



Gen Z Men's Renewed Interest in Christianity

Lutheran Leadership Conference

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QR Code to Access the Handout and PDFs of the slides

Photo credits: Chat GPT
Prompt: "Provide four pictures of a typical Gen Z American man"

Generational Lenses

☑ “Everyone is a child of their own time” (Hegel, 2019)

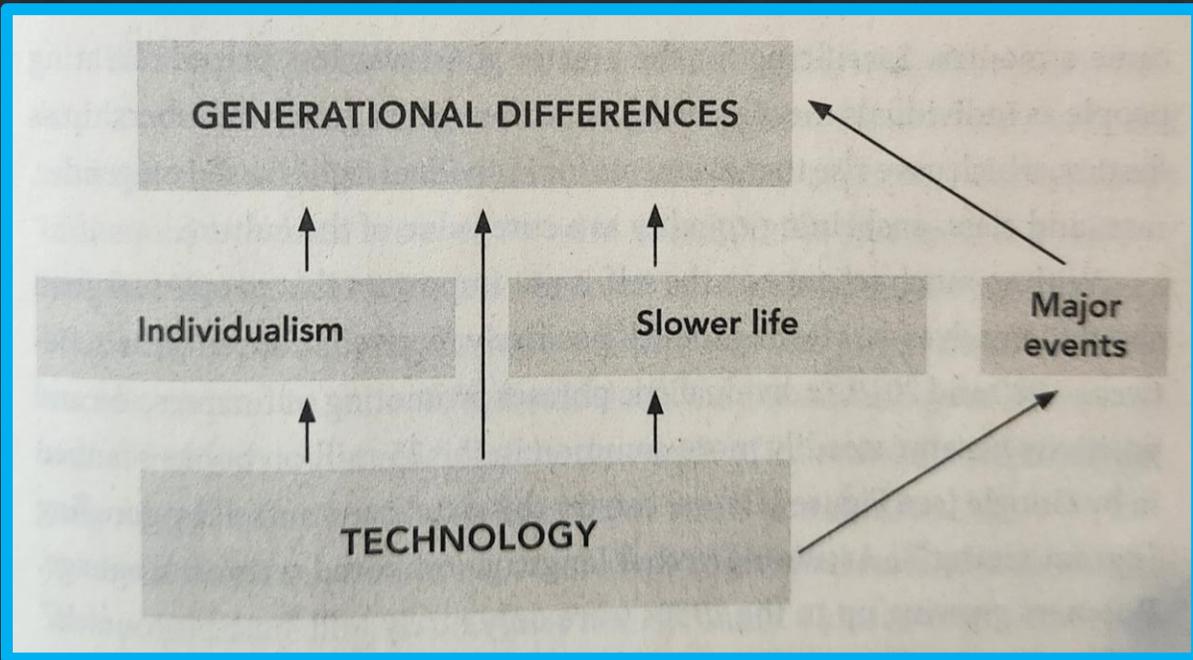
☐ Speed of change *may** make generational markers obsolete (White, 2017)



Theories on Generational Differences



The Technology Model of Generations



Technology	Primary Years of Growth	Downstream Consequences
Television	1947–1990	Immediate experience of events; exposure to other regions and cultures; decline of reading; materialism
Home appliances (microwaves, washing machines, refrigerators)	1947–1985	Ability to live alone; women pursuing careers; increase in leisure time
Air-conditioning	1950s–1980s	Population growth in the U.S. South and West; fewer people socializing outside
Birth control	1960–1969	More premarital sex; lower birth rate; women pursuing careers
Computer technology	1964–2005	Increase in skills and education necessary for many jobs; rise in work productivity
Internet news	2000–2010	Instant access to information; decline of newspapers; ability to filter news to preferences
Social media	2006–2015	Ability to reach large social network; decline in face-to-face social interaction; political polarization

