

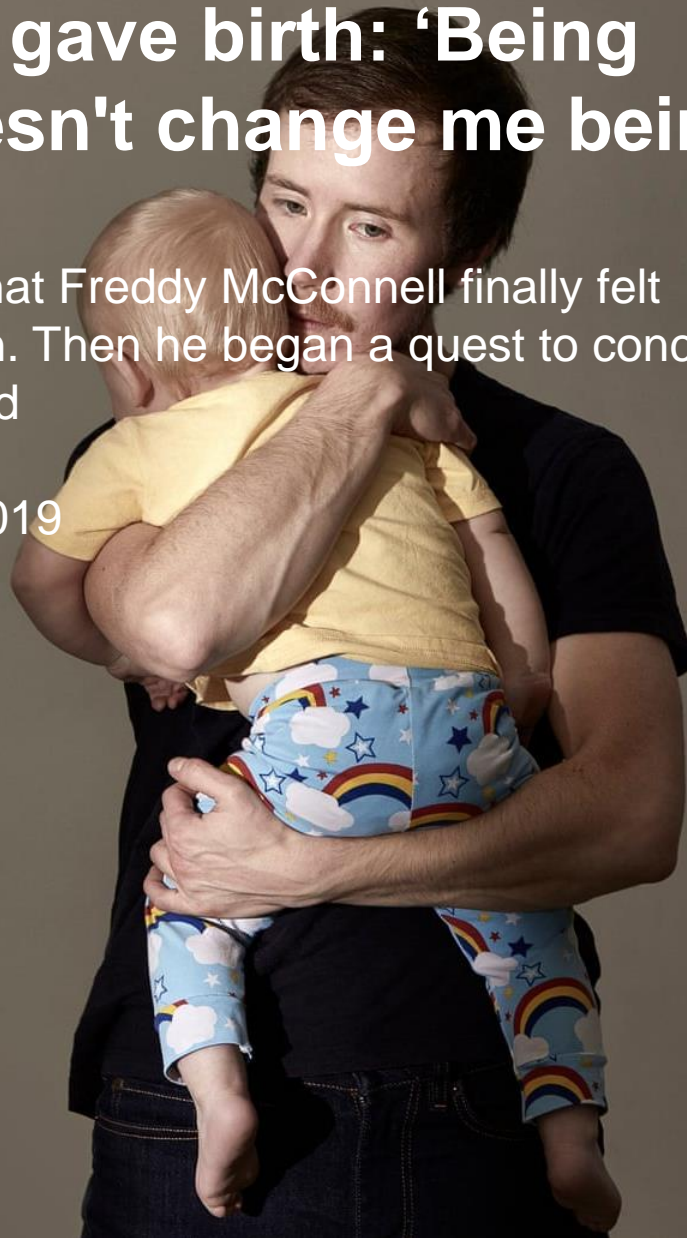
START



The dad who gave birth: 'Being pregnant doesn't change me being a trans man'

Transitioning meant that Freddy McConnell finally felt comfortable in his skin. Then he began a quest to conceive and carry his own child

Guardian April 20th, 2019



The air we breathe



- Post-Christendom
- Relativism
- Individualism
- Tolerance
- Gnosticism
- Dualism
- Secularism
- Materialism
- Pluralism
- Feminism
- Consumerism
- Technology

AUTHORITY

How attitudes changed ?



A close-up photograph of a dark, textured metal surface, possibly a weight or a piece of machinery. The word "AUTHORITY" is embossed in large, raised, sans-serif capital letters across the center. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the ridges of the letters and the grain of the metal. The background is dark and out of focus.

