

RESILIENT DISCIPLES



Resilient Disciples: Practice 5 – Engage in Countercultural Mission

GETTING STARTED

Each of the practices that we have been considering in this series has been building on one another. Knowing and experiencing Jesus leads us to view the world around us through the lens of Scripture. As we do that, we gather with a community around us of all generations to build our faith and begin to use our vocations to glorify God. This leads to the final practice of living on mission with a counter-cultural mindset. We aim not to be more like the world around us but use our lives to transform others around us by the very same gospel that has transformed us. In order to do that, we need to be ready to share and defend the gospel with anyone who asks and ready to show it in our lives.

READ THE TEXT: 1 Peter 3:13-15

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Why does Peter say that we are blessed if we are persecuted? (Consider 1 Peter 2:21-24) How does this compare with what Jesus said in the Beatitudes? (Matt 5:10-11)



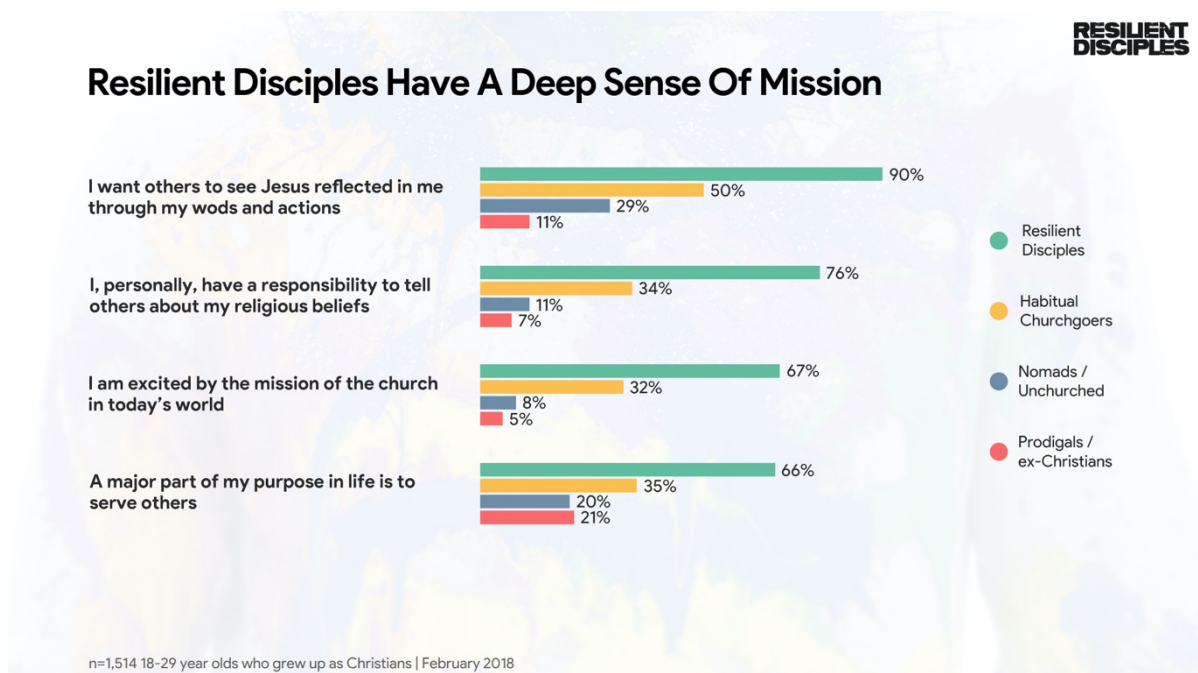
2. How is Peter using the word "defense" in verse 15? What characterizes a Christian defense of their faith in this passage?

APPLY THE TEXT

1. Part of what it means to engage in countercultural mission has to do with curbing the entitlement and the self-centred tendencies of our age. How might you go about exchanging those for the sacrificial service and selflessness that resemble Jesus?
2. Safety is a good thing but it's not the ultimate thing. How do we rediscover the priority of engaging in mission in the midst of exile as Christians and the church?
3. Peter is concerned that we both be prepared to make a defence for the faith (orthodoxy) and that our actions represent Jesus well (orthopraxy). Which one do you see more as a strength and more as a weakness in your faith at this point?

SHARE & PRAY

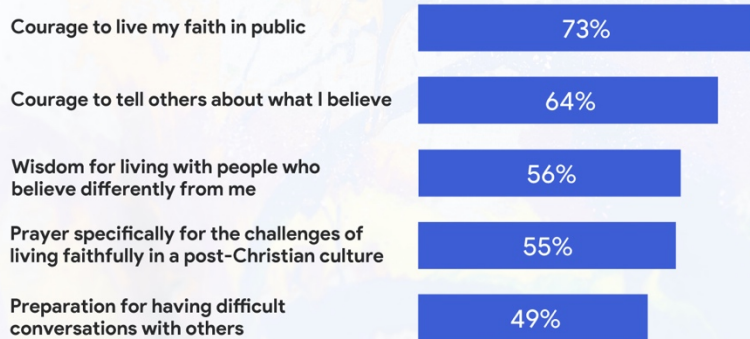
1. In light of 1 Peter 3:13-15, pray for each other as we seek to act rightly before God and give a good defense of the gospel of Jesus.
2. Identify 1-3 people in your life that you could disciple, or identify those that you are discipling — disciples of Jesus make disciples of Jesus — and pray for them. Pray for each other also as you seek to be used by God as resilient disciple-makers.



How Churches Contribute To Countercultural Mission Pt.1

What resilient disciples experience at church

Building Courage & Readiness



Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?

Please mark any that apply and if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

n=1,514 18-29 year olds who grew up as Christians | February 2018

How Churches Contribute To Countercultural Mission Pt.2

What resilient disciples experience at church

Stoking Compassion



Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?

Please mark any that apply and if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

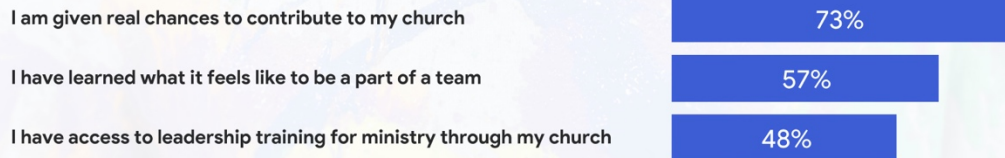
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How Churches Contribute To Countercultural Mission Pt.3

What resilient disciples experience at church

Giving Real Opportunities to Contribute



Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?

Please mark any that apply and if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

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