“A Message for All Generations!”

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 31
A Plan For Reaching Our Generation

HOW AMERICANS AFFILIATE

- No faith: 20%
- Yes as Christian: 73%
- Other: 6%
- Not sure: 1%

n=5,137 | January—April 2016
HOW AMERICANS PRACTICE THEIR FAITH

Churched: 55%  
Unchurched: 45%

Barna  
N=5,137  |  January – April 2016
“At Least Once a Month Attendance”

- Practicing Christians: 31%
- Non-Practicing Christians: 41%
What Americans Believe About Salvation – *By Grace??*

- Agree strongly: 25%
- Agree somewhat: 30%
- Disagree somewhat: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 28%

"Good works result in going to heaven."
Our Critical Need: The Gospel!

The true God/Creator has revealed Himself FULLY in the Lord Jesus Christ!

* Death, burial, resurrection from the dead
* To save us from sin; provide purpose for life
* Receive Him by grace through faith (alone!)
Catering to Worldly Appeals
1 Corinthians 1:22

Jews want “signs” – “entertain me” with the spectacular, the novel, the intriguing

Greeks want “wisdom” – trot out a philosophy that “explains:”
* God’s ways must be logical, understandable
* and gives us a “pass” from repenting from sin; indeed, VALIDATING sin!
Paul’s Answer? – vs. 23

“But we preach Christ crucified”
* to Jews, a stumbling block!
God the Almighty hung on a cross? ...a sacrificial Lamb?
* to the Greeks (Gentiles) – “foolishness” of:
  * inspired, inerrant Word of God
  * a virgin birth
  * a resurrection from the dead
What Makes the Message Universal to All Races, All Generations, All Times?

No matter our ethnicity, our wealth (or lack), or education, or skills set

Bible message includes “we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Vs. 29 – “no man should boast before God” “salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone”
Conviction of Sin

Conviction = “convincere”, which is made up of vincere, “to conquer,” “to conquer with guilt; to believe guilt”

Light shines in the darkness – (John 3:19-20)

Result:
* guilt (I am responsible)
* shame (the Truth has exposed my void)
* spiritual void within
God Sees Through Our Excuses

Frail and feeble excuses (Romans 1:20)...
Melt away in the Light of His gaze

Malachi 3 – “Who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears?”
the fire of His holiness – cleanses!

Hebrews 9:27 – “It is appointed...”
The Eternal Nature of Hell

The very language of heaven, salvation, and justice demand the reality of judgment!

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life” (Matt. 25:46).

“Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7).
The Revelation of Grace, Forgiveness, Mercy, Holiness

All in the Person of Jesus Christ


Isaiah 53:10-11: “But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief...

“...My Servant shall justify the many...”

“As He will bear their iniquities...”
For the Soul Desperate For Salvation...

*It Is Glorious News!*

2 Corinthians 5:21 –
“He became sin on our behalf!”

John Calvin – “irresistible grace”
... “(the saved) cannot resist the grace of God and heaven's determination to save them!”
Georgia Baptists = “The Great Invite”

Sunday, April 16th – “celebrate the resurrection”

Everybody oughta know:
* Who Jesus is!
* What He has done!
* The Giver of eternal life!

“Each one invite one!”