

Parents Just Don't Understand, Part 2:

The Solo Grind vs. The Village

Titus 2:1-8 MSG

Key Trends Driving the Grandparent Gap:

- **Declining Grandparenthood:** The percentage of adults over 50 with grandchildren dropped from nearly 60% in 2014 to just over 50% in 2021.
- **Geographic Distance:** Many grandparents live farther from grandchildren than in previous generations, limiting daily interaction.
- **The "Child-Free" Choice:** Increasing numbers of younger adults are choosing not to have children, resulting in a permanent absence of the grandparent role for their parents.
- **Strained Relationships & Health:** Divorce, family conflicts and the health issues of older adults can prevent them from being involved.

The Impact of the Grandparent Gap on Families is Severe:

- **Childcare Crunch:** While many grandparents are heavily involved, others are unable to help, placing a massive burden on working parents.
 - **Emotional Loss:** The absence of grandparents means children miss out on emotional support, wisdom and family history, which can affect their social development.
 - **Mental Health:** Grandparents who see their grandchildren rarely are more likely to report poor mental health and feelings of isolation.
1. **THE MYTH OF THE SUPER-PARENT:** American culture has sold us a lie called hyper-individualism, a myth which asserts that we can make it all on our own and that the family should be self-sufficient (Titus 2:1-8 MSG).

Just Say No to Living in Iso (Isolation) – Two Reasons

- **Isolation Is the Enemy's Playground** – When we isolate ourselves, our struggles tend to feel unique and insurmountable. We hide our problems to keep up appearances and it is wearing us out. This is why we must destroy the idol of pseudo-independence (2 Corinthians 12:7b-10).
- **As Counter-Cultural as this Might Sound, Vulnerability Invites Strength for People of Faith** – We often think to ourselves, “I don't want to look weak,” but admitting that we need help opens the door for God's grace. By our faith, when we are weak, we are strong (2 Corinthians 12:7b-10)!

(over please)



2. THE ASSET OF INTERGENERATIONAL WISDOM:

Young parents, especially, have access to unlimited information by way of Google, but very little wisdom by way of experience. Many parents are drowning in information, but they are thirsty for wisdom (Titus 2:1-8 MSG).

Two Parental Charges

- ▶ **A Charge to Older Parents and Grandparents** – You possess the perspective that young parents lack. Therefore, do not retire from discipleship. Wrap your arms around young families – do not just sit next to them (Psalm 145:4).
- ▶ **A Charge to Young Parents** – Open the door. Invite a spiritually-seasoned parent or grandparent into your life so that you can tap into the reservoir of wisdom and experience that God has placed all around you (Psalm 145:4).

3. BUILD A MULTIGENERATIONAL COVENANT COMMUNITY: Never forget, church is not an event that we attend, it is a family that we belong to (Titus 2:1-8 MSG).

Two Charges to the Church

1. **A Charge to Expand the Definition of “Family”** – The blood of Jesus is thicker than the blood of biology. When a kid is giving their parent a fit, it is not just the parent’s problem, it is the “village’s” opportunity to offer love, guidance, support and even appropriate correction. **Pro Tip:** *You can’t talk to other people’s kids like you talk to your own* (Galatians 6:2).
2. **A Charge to Engage in Practical “Each-Othering”** – Here is what “carrying burdens” looks like. It is encouraging a worn-out mom. It is calming down a disgusted dad. It is volunteering one or two Sundays a month to serve in Children’s Life Groups or Children’s & Youth Church. We have to grow from just coming to the church, to being the village (Galatians 6:2).

Scan the QR Code for Salvation/
Baptism information.



Scan the QR Code for
the email blast.

