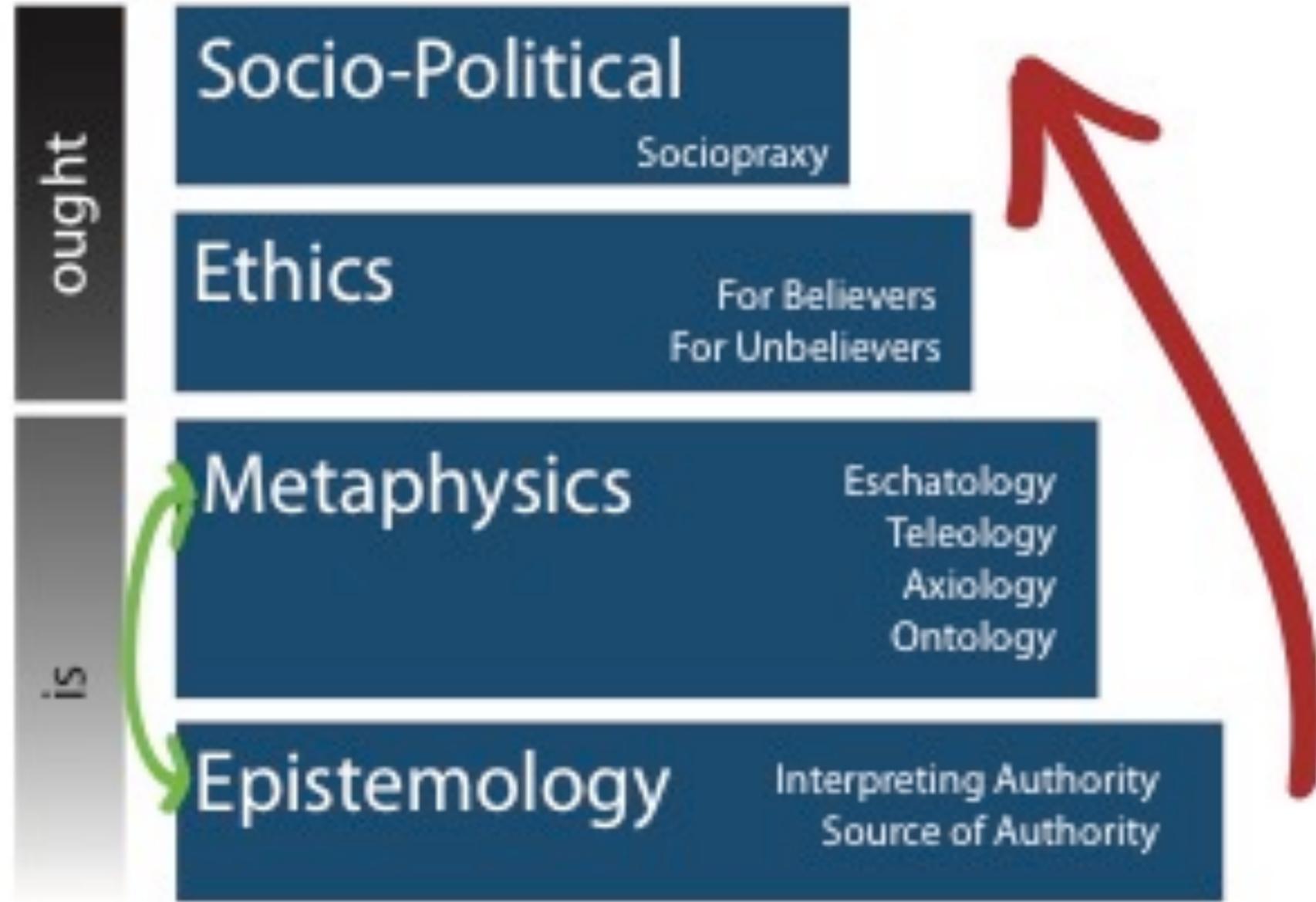
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Biblical Foundations for Engaging Culture

Components of Worldview



The Worldview Process

- On broad application: Prov 14:34, Gal 6:9-10
- On individual application: Jn 17:3, Rom 12:1-2
- On reality: Jn 6:47, 16:4
- On first principles: Prov 1:7, 9:10, 2:6
- On broad application: Eph 4:11-13
- On individual application: Eph 4:1
- On reality: Eph 1:4-13
- On first principles: Eph 1:17-21

The Integrative Deficiency

- Building on another foundation – 1 Cor 3:9-11
- Promoting conflicting descriptions of reality – Jam 3:15-17
- Promoting conformity versus transformity – Rom 12:1-2
- Creating wrongheaded movements – Gal 2:12-13

Considering Culture

- Culmination of four eras
 - Premodern, modern, postmodern, post-postmodernism
- Metanarrative vs. micronarratives

Context for Terms

PREMODERN



"Because God put it there and that's the way it's always been."

MODERN



"Onwards and upwards with inevitable progress!"

POSTMODERN



"Bllpppggghljsdlkfjowejfalsk djflksdjflksjldjldj;aldflkj;;;df"

Post-Postmodernism

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- There are signs of post-postmodern life, in urban design, architecture and elsewhere. They are strongest in those who place their hands on their hearts and are willing to assert, “I believe.” Faith was always the strongest competitor of reason: faith in a God, faith in a tradition, faith in an institution, faith in a person, faith in a nation. The built environment professions are witnessing the gradual dawn of a post-postmodernism that seeks to temper reason with faith.
- Tom Turner, *City as Landscape: A Post-Postmodern View of Design and Planning* (London, UK: E&FN Spon, 1996), 8-9.

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- “The modernist age of ‘one way, one truth, one city’ is dead and gone. The postmodernist age of ‘anything goes’ is on the way out.’ Reason can take us a long way but it has limits. Let us embrace post-postmodernism and pray for a better name.”
- Tom Turner, *City as Landscape: A Post-Postmodern View of Design and Planning* (London, UK: E&FN Spon, 1996), 10.

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- Metanarrative back on the table
- Valuing meaning – defining trait
- Finding meaning in:
 - Sharing their gifts
 - Impacting others
 - **Living their desired quality of life** (Shankar Ganapathy, “10 Millennial Personality Traits That HR Managers Can’t Ignore,” Mindtickle, viewed at <https://www.mindtickle.com/blog/10-millennial-personality-traits-hr-managers-cant-ignore/>)

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- Social media *is* social, *is* community

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- Growing up in knowledge boom: sophisticated and cultured
- Growing up in global economy: more multi-cultural than millennials
- **Driven to change the world, voluntarist** (Sparks and Honey, “Meet Generation Z: Forget Everything You Learned About Millennials” viewed at <https://www.slideshare.net/sparksandhoney/generation-z-final-june-17>.)

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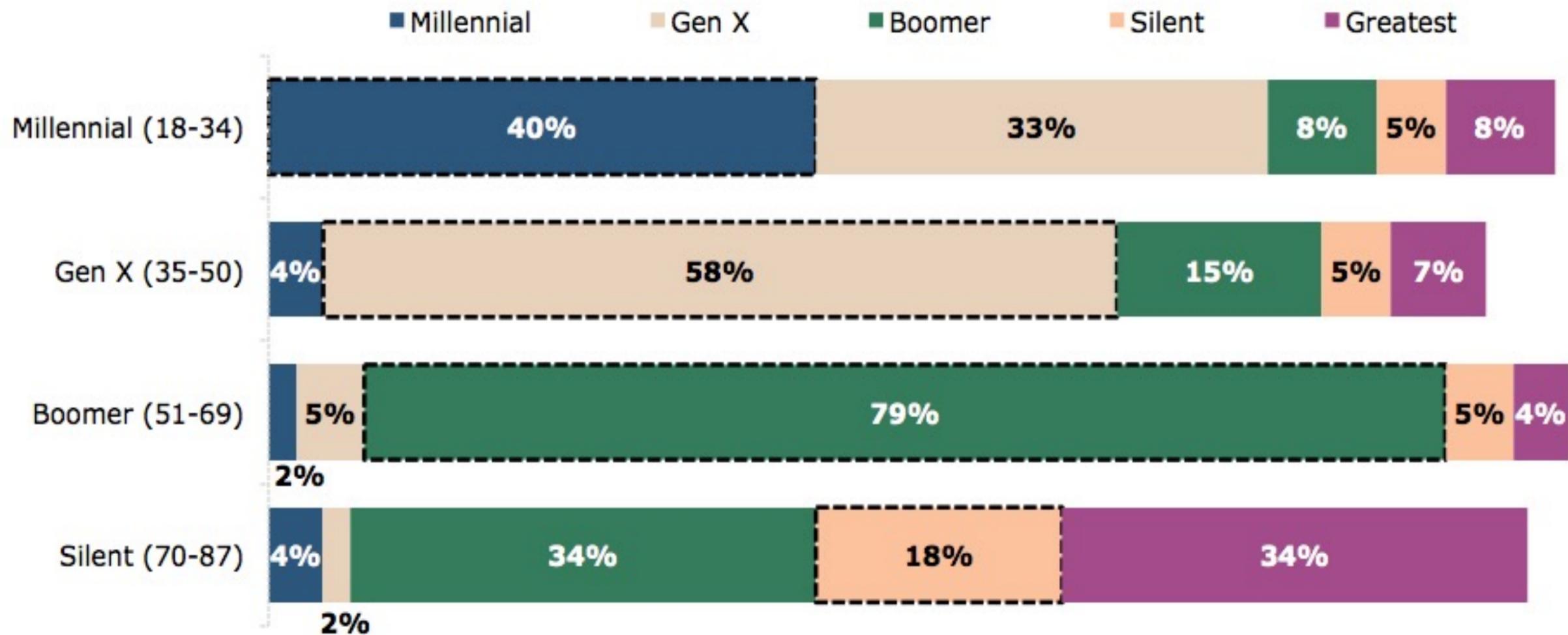
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- Asking and answering bigger questions sooner
- Independent learners



