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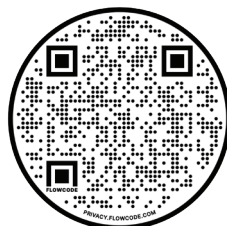


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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

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TOOLBOX

EVANTELL'S

FALL 2024

How to Make a Difference in a DECLINING CULTURE

DR. R. LARRY MOYER
Founder and CEO

The book of Judges documents the early history of Israel. It spans hundreds of years and reflects a downward spiral of the culture, including a decline in morality, justice, and devotion to God. The final verse of Judges reveals the source of the trend:

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

JUDGES 21:25

This verse is not only a commentary on the people of that day—it is a commentary on any culture or generation that leaves God out of its lives.

How can Christians make a difference in a culture that is decaying?

1 Be a responsible citizen.

Vote for those you feel will make proper and wise decisions. Uphold those in prayer whom God has allowed to come into office. Voice concerns and opinions in needed areas as the Lord leads but do so with a balance of truth and grace.

2 Focus on the problem, not the symptoms.

The root problem is not the prevalent sins in a culture. The source of the sin is the fact that people are separated from God. In response, ask yourself, "Am I as zealous to get the good news to them as I am to criticize their sin and evil?" Even more than our criticism, they need our Christ.

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3 Share the gospel.

The greatest favor a believer can do for the culture is to introduce them to Christ. People cannot live for someone they do not know.

4 Communicate with the Lord.

Prayer allows us to tap into God's resources. Where our words cannot penetrate, God's can. Where our power is insufficient, His is abundant. Where our love is limited, His love knows no boundaries.

5 Live out your faith.

As light stands out in the darkness, righteousness stands out amid unrighteousness. Those who act like the culture cannot effectively speak to the culture. Non-Christians should not have reason to say, "Being a Christian has not made a difference in that person's life. Why would it make a difference in mine?"

6 Embrace humility.

We should recognize that if it were not for the grace of God, we could be the same as anyone, or worse. Left on our own, apart from the grace of God, we are capable of committing any sin. Reflecting on this truth enhances the compassion we need to feel toward non-Christians. Were it not for the grace of God, we would be among them!

"O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?"

2 Chronicles 20:6

"The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all."

Psalms 103:19

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever. For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings."

Daniel 2:20-21

In Times of Uncertainty, Remember God's Sovereignty

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will."

Proverbs 21:1

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"

Jeremiah 32:27

"God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear."

Psalms 46:1-2

"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.'"

Isaiah 46:9-10



Two Keys for Carrying Out the Great Commission in a Chaotic World

DAVID SOUTHER, President

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Evangelism is an essential part of making disciples. People cannot follow Jesus unless we introduce them to Jesus.

However, sharing the gospel can become more challenging as the world becomes more chaotic. It is not only challenging to have a conversation about Christ; it is hard to have a conversation, period. This can lead

to frustration and discouragement for many believers in fulfilling Christ's mission.

Fortunately, God has given us two great promises within the Great Commission. These promises serve as bookends for the command by encouraging and supporting us as we carry it out.



Promise 1 Christ's Authority

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."

Authority means "the right and power to do something without hindrance." It is comforting to know that in our world which seems out of control, Jesus is in control. Christ has authority over everything, including all rulers, governments, powers, and circumstances. There is no darkness He cannot dispel, no obstacle He cannot overcome, and no ruler He cannot overrule.



Promise 2 Christ's Presence

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

As we pursue the Great Commission, we are accompanied by a Great Companion: The Lord Jesus Himself. Just as a parent's presence can calm a child's fears, Christ's presence brings comfort and confidence even in challenging times. We can draw strength and boldness from Him and rely on Him to do what we cannot, to open hearts and minds.

Jesus's authority and presence make His mission possible. All we need to do is trust and obey.