

## Transforming the Nation 2 – Transformation Series #6

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Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

### NOTES

#### A. Canada Today

1. Canada—a Christian nation?
  - a. 67% of Canadians call themselves “Christian.”
  - b. 30% of citizens are religiously “Active”: 10% are evangelical; 10% are Roman Catholic; 10% are other.
  - c. 40% of citizens are “Marginal” i.e. would call themselves “Christian” but only attend church occasionally. Can take it or leave it.
  - d. 30% of citizens are “None” i.e. have no religious affiliation. This includes atheists and agnostics. Many children of the “Marginal” group will become “None.”
2. **Modern Canada’s worldview:**
  - a. **Canada is post-Christian.**
    - i. Christian values and institutions (like the United Church of Canada) have collapsed. God is not relevant. Man & science are kings.
    - ii. This is burdensome. **Pastor Derrick:** “*Our society is full of fear and depression because we’ve made ourselves God and we can’t bear the designation.*”
  - b. **Canada is post-modern.** We distrust the institutions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our post-modernism is characterized by our redefining of our history and deconstructing our story. We have become individualistic, narcissistic, and selfish.
  - c. **Canada is secular.** Secular values are promoted above religious values. All things spiritual / churchy are suspect. We have removed God from education, politics, media & the economy.

#### B. How do we, as a church and individuals, reach the nation of Canada with the love and truth of Jesus Christ?

1. **Pray – 1 Timothy 2:1**
  - a. Make requests. Tell God what we desire, what stirs our souls as to how we want God’s kingdom to come.
  - b. Corporately—as a church and with discipline for our nation.
  - c. With intercession. Intercession comes out of our relationship with God. “Papa hear me.” It can be bold.
  - d. With “eucharist” i.e. thanksgiving. We are to bathe all our prayers in thankfulness. Pastor mentioned the National House of Prayer in Ottawa as an item of prayer and thanksgiving.
2. **Prioritize our prayers – 1 Timothy 2:2.**
  - a. Pray for everyone.
  - b. Pray for kings. As Paul prayed for Nero, we are to pray for our leaders good, bad, or indifferent—even those who persecute us – Jesus: Matthew 5:44.
3. **Prioritize our work.** The PAOC (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada: the denomination of which CLA is a part) and CLA have worked on Canadian projects:
  - a. Funded a Christian radio station in Tuktoyaktuk.
  - b. Helped renovate a parsonage for a First Nations outreach in Nanaimo.
  - c. Helped with funding a backpack outreach and a Power to Change missionary in Quebec.
  - d. Are helping Jason & Kelsey Eliason plant Citizen’s Church in downtown Surrey, B.C.
4. **Live the life – 1 Timothy 2:2-6.**
  - a. Lead a lifestyle that is peaceful and attractive. **Pastor Derrick:** “*We bring peacefulness to the social sphere of Canada. There is chaos, bitterness, anger, disrespect, stress, and anxiety. We bring peace and shalom.*”
  - b. We bring godliness and holiness. We are to live above reproach with dignity and honesty.
  - c. We spread the message of Jesus – 1 Timothy 2:5,6. **Pastor Derrick:** “*You live the life of a polite, kind, sweet Canadian but at some point, you have to open your mouth to speak the gospel—the story of God the creator and Saviour. Transformation can’t come unless you open your mouth and say the things you know.*”

### DISCUSSION

1. Does your experience confirm or contradict the statistics pastor cited re the prevalence of Christianity in Canada? How have you experienced Canada’s current worldview? What changes have you seen in the belief system of the majority of Canadians in your lifetime? What are some evidences of Christianity in Canada’s history, institutions, laws, public buildings, national anthem, etc.?
2. What are four ways we can pray for our country? What attitude should pervade all our prayers? What’s the point of praying for politicians with whom we don’t agree? Find out more about the National House of Prayer in Ottawa. If you have visited it, share your experience.
3. What does it mean to prioritize our prayers? Judging from where they have put their money and effort, what are the ministry priorities of the PAOC and CLA? What are your prayer and ministry priorities?

### PRAYER

Dear Father, we thank You for Canada, this nation we love for its beauty, diversity, generosity, civility and wealth. We pray for our Prime Minister the honourable Justin Trudeau and his cabinet and all the members of parliament in the government and opposition. Help us to be good citizens of this country while we maintain our first loyalty to You and Your kingdom. Please give us boldness and wisdom to speak the good news—the gospel—of “one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” to our Canadian neighbours. Amen.