

## GAP 25: SOCIETAL TRUST AND INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY

### Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple others in a Christlike way which rebuilds societal trust and demonstrates the gospel's plausibility through kingdom influence?

### Description

In a survey administered by Lausanne Movement to 1,500 global Christian leaders, participants were asked how much influence the church has in their region. Overwhelmingly the leaders responded that the church has a lack of influence on culture, with over 50 percent of leaders noting the church has 'none or a minor level of influence'. Further, when asked if the church's influence is changing, again, most participants said the church's influence was steady or declining. These results, corroborated by other global surveys, indicate there is a low level of trust in religious institutions and religious leaders. The Christian church is currently facing a lack of trust and influence from broader culture – reducing the plausibility and viability of the gospel to wider society.

Acknowledging these observations, this conversation prayerfully explores:

### Collaboration Questions

- What are the main factors for the declining level of societal trust and influence?
- What efforts can Christians in the church/mission organizations/workplace make on regional and global levels to attend to this lack of trust and influence?
- What role can Great Commission efforts play in attending to societal trust and influence?
- What can we learn from the high levels of trust enjoyed by individual Christians in a variety of spheres? And the impact that effective organizations and parachurch ministries have on government and societal attitudes towards Christianity?
- What wise practices emerge to safeguard and grow our public witness, making disciples who make a difference whatever they do and wherever they are called to follow Christ?

### Sub-Topics

- Societal trust of religious institutions
- Societal trust of religious leaders
- Societal influence of the church
- Societal influence of Christian workplace leaders and ventures

### 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 articles on 'Societal Influence of Christianity', also drawing on 'Propaganda and Decentralization of Media', 'Visual Affect as Validation of Truth', and 'Challenges to Objective Truth'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch