

Article Review: An Appropriation of Psalm 82 Against the Background of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Christian Church as a Change Agent in the 4th Industrial Revolution

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Article Review

What is one concept that stood out to you in this article?

One concept that stood out to me in Sutton's article, "An Appropriation of Psalm 82 Against the Background of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Christian Church as a Change Agent in the Fourth Industrial Revolution", is that for the church to be effective, it should not only embrace change but also take part in change and the process of change¹. For this to be accomplished, the church must find common ground with GenMe, the 4th Industrial Revolution culture. That is, the church must realize and understand the dependence of this culture on digital technology and innovation as well as the weighty issues faced by this generation. The weighty items that this generation faces includes anxiety and depression, instant gratification, COVID, war, school shootings and the unstable job market. Having gained an understanding of GenMe, the church needs to develop this generation to trust and depend on God and to help and care for others who are poor and needy.

What implications does this concept have for leading in the church?

Leadership in the church needs to realize the importance of finding common ground with GenMe and the next generation. Since GenMe embraces the digital platforms of Facebook, Youtube, Google and Tiktok, the church should leverage these platforms to reach the next generation. Church communications including worship, sermons, small group bible study and other church activities should be communicated to GenMe using these digital platforms. This should be approached by letting GenMe understand that the church understands them and wants to help them.

¹ Sutton, L. An Appropriation of Psalm 82 Against the Background of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Christian Church as a Change Agent in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. HTS Theological Studies, Vol 76 (2): 1-9, 2020.

First, the church needs to understand and communicate that they understand this generation and the weighty items they have to deal with. Second, the church needs to demonstrate how dependence and trust in God can help them with their weighty issues. Third, the church also needs to show them how to apply the Gospel to their own lives. This can be affected by showing GenMe how they can apply the Gospel learning of “Love God and Love People” by obeying and trusting God and helping those who are poor and needy.

What needs to change in your life as a result?

First, to realize and understand GenMe and their “felt needs”. Second, to have love and compassion like Jesus for GenMe and the next generation. Third, have the willingness to find common ground with GenMe so the Gospel can be shared with them. Fourth, be open to being a mentor to teach GenMe how helping the poor and the marginalized fits into the Christian life.

References:

Sutton, L. An Appropriation of Psalm 82 Against the Background of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Christian Church as a Change Agent in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. *HTS Theological Studies*, Vol 76 (2): 1-9, 2020.