



## Being the Church in a Post-Christian World

### APPETIZER: Nones, Nevers, and Whomevers

The fastest growing religious demographic in Canada today is the population of those who indicate having no religious affiliation. Sociologists call this group the Nones.

“Nevers” are those who have never had an ongoing meaningful experience being a part of a church.

24% of Canadians identify as Nones. The number was 16% in 2001. 32-35% of Canadian Millennials identify as Nones.

### DINE IN: Christianity Displaces False Gods

Acts 11:25-26, 16:6-10

The message of Jesus went to Europe for the first time as a result of Paul’s dream. In just 500 yrs. the Gospel had displaced the ancient false gods and Europe converted to Christianity.

1<sup>st</sup> Culture – Pre-Christian culture

2<sup>nd</sup> Culture – Christianity forms the foundation of a culture

3<sup>rd</sup> Culture – Christianity fades as a culture becomes Post-Christian

*This Cultural Moment* podcast with John Mark Comer and Mark Sayers explores more of what it means to be the church in a post-Christian secular culture. I cannot recommend this conversational podcast highly enough.

We are polarizing as a culture and reverting to digital and sociological tribalism.

Vs 9-10 – Paul didn’t dismiss the person asking for his attention. The word ‘help’ in vs 9 suggests he helped with urgency. He regarded this person’s need to be God’s way of leading him where he needed to go next.

### TAKE OUT: Engaging our Cultural Moment as you Show People Jesus

1. Resist being caught up in the polarization of the cultural moment
2. Be ready to be inconvenienced and redeployed by the Spirit to the people around you who are spiritually curious and expressing needs that you can meet.
  - a. A prayer mantra: Jesus, inconvenience me and redeploy me to the people and places you want me to go. I am willing, help me be willing.

What kind of church do you think Canada needs us to be?  
What can you do at your site to better engage Nones and Nevers who may be exploring faith in Jesus?

Researcher Joel Theissen talks about the rise of the Nones in Canada and what we can learn and how to respond as the church.  
[canadianbic.ca/tsd2018](http://canadianbic.ca/tsd2018)

### NEXT WEEK: Becoming Christian in a Post-Christian World

Next week we will explore how Christian spiritual practices can sustain our Jesus-shaped transformation in an increasingly secular world.

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. If applicable, share with the group some examples of conversations you have about faith and ultimate things with those in your life who are Nones, Dones, or Nevers.
2. What evidence do you see of our culture becoming more tribal and polarized over time?
3. Share your reaction to the statement: Jesus not only saves individuals, Jesus saves civilizations.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. Read Act 16:6-10 – Ancient Macedonia = modern day Greece. This is the first time the message of Jesus enters Europe.
  - a. What could have been Paul's response to the vision? What might your response have been?
  - b. Paul was living alert to a). The leading of the Spirit, b). The voice of those expressing need and interest in spiritual things. What do you do to ensure you are living alert to the Spirit and the physical and spiritual needs of those in your life?
5. Cultural Blindness that keep us from being alert to the spiritual and physical needs of those in our lives:
  - a. What evidence do you see of polarization and tribalism in our cultural moment? How does Jesus keep us from getting sucked into these forces?
  - b. Who were the people or what were the circumstances that led to you becoming a follower of Jesus (if that's true of you)?
  - c. What is one thing that could be done at your Site to better create a place of welcome for Nones and Nevers who may explore faith in Jesus at TMH? What barriers exist that keep us from doing well in this area?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. What do you need to shift in your life so that you can spend time and model being good friends and staying connected with unchurched people.
7. How often do you think about or pray for people in your life to come to faith in Jesus?
8. What are your greatest fears when it comes to having spiritual conversations with those who do not share your faith? What might you do about that this year?
9. What are things you think our church could do to help equip you to graciously and winsomely engage in spiritual conversations with those who do not share your faith or have no faith?

Could you share your ideas with your Lead Pastor and / or email me?  
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