



# WAYS OF LIFE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1v16-17 (ESV)

In our tolerant, pluralistic society telling others about Jesus is seen as narrow-minded, bigoted, and oppressive.

Yet, the gospel (good news: Jesus is the saving King) is a public truth for people of all times and places.

Four oppositions toward Jesus in our cultural moment:

1 - Spiritual opposition

Ephesians 6v12

Our battle is not against flesh and blood

2 Corinthians 4v1-6

the god of this world has *blinded* the hearts of those who don't believe to keep them from seeing the Gospel of Jesus

Four oppositions toward Jesus in our cultural moment:

1 - Spiritual opposition

2 - Post-modern opposition

## Post-modern thought:

- discover what truth is best for me
- moving from objectivity to subjectivity
- moving from authority to autonomy
- moving from evidence to experience

Four oppositions toward Jesus in our cultural moment:

1 - Spiritual opposition

2 - Post-modern opposition

3 - Post-Christian (secular) opposition



## Post-Christian opposition:

- The "Christian" voice in our culture has moved from the majority and is now a minority.
- Followers of Jesus are a minority.
- Once respected, now followers of Jesus are disrespected.
- Followers of Jesus are moving from "what is right with society" to being "what is wrong" with society.

Four oppositions toward Jesus in our cultural moment:

1 - Spiritual opposition

2 - Post-modern opposition

3 - Post-Christian (secular) opposition

4 - Personal opposition

## Personal opposition:

- Fear of being rejected.
- Fear of your hurting your reputation.
- Fear of losing relationships.
- I'm not sure how to actually help anyone find Jesus.





How do we handle the opposition?

1 - Delegate

2 - Ignore

## Table 14. Resilient Disciples Have a Strong Sense of Mission

*Percentage who strongly agree with each statement*

	Prodigals/ Ex-Christians 	Nomads/ Unchurched 	Habitual Churchgoers 	Resilient Disciples 
I want others to see Jesus reflected in me through my words and actions.	11%	29%	50%	90%
I, personally, have a responsibility to tell others about my religious beliefs.	7%	11%	34%	76%
I am excited by the mission of the church in today's world.	5%	8%	32%	67%

*Faith for Exiles*

David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock

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Love compels us not to be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus.

The Way of Story shares with others my story of continued transformation because of Jesus.

Three steps toward sharing Jesus:

1 - Be a faithful presence.



How do we cultivate being a faithful presence?

Pursue relationships

Seek to understand the story of others

Grow as people of love

Three steps toward sharing Jesus:

1 - Be a faithful presence.

2 - Show tangible love.

A few ways to show tangible love in our cultural moment:

Listen to others

Show hospitality

Acts of service

Be generous (time, talents, treasures)

## Three steps toward sharing Jesus:

- 1 - Be a faithful presence.
- 2 - Show tangible love.
- 3 - Share your Jesus-story

Romans 10v13-15

What life was like before Jesus

When I met Jesus

What life is like after Jesus

When we live lives of faithful presence and show real, authentic, tangible love - there will be organic and transparent moments when we can share our story.

## Colossians 2v4-5

- Opportunity
- Tact
- Dialogue

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