Building on the foundation laid by Intergenerational Christian Formation, InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry is an invaluable resource that will assist your church in the development of a more intergenerational culture. This handout is part of a series that seeks to encourage you to dig deeper into InterGenerate.

Ch. 3 Learning to Love Together

Darwin K. Glassford

“The terms “intergenerational” and “intergenerational ministry” are buzzwords within ministry circles. These terms are often used to validate program or ministry ideas; rarely are these terms clearly defined. The intent of this chapter is to provide a broad outline for a biblical theology of intergenerational ministry; first, we will describe the nature of the task before us; next we will offer a brief survey of understandings of intergenerational ministry; and last, we will provide an outline of a biblical theology of intergenerational ministry.” p.63

“Difference in understandings of intergenerational ministry are more than simple disagreements; they reflect deeply held, and often unquestioned, theological commitments. The task before us is a challenging theological task that must seriously engage the Scriptures along with our own experiences.” p.64

“...intergenerational ministry intentionally facilitates and creates contexts where people of different ages and generations constructively interact and equip each other for ministry in a manner that fosters spiritual formation. What does it mean to “foster spiritual formation”? What does it mean to be “spiritually formed”?“ p.66

“Intergenerational ministry in the Scriptures is committed to cultivating a life of faith through teaching God’s story in a context where each generation is using their gifts and learning from the others so that everyone is growing in loving the things that God loves, in the way that God loves.” p.70

“Intergenerational ministry has a rich theological foundation and history within Jewish and Christian traditions. The robust understandings offered in the biblical text invites each local church and ministry to recognise its place in forming children, young people, and the whole community. Intergenerational ministry is rooted in a commitment to mutual accountability within the community. Within Western culture’s fascination with age appropriateness and segregating by age and stage, intergenerational ministry is refreshingly counter-cultural.” p.70

Intrigued? Challenged? Want to find out more? Read the full chapter in InterGenerate.

Chris Barnett  April 2019