Figures credit: Twenge, 2023

Photo credit: Pixabay

Who is Gen Z? (1995-2012)
Snapshots



Photo credit: movies.disney.com

Who is Gen Z? Snapshots

What Gen Z thinks about its social media and smartphone usage

Brief September 10, 2024 • 4 min

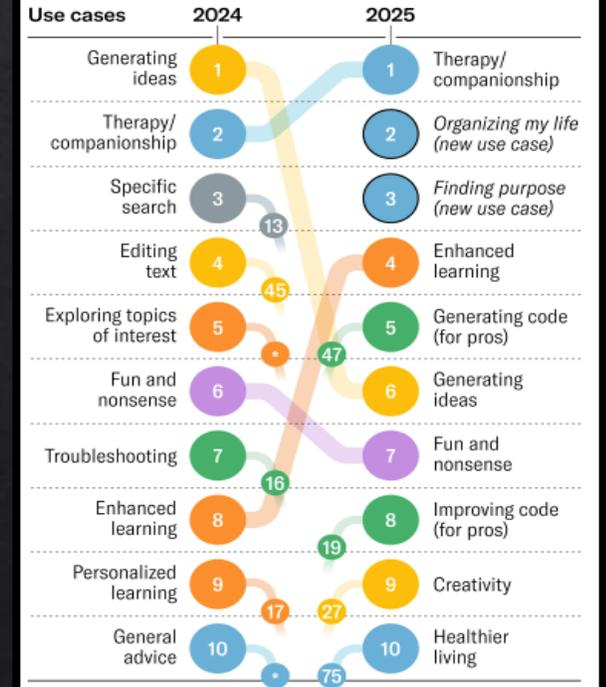
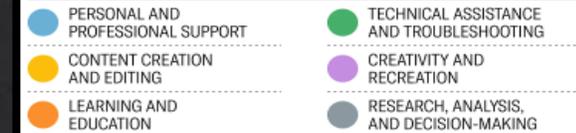


Credit: theharrispoll.com

Top 10 Gen AI Use Cases

The top 10 gen AI use cases in 2025 indicate a shift from technical to emotional applications, and in particular, growth in areas such as therapy, personal productivity, and personal development.

Themes



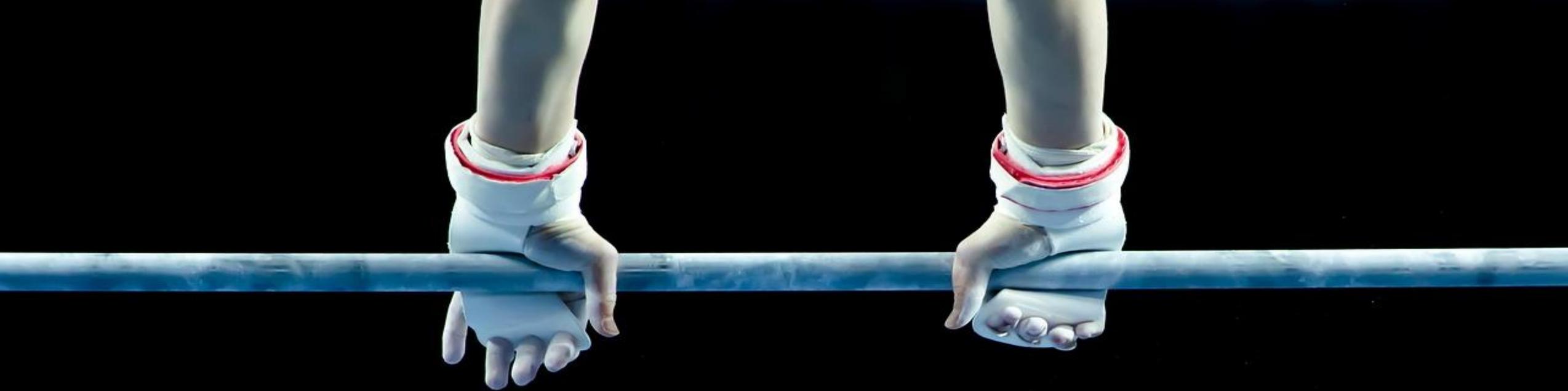
Credit: Harvard Business Review

(White, 2017)

- Chaos, uncertainty, complexity
- Ubiquitous info, “Always on”
- Diverse, globally connected
- Individual freedom & expression
- Parental spiritual influence?

→ “Terrible times” | “blessed”

The World Gen Z Grew Up In



Gen Z Traits

(Twenge, 2023)

Reflect/Discuss

What are the questions and concerns on every heart? On a young man's heart?



Photo credit: Pixabay

What is happening with
Gen Z men?