AUTHORITY

Differing starting points

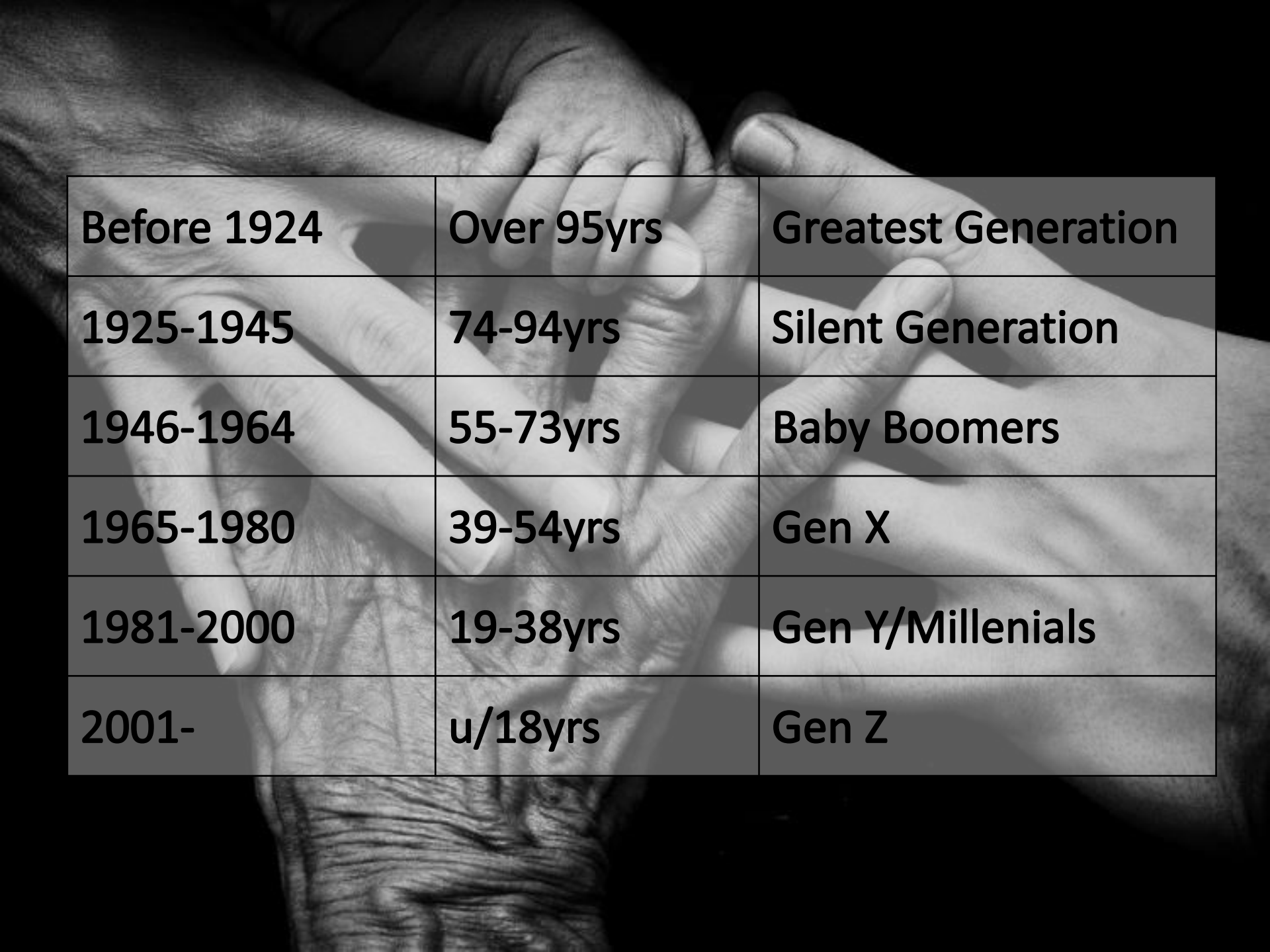


"I'll explain my generation if you explain yours."

'I'll explain my generation if you explain yours'

Introducing the generations





Before 1924	Over 95yrs	Greatest Generation
1925-1945	74-94yrs	Silent Generation
1946-1964	55-73yrs	Baby Boomers
1965-1980	39-54yrs	Gen X
1981-2000	19-38yrs	Gen Y/Millennials
2001-	u/18yrs	Gen Z

