



The Found Generation

In the past several years a great effort has been made in the media to label the current generation of youth. Sociologists have given names to different periods as a way to categorize and study them. Some examples easily come to mind, such as, Baby Boomers, Flower Children, and more recently, Generation X and Millennials. These different labels and the distinctive characteristics that go with them, attempt to define the members of those generations. Taking a step back, we realize that the Orthodox Church has remained constant throughout all of these generations, not to mention throughout the past 2000 years. The question then arises, as Orthodox Christians today, what generation do we belong to?

Some have termed today's generation of young people as the "lost generation" because they don't seem to have the same goals or motivations that previous generations have had. Today's youth do not share all of the same interests and desires of these other groups and therefore are considered by the American society to be "lost." Now while young people may be lost in the eyes of society, they are clearly found in the eyes of the Church. Instead of viewing success and failure in materialistic or societal terms, we must remember that true members of the Body of Christ are part of what could be called the "found generation."

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob." Psalm 24: 3-6

In this passage, the Psalmist describes to us the characteristics of the "found generation." We see that the person with "clean hands" who does good works in the Lord's name moves closer to Heaven. Further, the one with a "pure heart" who loves God and his fellow man attains the Kingdom. This person does not place emphasis on "what is false" in our materialistic society or "swear deceitfully" consumed by thinking negatively. Instead, they remain focused on the Lord and rejoice in his many blessings. This is the way that is pleasing to the Lord. This is the way of the "found generation."

Unlike the "generations" created by sociologists, the "found generation" is not determined by its members' dates of birth or any societal norms. Rather, it is formed by a sincere desire and commitment by individuals to be close to Our Savior, Jesus Christ. No matter our social status, our race, or even our age, we as Orthodox Christians are part of the "found generation."