Record number of adult baptisms in France shows surge among youth

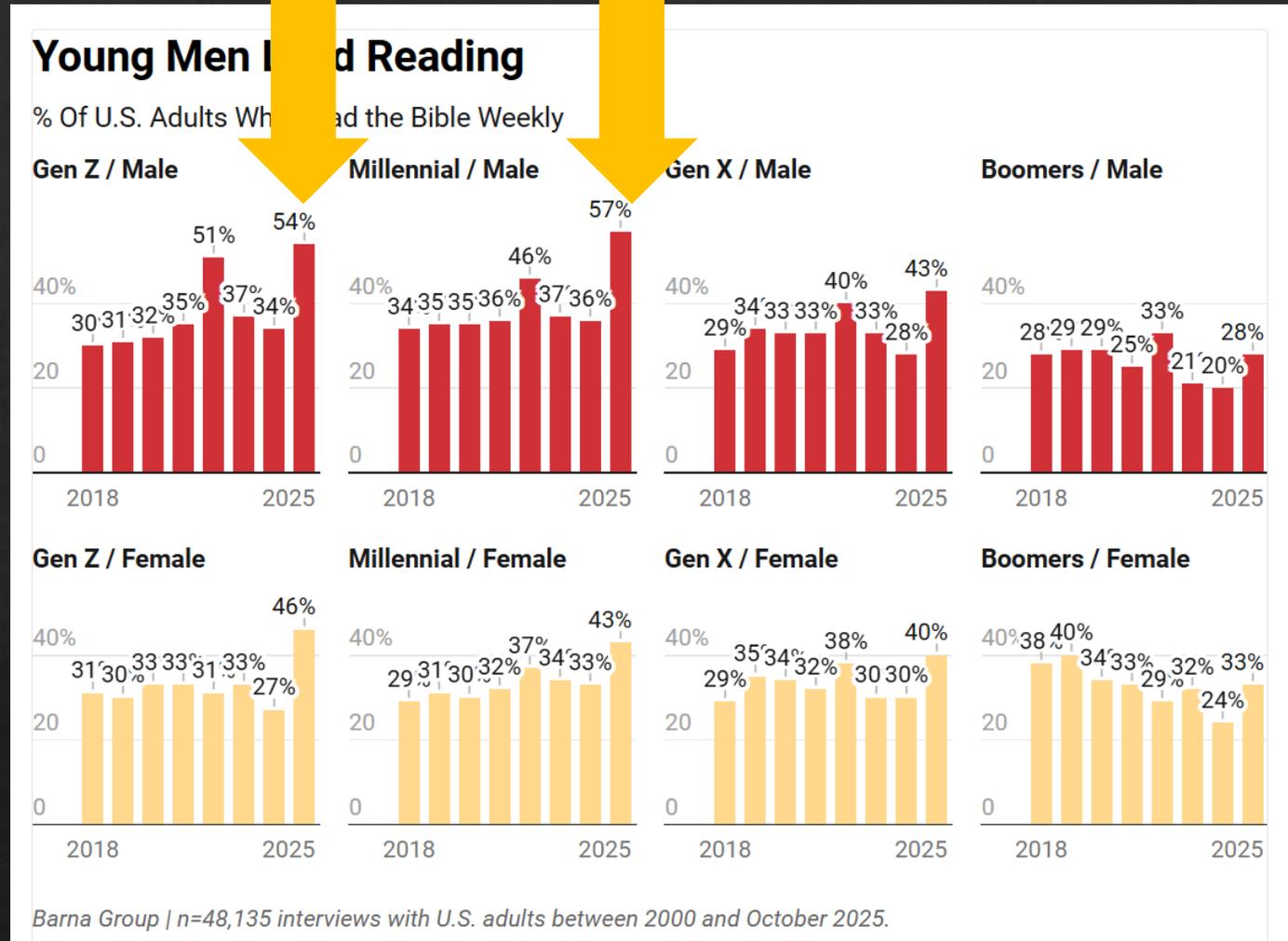
The French Catholic Church will welcome more than 10,384 adult converts at Easter baptisms this year, marking a 45% increase from 2024.

🔖 Save this story



The choir, clergy and guests stand during the ceremony to mark the reopening of Notre-Dame of Paris Cathedral on Dec. 7, 2024, in Paris. | Credit: Pascal Le Segretain/Getty Images for Notre-Dame de Paris

Renewed Interest in Christianity? Yes,...



Renewed Interest in Christianity? Yes, but...

Not just at Easter: Gen Z is returning to Christianity. Data proves it. | Opinion

It's not time to call this a revival, but something is stirring in the culture. Christians would do well to pay attention, live out their faith and step into the opportunity to share with others.