Making choices

1	CARE/HARM
2	LIBERTY/OPPRESSION
3	FAIRNESS/CHEATING
4	LOYALTY/BETRAYAL
5	AUTHORITY/SUBVERSION
6	SANCTITY/DEGRADATION



Moral Matrix

1	CARE/HARM
2	LIBERTY/OPPRESSION
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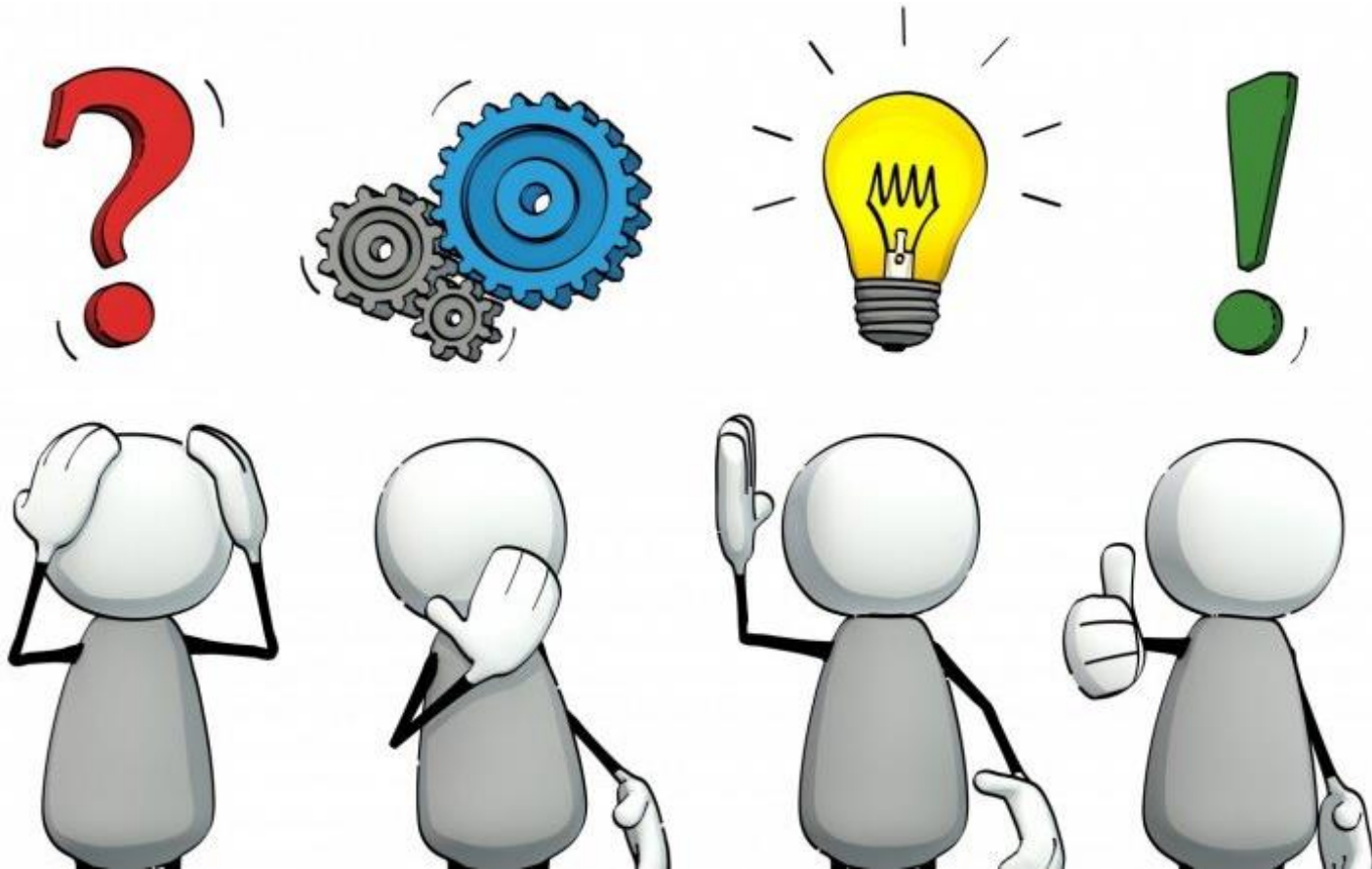


Moral Matrix

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- There is the world we live in
- There is the weight we live with
- There is the Word we live by





AUTHORITY

The Christian and authority

How does the Bible speak of authority in relation to the following...

- God
- the Bible
- Governments
- the Church
- Elders



THE BIBLE AND AUTHORITY IN RELATION TO...

