

“Five Marks of a Life That Represents Jesus”

THE AUSTRALIAN DECLINE

- In 1950, 44% of all Australians attended church regularly. Today that figure is 7%.
- Today 19% of Aussies attend church less than once per month
- Census 2021 revealed 43.9% of Australians identified as Christian [became the minority for the first time in our history]
- Incredibly 38.9% stated they are 'no religion'. This figure was 22.3% in 2011 and only 14% in 2001.

AUSTRALIA - HOPE REMAINS

- Only 19% describe themselves as atheist
- 43% say they are spiritual and religious
- 55% say they believe in God or a higher power
- 60% pray with 26% saying they pray weekly
- 57% say they are open to spiritual experiences
- Likely to believe when they see a friend living an authentic faith
- Gen Z (13-30yrs) are most open to a gospel conversation

BACK TO THE STREETS

‘And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.’ – John 1:14 NKJV

‘The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son. Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.’ – The Message [Eugene Peterson]

Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV

⁵ Let this **mind** be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of **no reputation**, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the **likeness of men**. ⁸ And being found in appearance **as a man**, He **humbled** Himself and became **obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Five implications for us as the Body of Christ

INCARNATION

1. Incarnation requires **Dispossession**

v7 'no reputation'

- We are not superior, we are equal
- We are all made in His image
- We are sinners, therefore we all need grace.

INCARNATION

1. Incarnation requires **Dispossession**

2. Incarnation requires **Alterity**

v7 'He took the form of a servant'

- 'Others-centric', willing to serve
- We crucify selfishness, complacency and comfort

INCARNATION

1. Incarnation requires **Dispossession**

2. Incarnation requires **Alterity**

3. Incarnation requires **Identification**

v 7&8 'likeness / appearance as a man'

- We face the same pressures, temptations, challenges.
- Are we Relevant?

INCARNATION

1. Incarnation requires **Dispossession**
2. Incarnation requires **Alterity**
3. Incarnation requires **Identification**
4. Incarnation requires **Humility**

v 8 'He humbled Himself'

- Jesus came as a baby, vulnerable. He surrendered control to others

RALPH MOORE – 5 TIPS

1. Who are my kinda people?
2. Who has God put in my path?
3. Where do I see pain in others?
4. Where is God already working? [who is leaning in]
5. Who is reachable and what should I do?

"You don't have to change the world; you can change somebody's world."

Discussion Questions

1. **Dispossession** – Do you approach people as equals?
2. **Alterity** – To what degree are you ‘others-centric’?
3. **Identification** – Can you identify common challenges you have with other people? If so, how can you help in a relevant way?
4. **Humility** – Are you willing to take a step of faith, relinquish control, and trust God with the outcome?
5. **Obedience** – In what ways are you learning to obey God’s leading?

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