Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

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**Assignment #3 – Essay on a case study**

1. Write a 5-page paper on a specific event or phenomenon (e.g., a historical event, a cultural practice, a legal decision), and interpret it from a hermeneutic perspective. This would involve understanding the event within its context and recognizing the role of your prejudices in shaping your interpretation.

The student should direct developmental readings from Assignment #2 on the hermeneutic issue for this assignment.

1. Paper Outline
   1. Begin with an introductory paragraph that has a succinct thesis statement.
   2. Address the topic of the paper with critical thought.
   3. End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis.
   4. Use a minimum of seven scholarly research sources (two books and the remaining scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles.

The desire to research the millennial generation is a challenging and emotional social assignment for those who have experience with them, both in families and the workplace. In the role of school administration, this task is a must, however. One cannot rest upon the experience of the past socially as the world changes exponentially. What worked in one generation does not work in the next. For millennials and their families and others who work with them, the influence of technology and information systems on their families continues to grow and will continue. Christian educators and the church hope to reach Millennials and their families with the gospel of Jesus Christ in a winsome way. This includes parents today in this generation as they rear their children. If this generation is syncretistic and not churched, where do they get counsel to raise their children well? Because many Millennial parents fear and distrust the parenting styles of the family they grew up, they prefer counsel in their attitudes and lifestyles for living in this world and parenting their children on social media. How did this happen?

**Who are the Millennials?**

The millennial generation is a group of adults who were born in the 80’s and 90’s and are called so because they were the closest generation born to the new millennial year 2000. The generation known as the Baby Boomers precede this generation and are the parents of Millennials. Boomers are the generation birthed in the day when dialog with adults was not taught or necessary. Corporal punishment for disobedience was observed. Most families were religious and attended weekly services. Children were in public schools. These parents did not have as much training as they could have and thus, in the Christian world, depended on the church for help in raising millennial children, but most in a legalistic way. With much turmoil and disasters while this group was young, it is not uncommon to understand why some do not trust their parents and want to receive advice from them.

Many major world events that ,affected society occurred in the 80’s and were traumatic for all of society, especially children. Ronald Regan, President of the US, had an attempted assassination and survived. He also influenced many world leaders. He built up weapons and troops to protect America. Prince Charles of Great Britain married a commoner, and the event was televised. The Berlin Wall dividing Eastern and Western Germany was torn down. Pope John Paul II, from the Vatican, was shot and seriously wounded. CNN was the first 24-hour news broadcast. Music television (MTV), the first mobile phone, personal computers, and the internet came along (Staff, 2020). In the ’90s, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Persian Gulf War, the Centennial Olympic Park bombing, and the Columbine High School massacre, to name a few. Some of the aftermaths of these situations were televised, and children of the millennial generation were affected.

Many new expansions of information were made possible for almost instant information. Everything began to move at a faster pace. There was no discussion, just acceptance. Parents were not trained for trauma for themselves, much less their children. Biases and prejudices began to abound with difficulties and advancements. How was this affecting the children? No one seemed to ask. Life went along as before. Moreover, some began to pull away, thinking what they believed was more important than anyone else’s beliefs. The insatiable appetite for freedom to live as one pleases thrives on the aspect of modern democratic thought that complete freedom is attained when there is no knowledge (Bloom, 2012). This included all generations.

How are fears discovered in children? “Anxiety runs in families, and its transmission is largely environmental” (Ewing et al., 2019). If families were used to dealing with problems within the home and those that arise within the community, even world events, how would they communicate with their children? The baby Boomer generation was more about controlling their children. Millennials are more about communicating with their children. They are used to having information at their fingertips. They could research and learn quickly about the World Wide Web because they were more exposed to it, whereas Baby Boomers had encyclopedia books to peruse.

Millennials seek collective action more so than any other generation. Unity, community, and togetherness are most important to this group (Barna & Munsil, 2023). This generation would instead get help from each other and current information from the internet than call on previous generations.

