

GAP 23: CHRISTIANITY, RADICAL POLITICS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple others as wise peacemakers when religious freedom is threatened and radical politics polarizes?

Description

In recent decades our world has seen a rise in polarized and radical politics, which have divided countries, communities, and the church. Within this environment, many questions arise about the relationship between the church and civil society, the freedom of religion in the public sphere, the unity of the church, and the opportunity for workplaces to be contexts for political and religious equality. Beyond the left–right binary and conservative–progressive culture wars, Christianity's witness must align with a larger kingdom agenda where cultural persistence genuinely serves a common good, people are disciplined amidst conflict, and God's love is seen through non-coercive service to neighbors.

Acknowledging these issues, and our call as disciples of Christ to be wise peacemakers, this conversation prayerfully explores:

Collaboration Questions

- How should the church/missions/Christian workers relate to polarizing politics? In what way should there be collaboration with the state, or should we wisely avoid being coopted into agendas not of God's kingdom?
- In what ways can/should the church fight for freedom and justice for the underserved?
- How can the persecuted church serve/teach new regions experiencing persecution?
- What might mission to persecuted areas look like, through (para)church and workplace initiatives?
- How can workplace organizations strive to preserve religious and political freedom for their employees and advocate for it in contexts where influence can be brought to bear, as part of a larger witness?

Sub-Topics

- The persecuted church
- Religious freedom
- Christianity and politics
- Freedom and justice
- Workplace leadership

Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'Ethnicism'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch