

KEY STUDIES



www.PewResearch.org
www.FaithCommunitiesToday.org

GROWING DIVERSITY

- Generational
- Developmental
- Ethnic & Cultural
- Family Structures
- Faith Practice & Community Engagement
- Religious & Spiritual Needs



DEVELOPMENTAL & GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY

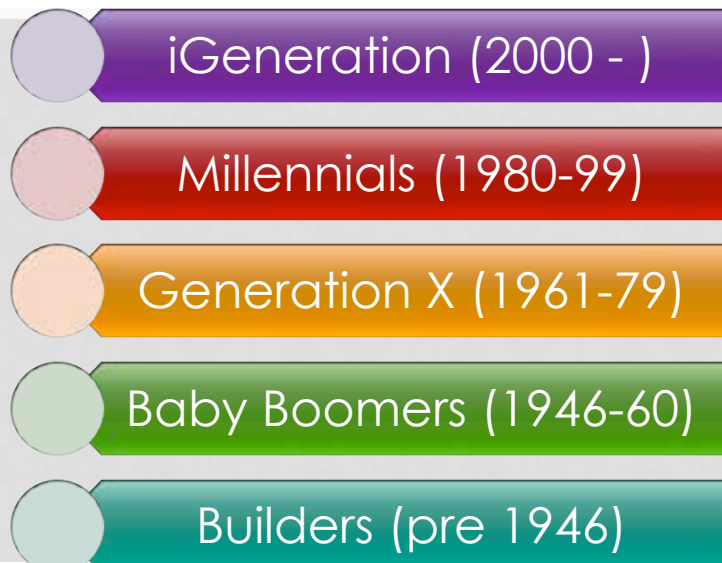
Developmental

- ⊙ Children
- ⊙ Adolescents
- ⊙ Emerging Adults
- ⊙ Young Adults
- ⊙ Mid-Life Adults
- ⊙ Mature Adults
- ⊙ Older Adults

Generational

1. iGeneration
2. Millennials
3. Generation X
4. Baby Boomers
5. Builders

5-GENERATION DIVERSITY



CHANGING GENERATION BABY BOOMERS

- ⊙ About 10,000 Boomers will turn 65 every day for the next 18 years.
- ⊙ A new stage of life between adult midlife – typically focused on career and child-rearing – and old age, traditionally marked by increasing frailty and decline. This new stage (60s-70s) is characterized by generally good health, relative financial stability, and an active, engaged lifestyle.

GENERATIONAL CHANGE



GENERATIONAL CHANGE

- ⊙ Significant **Generational Change** began in the early 1990s among the younger generations and is influencing society and the older generations.
- ⊙ These trends are having a significant impact on a **Life Cycle** approach to faith formation and church life, in general.

CHANGING GENERATIONS

1. Increasing number of “Nones” – no religious affiliation
2. Increasing number of “Spiritual but not Religious”
3. Embracing diversity – cultural, ethnic, sexual
4. Declining participation in Sunday worship and sacraments (marriage, baptism)
5. Declining levels of family faith practice & socialization

NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

- 15% of all Americans claim no religious affiliation (2008; today: 19%)
- 25% of all 18-29 years
- 10% drop in the number of Christians

- *The challenge to Christianity in the U.S. does not come from other religions but from a rejection of all forms of organized religion.*

SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS

- Today, 18% of 18-39 year olds say that are “spiritual, but not religious” compared to only 11% a decade ago.

DIVERSITY IN FAITH PRACTICE & RELIGIOSITY

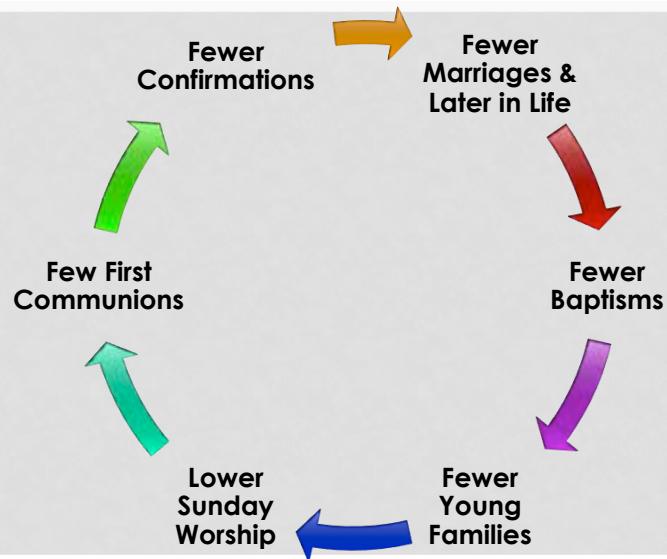


DECLINING RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

- Declining worship attendance
- Declining participation in celebration of sacraments & rites of passage

Example: The number of marriages celebrated in the Catholic Church has fallen from 415,487 in 1972 to 168,400 in 2010 — a decrease of nearly 60% — while the Catholic population has increased by almost 17 million. To put this another way, this is a shift from 8.6 marriages per 1,000 U.S. Catholics in 1972 to 2.6 marriages per 1,000 Catholics in 2010. (CARA, 2011)

CHANGING PARTICIPATION PATTERNS



CHANGING FAMILIES

- ⊙ Changing family patterns and structures
 1. Growing diversity in family structures
 2. Increasing number of unmarried couples living together
 3. Delaying marriage: marrying later and having children later in life
 4. Not marrying and having children
 5. Decreasing number of children in two-parent households

CHANGING VIEWS OF FAMILY

	A Family	Not a Family
Married Coupled with Children	99	1
Married Couple without Children	88	10
Single Parent with Children	86	12
Unmarried Couple with Children	80	18
Same-Sex Couple with Children	63	34
Same-Sex Couple without Children	45	52
Unmarried Coupled without Children	43	54

Pew Research, 2011

CHANGING VIEWS OF FAMILY

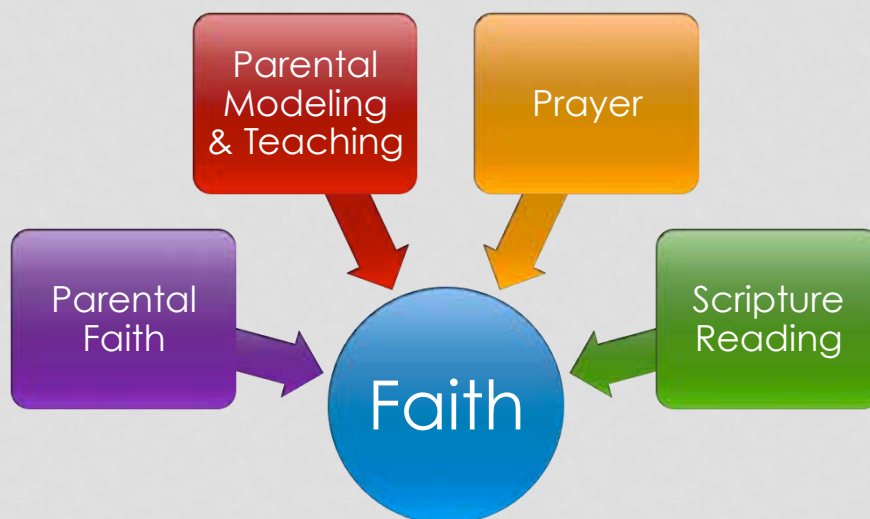
- Fully eight-in-ten adults younger than 30 say a same-sex couple with children is a family, more than double the proportion of those 65 and older who share this view (80% vs. 37%).
- Among those ages 30 to 49, two-thirds (67%) see a same-sex couple with children as a family, compared with 58% of all 50- to 64-year-olds.

(Pew Research, 2011)

FAMILY RELIGIOUS SOCIALIZATION

- **Parental Influence:** The single most important social influence on the religious and spiritual lives of children and adolescents is their parents.
- **Embedded Family Religious Practices:** Effective religious socialization comes about through specific religious activities that are firmly intertwined with the daily habits of family life

FAMILY RELIGIOUS SOCIALIZATION



FAMILY RELIGIOUS SOCIALIZATION

Children and teenagers with seriously religious parents are more likely than those without such parents to have been trained in their lives to think, feel, believe, and act as serious religious believers, and that that training “sticks” with them even when they leave home and enter emerging adulthood.

(Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults by Christian Smith with Patricia Snell)

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY



CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

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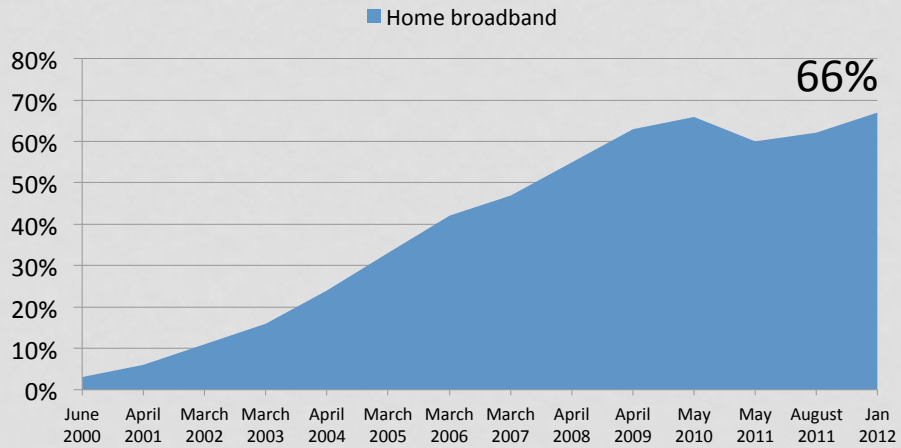
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NEW RESOURCES

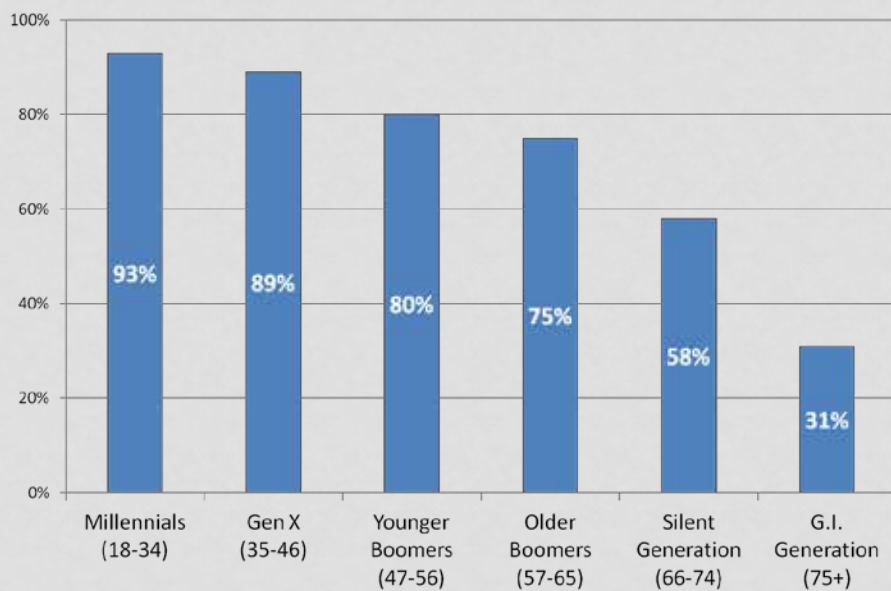
Video Programs
Online Resource Centers
Websites Social Networks
Apps Digital Books
Blogs Online Courses

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

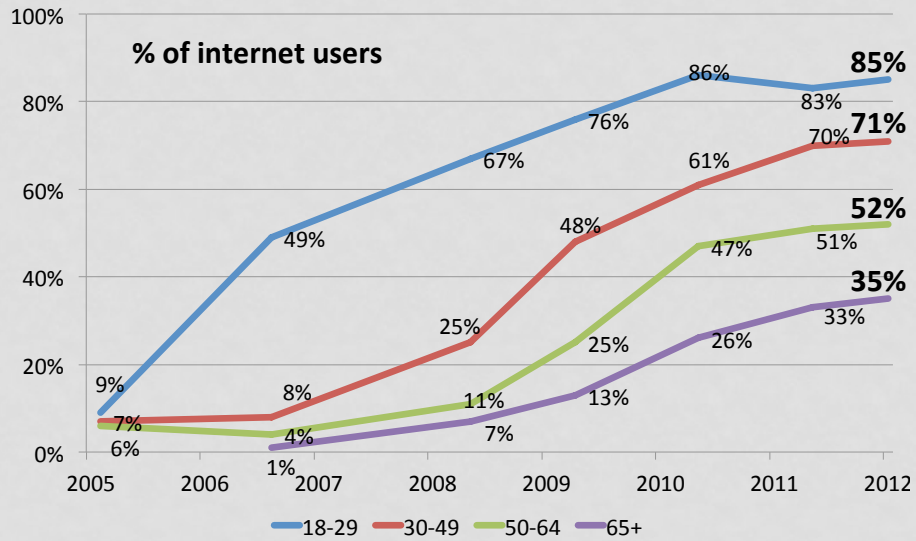
INCREASE IN HOME BROADBAND



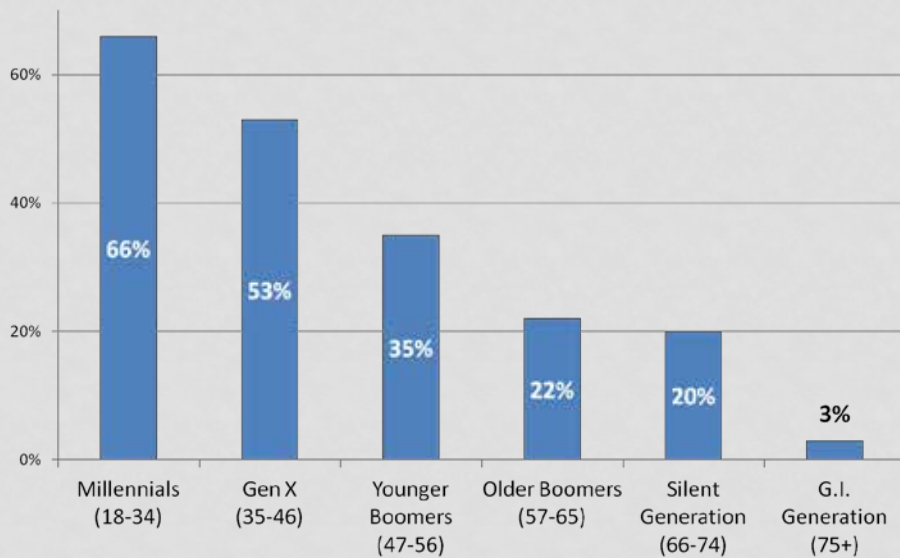
INCREASE IN INTERNET USERS – 80%



INCREASE IN SOCIAL NETWORKING – 52% OF ADULTS



INCREASE IN SMARTPHONES – 46%



INCREASE IN TABLETS

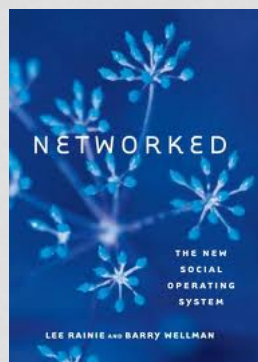
67 million iPads sold since 2010 when it was introduced.



Prediction: 665 million tablets by 2016

2012: 120 million tablets – a 100% increase over 2011.

CHANGING SOCIETY



New Social Network Operating System

The Triple Revolution

1. Social Network Revolution
2. Internet Revolution
3. Mobile Revolution

SOCIAL NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

The Social Network, Internet, and Mobile Revolutions are coming together to shift people's social lives away from densely knit family, neighborhood, and group relationships toward more far-flung, less tight, more diverse personal networks.

SOCIAL NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

The **Social Networks Revolution** provided opportunities—and stresses—for people to reach beyond the world of tightly knit groups

SOCIAL NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

The **Internet Revolution** has given people communications power and information-gathering capacities that dwarf those of the past. It has allowed people to become their own publishers and broadcasters and created new methods for social networking.

This has changed the point of contact from the household (and work group) to the individual. Each person creates her own internet experiences, tailored to her needs.

SOCIAL NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

The **Mobile Revolution** has allowed ICTs (internet communication technologies) to become body appendages allowing people to access friends and information at will, wherever they go. In return, ICTs are always accessible.

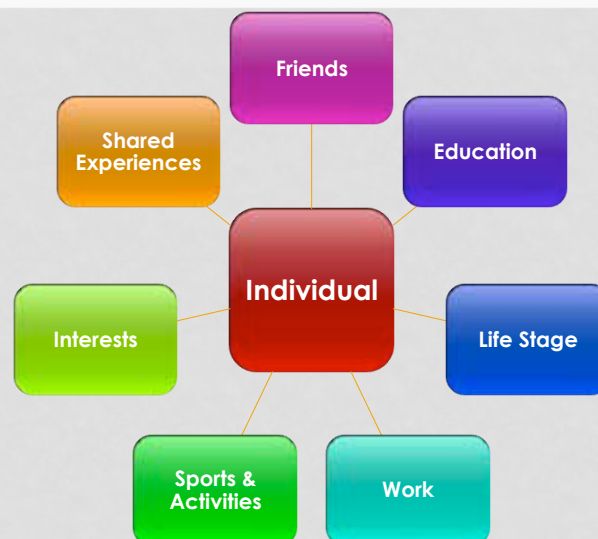
There is the possibility of a continuous presence and pervasive awareness of others in the network. People's physical separation by time and space are less important.

SOCIAL NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

Networked Individualism

The three revolutions have made possible the new social operating system – *Networked Individualism*. The hallmark of networked individualism is that people function more as connected individuals and less as embedded group members.

NETWORKED INDIVIDUALS



SOCIAL NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

Networked Individualism

- This stands in contrast to the longstanding social arrangements formed around large hierarchical bureaucracies and small, densely knit groups such as households, communities, and workgroups.
- It is an operating system because it describes the ways in which people connect, communicate, and exchange information.