	Look up...	Implications
GOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ps 103:19 • 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 • Ps 24:1-2 • 1 Tim 6:15-16 • Col 2:9-10 • Exod 20:1-7 • John 5:27, 10:17-18 • Rev 4:2, 9-11 	<p>-all powerful King with prerogative to determine what we believe and how we behave, absolute auth and rule over creation</p> <p>-rules over material world (Red Sea, quail, Jericho falls), human hearts e.g. Pharaoh</p> <p>-has a purpose for all he does in world</p> <p>-cross shape of authority – one who would die for us, came to serve not be served, lays down life Jn 10:17-18</p> <p>-sits on the throne, rule now (not just to come) – promise, glorious, holy, peace, shared/inclusive, powerful</p>
BIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 19:7-13 • 2 Tim 3:16-17 • 2 Peter 1:20-21 • 2 Peter 3:15-16 • Matt 4:1-11 • Matt 5:17-19 • Luke 4:16-21 • Matt 7:28-29 • 2 Tim 4:2-4 • Titus 2:15 • Heb 13:7 	<p>-Sola scripture - final authority in belief and behaviour, breathed out</p> <p>-reaction to be modelled on Christ – witnesses to authority of word</p> <p>-all scripture final authority not subtly choosing bits e.g. words of Jesus (red letter Bibles)</p> <p>-rightly handled – genre impacts meaning e.g. fraudulent behaviour can be used in a parable (Luke 16:1-9) and condemned in letter (Col 3:22-25)</p> <p>-beware drift / subtle abandonment (see Carson notes) **</p> <p>** subtle abandonment of biblical authority</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selective reading – avoid certain passages or themes 2. Avoiding embarrassing passages and issues – for various reasons (not confident, unease, differing opinions, fear of causing offence, don't like subject) – take a preacher who comes to speak on hell – intro 'difficult passage today, most of us find quite shocking, makes me uncomfortable but it is in Bible...danger is that submit to scripture in theory but present self as more compassionate 3. Misusing scripture to legitimise an unorthodox position – e.g. affirming gay marriage 4. Losing awe before Word of God – over familiar. Take or leave it. 5. Giving up and arguing things are 'unclear' – moving goal posts on ethical issues 6. Failing to take scope of history – being skewed in reading by current discipleship issues e.g. self esteem/identity vs suffering (Puritans)

HUMAN GOVERNMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 13:1-5 • 1 Tim 2:1-2 • Matt 22:15-21 & Rom 13:7 • John 19:10-11a • 1 Peter 2:13-15 • Titus 3:1-2 	<p>-instituted by God, means of common grace, primary means of restraining evil. Can be used for good or evil purposes</p> <p>-‘state has a legitimate sphere of guarding, maintaining and promoting justice, order and peace’ John Murray</p> <p>-to pray, submit</p>
THE CHURCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eph 3:8-12 • Eph 2:19-22 • Matt 28:18-20 • Col 3:16-17 • Matt 18:15-20 • 1 Cor 5:1-5, 11-13 & 2 Cor 2:5-11 • 1 John 4:1 • 2 Peter 2:1 3:17 	<p>-Church is more than a voluntary association – church created to do particular things</p> <p>-declares power of gospel to spiritual realms, place of God's dwelling (by inference responsibility),</p> <p>-commissioned to teach, baptise, call to obey</p> <p>-involvement in one another's lives</p> <p>-Matt 18 – tell it to church. Church protects honour of Gospel through dealing with ungodly conduct – to do so is act of love to person, church, wider world and Jesus and false teaching (be alert, have nothing to do with. . .) Not just role of leaders.</p>
ELDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark 10:42-45 • Acts 20:28-30 • Heb 13:17 • 1 Peter 5:1-4 • 1 Tim 3:1 • 1 Tim 5:17 • Titus 1:5-9 	<p>-contrasting attitude to the world. Servant hearted. Not to lord it over. Not to be domineering, harsh or authoritarian.</p> <p>-role of overseer – 2 major themes of pastoral leadership- oversight (authentein?) and teaching (didache) combined means by which exercise leadership. To be defined by scriptural expectations not world's view of leadership or latest models</p> <p>- to be concerned with others welfare (demands deep involvement in others' lives, concern for spiritual health, growth and discipline) – to shepherd/pastor must know people and people must know them >> care, watchful, pray, preach, protect, guard</p> <p>-oversight that established on basis of teaching of Word of God – whilst not all 'Teach' - all must know scriptures and bring them to bear on issues in people's lives. In contrast to state (sword Rom 13:4) and parents (rod) elders not given authority to 'enforce' apart from persuasion of teaching</p> <p>-response 'submit to authority' (teaching and care)</p>

- Florence is a 20yr old member of a local church but she is currently giving the Sunday services and the church leaders a wide berth. She is shocked and angry that the elders have challenged her best friend in the church, Brian, for starting to date Douglas who attends another church. In this day and age she doesn't understand the fuss or what business it is of the elders (or church). She has been heartened to read a book that suggests the Bible is unclear on this issue and has been sharing the ideas with her circle of friends in the church.

How might working through issues of 'authority' shape the advice you give Florence?



'God's good and
dangerous gift'

AUTHORITY