



The Widespread Tendency
Towards Generational Drift
& God’s Available Mercy
for Overcoming It

“What is believed by one generation is often assumed by the next,
and can easily be forgotten or even denied
in the generation that follows.”

THREE GENERATIONS

<i>1st Generation</i>	<i>2nd Generation</i>	<i>3rd Generation</i>
Captivated & Committed	Conflicted & Compromised	Critical & Comfortable
<i>Joshua & his contemporaries</i>	<i>“the elders who outlived Joshua”</i>	<i>“another generation after them”</i>
Firsthand experience of God’s Presence/activity	Secondhand knowledge of God’s activity	No experience of God’s activity
Knew the Lord	Knew about the Lord	“didn’t know the Lord”
Saw His works	Heard about His works	Didn’t know His works
<i>David</i>	<i>Solomon</i>	<i>Rehoboam</i>
Pursued God; “a man after God’s own heart”	Pursued wisdom at first, then pleasure	Pursued power
Passionate devotion to God	Short-lived devotion to God	No heart for God
Wanted to build a temple	Wanted to build a palace	Wanted to build an empire
Repented of sin	Compromised and reveled in sin	Rejected counsel and rebelled against God
Aimed to please God	Aimed to please others	Aimed to please self
<i>Abraham</i>	<i>Isaac</i>	<i>Jacob</i>
“Friend of God”	People-Pleaser	Schemer & deceiver
Focus on God	Focus on God & Others	Focus on Self
Prioritized worship- always built an altar and then a well	Prioritized work- always built a well, then an altar	Prioritized wealth- deceived his father and stole his brother’s birthright & blessing
“hot”	“lukewarm”	“cold”
“Spiritual” 1Cor 2:15	“worldly” “fleshly” 1 Cor 3:1	“natural” 1 Cor 2:14

	Steve’s Observations	
<i>1st Chair</i>	<i>2nd Chair</i>	<i>3rd Chair</i>
Lives to please God	Lives to please others	Lives to please self
Fanatic for God	Fears being called a fanatic	Calls others fanatics or hypocrites
<i>What does God think?</i>	<i>What do they think?</i>	<i>What do I think?</i>
Sees Christianity as a Relationship	Sees Christianity as a Religion with Rules & Rituals	Rejects Christianity (or at least the brand they were raised with)
Cultivates deep beliefs & convictions	Knows the answers	Poses derogatory questions
Holiness is a delight	Holiness is a duty	Holiness is despised
Work is a platform for ministry	Work is a means of provision	Work is a way to get ahead
Hopes to raise godly kids	Hopes to raise good kids	Hopes to raise successful kids
Devoted to church	Duplicitous at church – “a chameleon Christian”	Disinterested in church
Views church as a beloved family	Views church as a necessary obligation	Views church as full of hypocrites
Attends church to meet God	Attends church to meet friends and be seen	Doesn’t attend church
Possesses faith	Professes faith	Denies having faith
Born again	???	Not born again

Faulty Conclusions:

- It’s all **PREDETERMINED**
- It’s purely a closed **CAUSE & EFFECT** system
- You can **JUST DECIDE** to switch chairs and it will happen

Observations:

1. People **DO** change chairs
2. Parents **DO** have influence
3. Life **IS** better sitting in the 1st Chair
4. Sustainable 1st Chair living is **SUPPORTED** by having at least one 1st Chair friend

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