- “The *New York Times* reported that among young Christians, **men are staying in church** (at the same time, many women are leaving)”
- “Barna research reports that most Gen Z teens are **interested in learning more about Jesus**”
- “**Need more data**, but in times of tumult and turbulence, people often turn to faith...the narrative of inevitable decline might no longer hold”

Renewed Interest in Christianity? Yes, but...

REPORT | DECEMBER 8, 2025

Religion Holds Steady in America

Recent polling shows no clear evidence of a religious revival among young adults

- “No evidence that any birth cohort has become a lot more or less religious since 2020”
- “It’s possible smaller changes are happening in some places” (not widespread enough for national surveys)
- “Young men are now about as religious as women in the same age group”

Renewed Interest in Christianity? Yes, but...



“2025 is showing a major rebound of Bible reading, along with a surge in usage among younger generations...
...but they’re still wrestling with what they believe about it. That gap between reading and trusting is worth paying attention to.”

David Kinnaman, Barna Group CEO
*How Millennials and Gen Z Are Driving a Bible
Reading Comeback (Nov 6, 2025)*

- Secularism has not delivered.
- “Christianity is an inheritance of which I was deprived.”

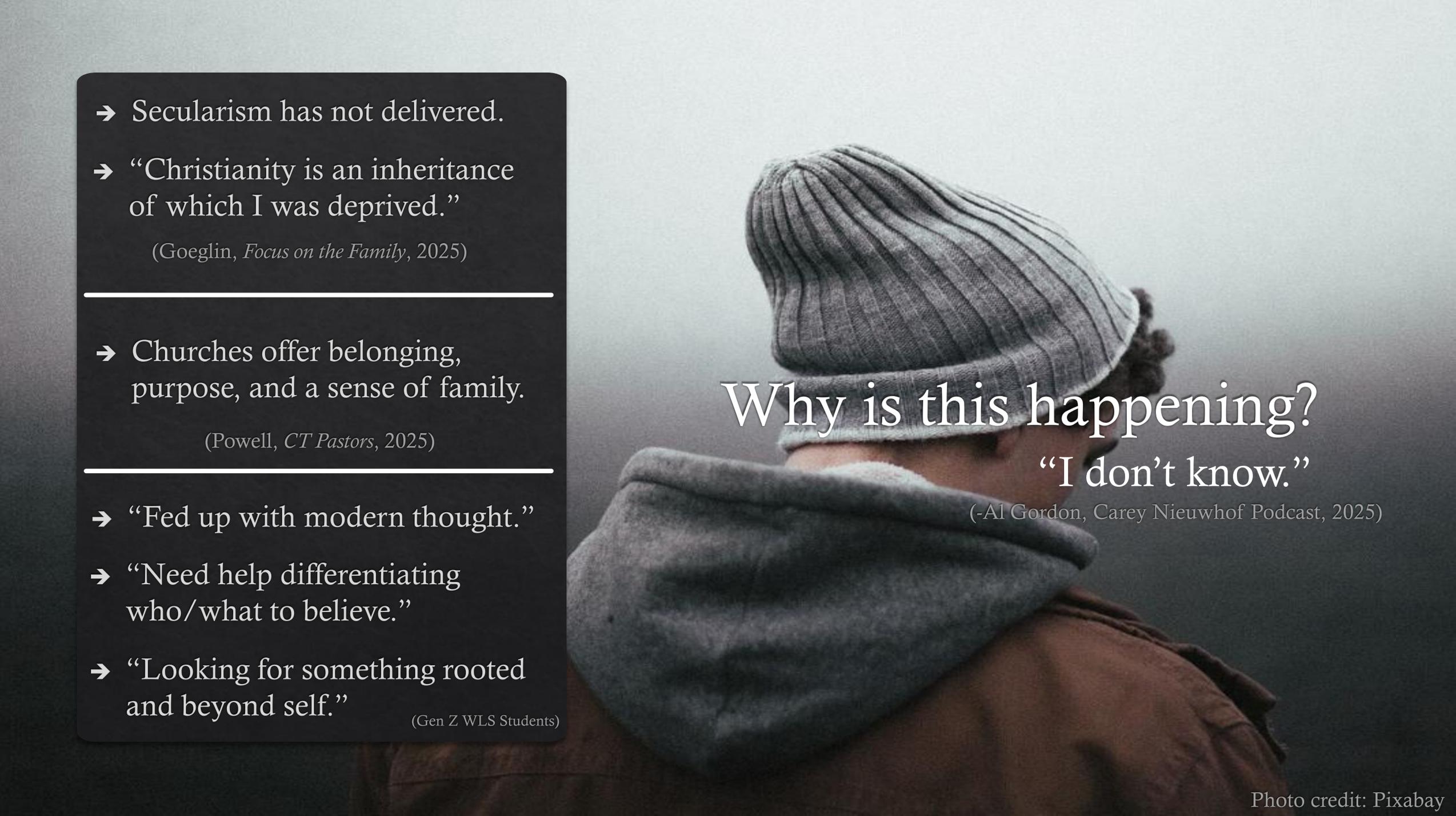
(Goeglin, *Focus on the Family*, 2025)