Generational Identification

percentage of each generation that identifies as: ("other" responses not shown)
read as: 40% of Millennials consider themselves to be part of the Millennial generation

September 2015



MarketingCharts.com | Data Source: Pew Research Center

THE PEOPLE & ISSUES (USA)	SENIORS	BUILDERS	BOOMERS	BUSTERS	MILLENNIALS
	Greatest Generation	Silent Generation	Pig in Python Generation	Generation X	Generation Y
1 Era they were born	1900-1928	1929-1945	1946-1964	1965-1983	1984-2002
2 Life paradigm	Manifest destiny	Be grateful you have a job	You owe me	Relate to me	Life is a cafeteria
3 Attitude to authority	Respect them	Endure them	Replace them	Ignore them	Choose them
4 Role of relationships	Long term	Significant	Limited: useful	Central; caring	Global
5 Value Systems	Traditional	Conservative	Self-based	Media	Shop around
6 Role of Career	Loyalty	Means for living	Central focus	Irritant	Place to Serve/Climb
7 Schedules	Responsible	Mellow	Frantic	Aimless	Volatile
8 Technology	What's that?	Hope to outlive it	Master it	Enjoy it	Employ it
9 Market	Commodities	Goods	Services	Experiences	Transformations
10 View of future	Uncertain	Seek to stabilize	Create it!	Hopeless	Optimistic

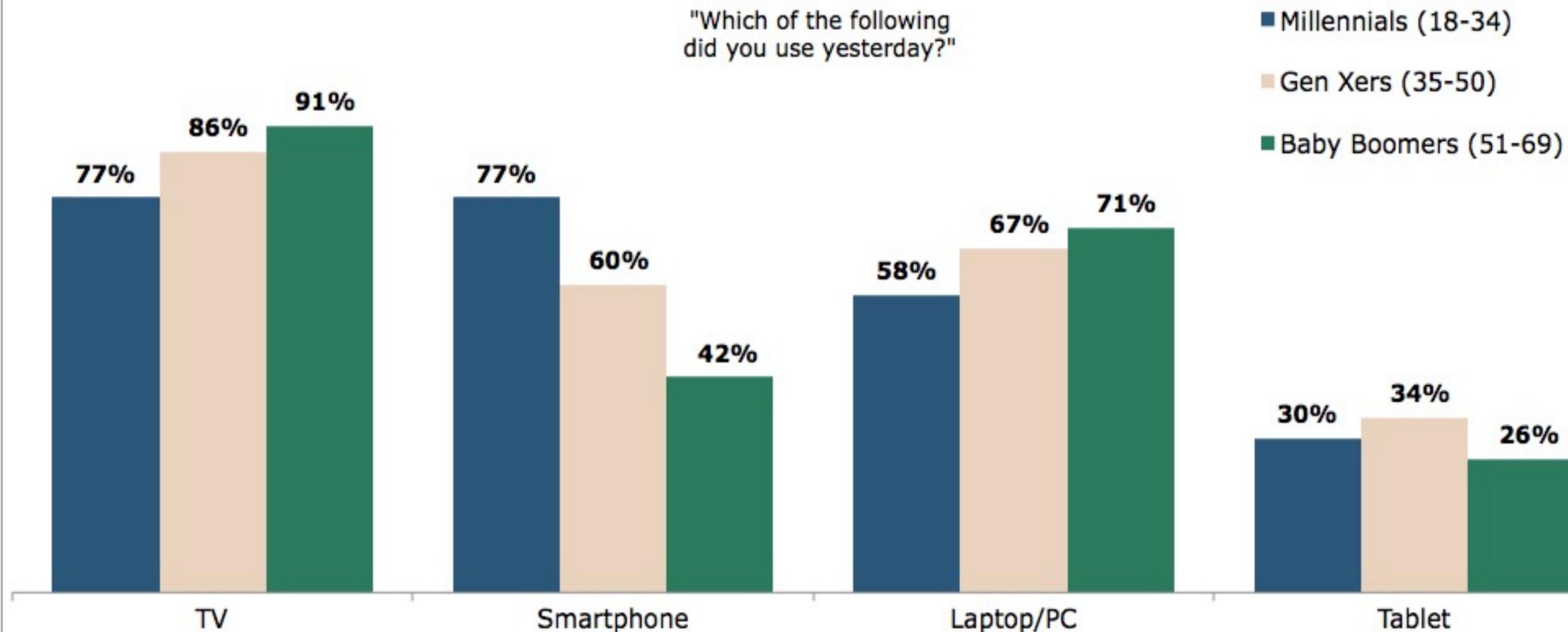


Device Usage, by Generation

based on a survey of 1,018 US adults aged 18-69 who own or have access to a smartphone or tablet

February 2015

"Which of the following did you use yesterday?"



MarketingCharts.com | Data Source: Millward Brown Digital

Talking a different language

Formative experiences	Maturists (pre-1945) Wartime rationing Rock'n'roll Nuclear families Defined gender roles - particularly for women		Baby boomers (1945-1960) Cold War 'Swinging Sixties' Moon landings Youth culture Woodstock Family-orientated		Generation X (1961-1980) Fall of Berlin Wall Reagan/Gorbachev/ Thatcherism Live Aid Early mobile technology Divorce rate rises		Generation Y (1981-1995) 9/11 terrorists attacks Social media Invasion of Iraq Reality TV Google Earth		Generation Z (Born after 1995) Economic downturn Global warming Mobile devices Cloud computing Wiki-leaks	
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Attitude toward career	Jobs for life 	Organisational - careers are defined by employees	"Portfolio" careers - loyal to profession, not to employer	Digital entrepreneurs - work "with" organisations	Multitaskers - will move seamlessly between organisations and "pop-up" businesses
Signature product	Automobile 	Television 	Personal computer 	Tablet/smartphone 	Google glass, 3-D printing
Communication media	Formal letter 	Telephone 	E-mail and text message 	Text or social media 	Hand-held communication devices
Preference when making financial decisions	Face-to-face meetings	Face-to-face ideally but increasingly will go online	Online - would prefer face-to-face if time permitting	Face-to-face	Solutions will be digitally crowd-sourced

pic.twitter.com/7Dm7jbiDsO

Distinctions

1. Gen Zers have shorter attention spans.
2. Gen Zers are more comfortable with multitasking.
3. Millennials are more price conscious.
4. Gen Zers often start early.
5. Gen Zers are more willing to take chances, more entrepreneurial.
6. Gen Zers have higher expectations.
7. Gen Zers seek to distinguish themselves, value individuality more.
8. Gen Zers are even more global than Millennials. George Beall, “8

Key Differences between Gen Z and Millennials” in Huffington Post, Nov. 5, 2016, viewed at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-beall/8-key-differences-between_b_12814200.html.

Commonalities

1. Transparency is important
2. Metanarrative is okay.
3. Personal vulnerability and sincerity is important.
4. Both are socially driven and want to be personally involved.
5. Significance and meaning is paramount to both.
6. Both process great quantities of information, so exegeting culture is relevant.
7. The church is of little relevance, though spirituality is not off the table.
8. Participation is viewed as value.



Biblical Exhortations

for Engaging Culture

Exhortations

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Galatians 6:10

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good **to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Exhortations

Luke 10:25-29

²⁵ And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”

²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; **and your neighbor as yourself.**”

²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And **who is my neighbor?**”

Appeals

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; **we beg you** on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Psalms 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

- Initial appeal for believers
- Secondary application for unbelievers

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- Adds personal connectivity, vulnerability, authenticity
- Is transparent about source of authority (Gen 1, Prov 1:7, 2:6, 9:10, Ecc 3:11, Jn 1:1, Rom 1:20) – works from the existence of the biblical God
- Asserts significance and meaning, with metanarrative (not arguing to inerrancy, but arguing from it)

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- Not accessible through effort, religious systems, or inauthentic faith communities

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- We become His workmanship designed to personally interact with Him and others.
- We are to be active and engaged in benefitting others.

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- We grow in the knowledge of Him and His grand plan.
- There is significance in even the most menial of tasks.
- Our lifetime is filled with purpose, hope, and anticipation.



Biblical

Models

for Engaging Culture

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- Peter
 - In Jerusalem – Acts 3-4
 - To Believers – 1 Peter 3:15-16

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- Peter
 - In Jerusalem – Acts 3-4
 - To Believers – 1 Peter 3:15-16
- Paul
 - In Athens – Acts 17
 - In Jerusalem – Acts 22-25
 - (23:6, 24:15, 25:1-10, 26:6-8, 22-23)

Biblical Models

- Principles

1. Meet people in their context.
2. Employ the Bible as content and source material.
3. Acknowledge God and begin with Him as first order of truth.
4. Recognize the critical content for an unbeliever is the person and work of Christ (identity, death, burial, resurrection).
5. Transformation, sanctification issues for believers only.

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- Adapted from <http://www.drcone.com/2017/04/20/communicating-biblical-worldview-millennials-igens-taste-see-apologetics/>