

# Understanding the Times

*Max Barnett*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Chronicles 12:32.

B. In order to make an impact, a person must understand the culture.

## II. Generations.

A. Builders. (1926-45) They were hard-workers, intent on building the US into a super-power, fathers were distant in the home, etc.

B. Boomers. (1946-1964) They were dealt with in groups and taught to be consumers, they postpone major decisions, both parents were absent from the home, etc.

C. Busters. (Generation X) Entitlement is an issue.

1. They like options and not commitment, they like spontaneous events, they want relationships but they do not know how to build them, they believe contradictory things, they have no need for consistency, they are not as hungry for knowledge anymore, they are hurting, they have no sense of loyalty, they long for stability, they want freedom, etc.

2. They need small groups and places to open up, they need time, they need respect, they want to know what is expected of them, they need trust, they need to have fun, they need to receive the truth straight, they need transparency and modeling, they embrace friendship evangelism, they are motivated by praise, etc.

## III. Books and periodicals.

### Application questions:

1. What are two of the biggest differences between the builders and the busters?

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2. What successful models have you seen for meeting the needs of an intergenerational church?

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3. What are some unsuccessful approaches to addressing intergenerational challenges? What do you think can be done better?

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