-
- Churches offer belonging, purpose, and a sense of family.

(Powell, *CT Pastors*, 2025)

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- “Fed up with modern thought.”
 - “Need help differentiating who/what to believe.”
 - “Looking for something rooted and beyond self.”

(Gen Z WLS Students)



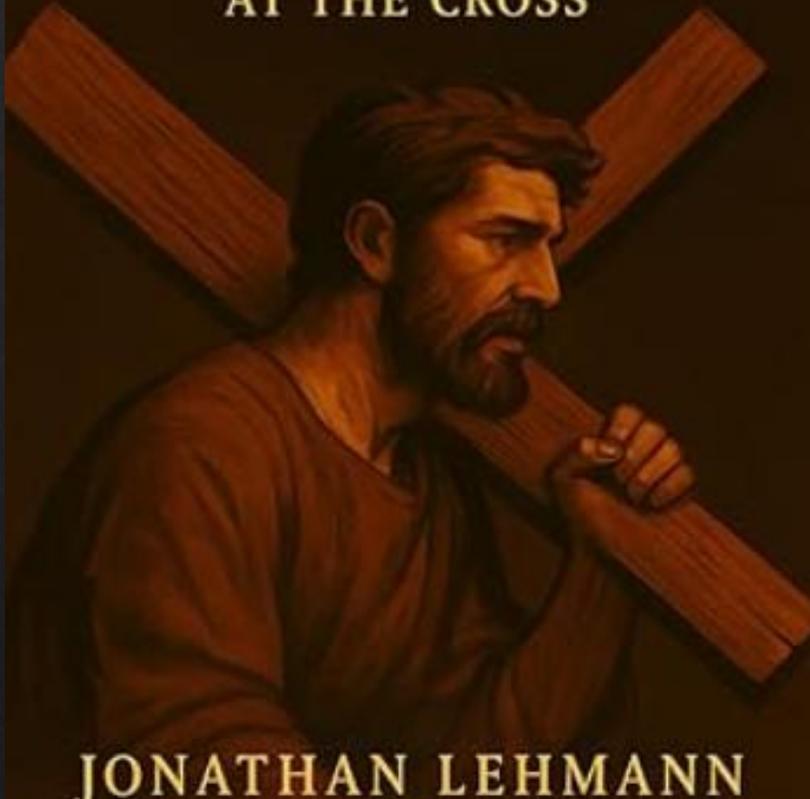
Why is this happening?

“I don’t know.”

(-Al Gordon, Carey Nieuwhof Podcast, 2025)

FREE AT HEART

CHRISTIAN MASCULINITY
AT THE CROSS



Why Ancient Christianity Draws Young Men

→ Objectivity over novelty:

Creeds don't budge, sacraments don't depend on mood

→ Liturgical re-habituating:

Men are catechized out of performative masculinity into received identity.

→ Vocation beats vibe:

The world tells men to curate a brand; the church hands them a calling.

