

## **WHY YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH.**

BY TOM FIEDLER

Some New Church parents of adult children wonder why their children have either left the New Church or are no longer influenced by Swedenborg and the New Revelation. It is heartbreaking to conclude that those who have left did so from a conscious free will rejection of this present Dispensation.

The New Church parent is not alone. New Church people often presume that the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant parent is losing her children to the current cultural pantheism because her church teaches false doctrine. Is it not time to put aside this presumption and examine other evidence? Just why are young adults (including New Church youth) abandoning the faith of their parents?

We need to recognize that there are (and always will be) spiritual forces that seek to eradicate truths of faith and affection for them (remains) that parents consciously strive to instill in their offspring. These spiritual forces will attack us directly as individuals, but they will attack us through natural persons and worldly organizations in our nation and community.

Faith in God and eternal life must never be mixed with science, or Science must never be mixed with politics, or Economics must never be mixed with anthropology; and the big one, Theology must never influence government. Of course that allows the Humanist to be the watchdog over everyone who does not share Humanist metaphysics. By default then, the Humanist hopes the rest of us won't notice that Humanism itself shifts from compartment to compartment whenever convenient for

manipulating the rest of us. And most of us don't!

The Boomer generation was the last generation to be raised in a predominantly Judeo-Christian culture, but with a heavy emphasis on 'self-esteem' lacking in the depression generation. Generation X has been raised in a culture of Humanistic skepticism (AKA post-modernism) while generation Y<sup>1</sup> has been raised in a culture of pantheistic socialism (political correctness). Each paradigm has adopted new definitions and altered basic assumptions.

For example, the depression generation and baby boomers shared a didactic absolute epistemology. Those are three fancy words for a discoverable reality one can see and understand through reason and meticulous observation (AKA rationalism and modernism). Hence the hard sciences were popular viz. physics, mathematics and the various forms of mechanical engineering. Those generations were encouraged to pursue knowledge individually, critically and competitively, regardless of what the experts and authorities promote. This way of thinking is portrayed by its critics to be "bigoted" and "exclusive".

Generation X and Y were educated in a dialectic relative epistemology. In other words, reality is merely whatever collective humanity (through consensus) perceive it to be at any given time. Hence the arts and humanities, political science and psychology are popular subjects. For X and Y generations reality is evolving according to thesis—antithesis and synthesis (dialectic process). Their education has conditioned them to follow the published and acclaimed intellectual lead and seek consensus. This is labeled by its critics as "group think" and by its adherents as "transformational thinking".

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<sup>1</sup>Generation X, those born from 1965 to 1982; Generation Y those born from 1980 to 1995.

Of course these cultures blur in and out of each other. Fortunately, the internet and communication with third world aspirants has broadened the paradigms of each generation. But in the New Church our failure to see the conflicting foundations of the way each generation thinks (specifically the logic employed to process information) will result in frustrated communication. And none of us will be able to ‘get it’, let alone pass our values on to our children.

The solution is to define our terms and follow the money. We can no longer assume terms such as ‘liberal’, ‘freedom’, ‘religious’, ‘progressive’, ‘tolerant’, ‘democracy’ and ‘fundamental’ mean the same to each generation. We can no longer assume that our children and their children speak the same language even though we use identical words and phrases.

Following the money should be broadened to discover our individual motivation. The times call for rigorous honesty, transparency and courage. We can no longer assume that one generation accepts the same basic “obvious” facts about God, reality, the purpose of life and the value of one's family as the previous one did. Everything we wish to bequeath to following generations must be redefined in such a way as to avoid self-serving storge<sup>2</sup> agendas and un-confessed phobias. It isn't going to be easy, but I bet it will be enlightening.

<sup>2</sup>Storge , from the Greek *σῶϊνᾱ*, Wikipedia, family love, Conjugal Love 176, Heaven & Hell 277