On the other hand, “Fears of shifting worldviews are the major fears that Baby Boomers have with Millennials,” (Francioli, et. al (2022). Worldviews are based upon belief systems and are major reasons people make their choices. Boomers may fear that their jobs are in danger with the knowledge and eagerness of learning that this new generation today has. “Research suggests that most managers will not effectively utilize, totally understand and recognize the contributions of the generation known as millennials” (Sessoms-Penny, et. al., 2023). Millennials in many workplaces are a threat to Boomers, but could be a great asset if they were listened to.

More MillennialsMore Millennials are pursuing higher education with graduate degrees now days than Baby Boomers, although ages sixty to eighty are the most experienced leaders and continue to work today. So, why the mistrust of Millennials to older generations? Why the mistrust of the older generation to millennials? “Millennials are accustomed to communicating in cyberspace, are more expressive, have a high level of curiosity, and are able to seek knowledge by themselves with the help of this technology,” (Erawati, et. al., 2023).

**My Interpretation of the Study**

The interpretation of the study has taken me from biases, prejudices and judgementalism I had with millennials and other groups to a new and different way of communication. The generation from which I came sought much influence from parents from the generation before. I believed this would always be the case for families and churches. But we have discouraged millennials by not listening to them, really listening. My generation hurt them when change was coming so quickly in the community and world, we were not ready for it. We had no training in the church for what was going on what outside the church. Although there were parent seminars, raising children, marriage conferences, there were not messages on trauma of war, bombings, shootings for our children. We knew Jesus was the answer and we looked to Him to do our best for our children. We had no other recourse and believed that this was all we needed. Our kids needed more. Many never asked why and how.

Millennials having seen so much negative in this world, choose instead to see good in others and want to help them. Many times they reach out by asking help from others in their communities. By doing this, they make friends of those they invite, and a sense of unity is found. Some say this makes them feel better about themselves than their families do. Belonging is important to every person.

It is understandable that millennials began to look to each other for answers, particularly on social media. They were following what others were doing. They were saying what others were saying. What was the church saying? It is proven research that millennials, more than any other generation have a sense of outpouring to needy groups. Many believe this gives themselves purpose and meaning and, therefore, they believe they are doing their part in this world to make it a better place for others. This is the interpretation of their own self-reflective approach of understanding.

Millennial parents and sharenting is a common phrase today. Although many are professionals, they share parent skills through social media, “to receive affirmation, support and ability to care for children, by social participation and documentation, (Latipah, et. al., 2020). It is important for this generation to receive constant support for what they do. They are asking for us to help them in this area although it is not voiced. How will we respond?

**Why I Am Correct in My Interpretation**

I have had many conversations with millennials. Some conversations have been in school with tired teachers and others with angry parents. From my research and listening to Jesus, I have learned that listening intently with eye contact and repeating what they have said to make sure I heard it correctly is key. Then praying through silently in my head and heart, “What is it Father that these folks need to hear?” Then I listen and speak the next best thing. It is remarkable that one of the most important beliefs for both of our generations is to keep the discussion going. It is working! It is not an easy task when I know I will first have to listen to their unkind words. However, they keep coming back and are gentler each time. And by the great grace of Jesus, I listen again.

To reach each other and understand each other’s worldview, we need to be

able to understand that we can assist each other in reaching this goal of communication. As a scholar practitioner in this world, I must interpret what is said in conversation and reach a fusion of horizons with the Millennial generation. I will continue to pray, listen, ask questions, learn how to use technology by embracing it more efficiently, be an example of the correct use of social media, and continue to keep the conversation going, (Bonner, 2023).

To conclude, Millennial parents continue to thrive with new attitudes and lifestyles in response to their own upbringing and worldwide events during the 1980’s-1990’s, which stem from childhood fears and distrust of the older generation to choosing to do things their way, particularly with social media sharenting. I will listen and respond to them with the love of Jesus and communicate effectively and winsomely with them to reach them and let them know the gospel of Jesus Christ and His love for them.

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