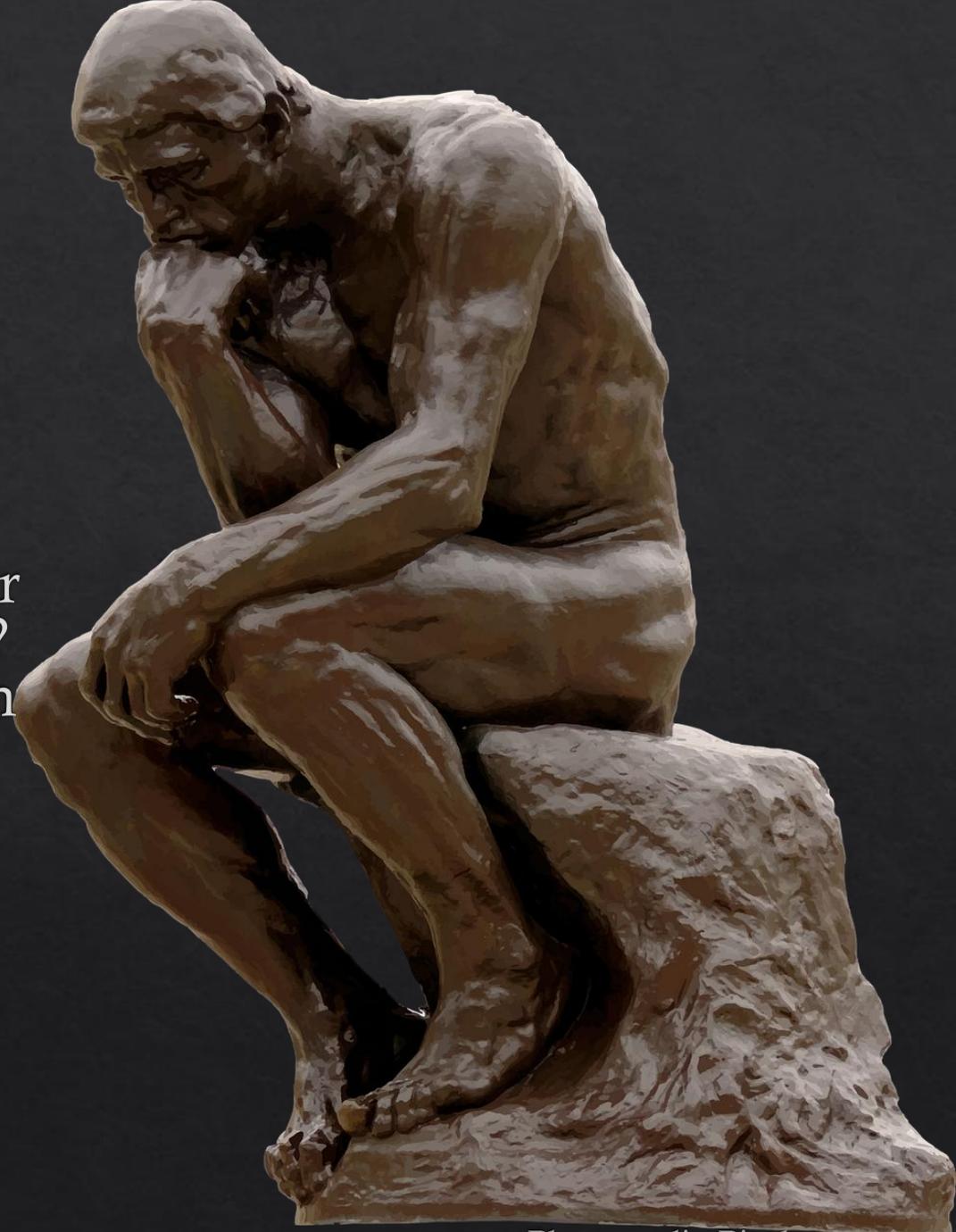
(Lehmann, 2025)

“...so is my word that goes out from my mouth:It will not return to me empty” - Isaiah 55:11



Reflect/Discuss

What have you observed in your church, school, or community about Gen Z's interest in Christianity? What have you learned or would like to learn from conversations with Gen Z individuals?



Now what?

“rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents”

- Luke 15:7



Photo credit: Pixabay

- Chaos, uncertainty, complexity
Peace, Truth!, Certainty
- Ubiquitous info, “Always on”
Rest, Wisdom
- Diverse, globally connected
Community, Diverse Unity
- Individual freedom & expression
Identity, True Freedom
- Pessimism, Lack of Safety
Hope, Security
- Belonging, Purpose
Here is the man!



Recognize the Treasure
We Have and Offer

Based on what we've covered and what you've observed, what encouragements would you give churches, schools, individuals when it comes to Gen Z (men)?

- Connect...to your Savior's Word.
- Connect...Gen Z to their Savior's Word.
- Connect...by listening.
- Connect...Gen Z to fellow believers.
- Connect...Gen Z with opportunities to serve.



Photo credit: Pixabay