



BIBLE NUGGETS

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A Bible Nugget Special Addition

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Culture Without Christianity – 3

One of the reasons chattel slavery was eradicated in the British Empire was the presence of the evangelical figure William Wilberforce. What we know is that the number of evangelical members of Parliament rose sharply between the time he started to advocate for slavery's abolition to when it was actually abolished. Ostensibly, slavery was eradicated by united minded believers joining together to change the law and, in turn, their culture. It is certain, we must start where we are. If that is a consequence of "Christian culture," sign me up.

Ten Reasons We Have Not Reached The Unchurched

By Thom S. Rainer

1. Spiritual Lethargy – One of the main reasons many Christians do not share their faith is simply explained by the word **disobedience**. Spiritual lethargy takes place when we fail to obey Him. The problem for many Christians is that they are not growing spiritually, and lack of spiritual growth inevitably leads to a diminished desire to share Christ with others.

2. Growing Inclusivism – One of the faster-growing belief systems today is pluralism (all religions lead to God). A variation of pluralism called inclusivism is a dangerous doctrine that is gaining momentum in many American seminaries, Christian colleges, and churches. This view affirms that Jesus is the only way of salvation, but He can be found in other good religions. There is a subtle but growing belief among many Christians that somehow "good" followers will make it to heaven outside of a true Christian conversion. Our message will fall on deaf ears if this belief persists and grows.

3. Growing Disbelief in Hell – At one time, this was a view held almost entirely by unbelievers. However recent books by those claiming to be evangelicals have brought this discussion front and center. Those who truly have a desire to reach the unchurched have a burden to see people in the eternity of heaven, but they also desire to see them escape the wrath of an eternal hell. Denying the existence of hell undermines the urgency of placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Busyness – Perhaps one of Satan's most effective strategies is to get us so busy that we fail to do that which is of a higher biblical priority. We can be deluded into complacency about lost humanity around us. The unchurched are waiting for you to tell them about Jesus. **They need to be on your to-do list.**

5. Fear of Rejection – In research on this subject, I found that only one in four unchurched persons would be resistant to faith discussions. But nearly four out of ten of the unchurched persons will be receptive to your concern for their eternity, and more than one out of three will simply be neutral to your attempts. Simply stated, **fear of rejection is unfounded.**

6. Desire to be Tolerant – The message of the gospel, in some senses, is intolerant. The one true God insists there can be no other gods. He is a jealous God and leaves no room for other gods. In post-modern culture of 21st century America, Christians should know the criticisms of intolerance will come. The great concern is that many Christians are unwilling to take a narrow view because they do not want to be labeled as intolerant. **But Jesus never wavered in His insistence that He is the only way to the one and only true God.**

7. Losing the Habit of Witnessing – Some Christians have been very active in sharing their faith with the lost and the unchurched. But, for a myriad of reasons, they get out of the habit, and it no longer becomes a priority. Witnessing, like prayer and Bible study, is a discipline. It is a habit to learn, to retain, and, if lost, to regain.

8. Lack of Accountability – Programmatic evangelism in local churches is sometimes denigrated because it is seen as a “canned” approach to witnessing. But one of the strengths of many of these programs is that some inherent system of accountability is built into the program itself. Accountability is likely to engender more witnessing attempts to the unchurched. Attempting more evangelistic encounters creates a habit of witnessing that then increases our zeal for evangelism.

9. Failure to Invite – When is the last time you invited an unchurched person to church? When is the last time you offered to take a person to church, or, at the very least, meet him or her at church? It’s a simple gesture, yet so few Christians do it. *(Those who create the most trouble in assemblies are those who are not responsible for not one other person being in that assembly, not even among members of their own families. How sad! Beware of their counsel!) - KH*

10. We Go to Churches That Do Not Reach the Unchurched – We only reach one person for Christ each year for every 85 church members in the United States. That is a frightening and terrible ratio. One of the key reasons we do not reach the unchurched is that most Christians in America are members of Churches that do not reach the unchurched. I’ve now covered ten of the most common reasons Christians fail to obey the Great Commission. This list is not exhaustive though. In God’s power, however, we can reverse this trend and reach the lost and unchurched in America.

“There never has been a culture since this world began in which a New Testament Christian could feel at home.” – Vance Havner