

Living As Christians In the City – Part Two

In Part Two of Greg Thompson’s presentation “Living as Christians in the City” he explores six principles for public faith. (Video here: <https://vimeo.com/144594045>)

As you watch: Have a pen and paper ready as you watch the video, you’ll absorb the content more fully if you take notes. Listen for the six points Thompson makes about public faith. Ask yourself, “What implications do these principles have for my life and work?”

IV. A Shared **LABOR (Our Task)**

- 1. From victimhood to servanthood (IDENTITY)** In a culture where Christians are a minority people, it’s easy to see ourselves as victims of the majority culture.

 - Thompson challenges us to see ourselves as servants rather than victims. What inspires that shift? What might it look like to make this shift?
 - How does Christ’s resurrection empower this move toward servanthood?
- 2. From hostility to hospitality (NEIGHBORS)**

 - How have you seen Christians show fear and contempt toward those who differ than us?
 - What does it mean to act in love toward those who oppose us without abandoning our convictions?
- 3. From competition to collaboration (CHURCH)** - Thompson believes churches should be more willing to cooperate with each other—and with others in our communities.

 - He offers three questions to guide our action: What needs to be done? Who’s doing it? How can we join them? How would you answer these three questions?
- 4. From individual to institutional (STRATEGY)** – Americans are instinctively biased toward the individual.

 - How do you see this expressed in popular culture?
 - The word “institution” can have negative connotations, suggesting something that is unwieldy, ineffective, or slow to change. What do you think Greg Thompson means when he challenges us to have “an institutional horizon to our love?”
- 5. From merely political to public (SCOPE)** – Instead of expecting politics to *create* positive change in our world, politics *reflects* the state of our world.

 - What are the implications of this statement for the way we shape our public engagement?

6. From focusing on cultural triumph to focusing on common good (GOAL) –

We must ask ourselves, “What goal are we seeking” We must remind ourselves that we’re not trying to “win” (defeat our neighbors) in a high-stakes culture war.

- In practical terms, what does it look like to shift our efforts from trying to win to seeking the common good?

V. A Shared HOPE

Wrap up your time by reading the following verses and praying together

- John 3:16
- Revelation 21:5