

## GAP 5: SECULARISM

### Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple the growing number of individuals identifying as atheistic, agnostic, or 'nothing in particular', and strengthen the faith of those prone to 'switch out' of Christianity in this secular age?

### Description

Overall, the world's population is becoming more religious. However, the fastest growing 'religious affiliation' is 'None/Unaffiliated'. 93 percent of religious switching to unaffiliated is by Christians, with projections of 106 million switching out and 40 million switching in between 2010 and 2050. The growth of secularism suggests a failure to offer a compelling gospel vision for everyday life, particularly regarding work and leisure. And this applies both to reaching individuals in secular culture and to those switching out of Christianity. Re-engaging this secular age requires fresh ways to see God at work in the whole of life, and new ways of communicating that we can only find our authentic identity and value through a relationship with God.

Acknowledging this twofold dynamic, this conversation prayerfully explores:

### Collaboration Questions

- How can we effectively reach secular people for whom God is excluded from life in the here and now?
- What are the key factors causing 'religious switching' to unaffiliated and what are more formative ways of discipling and being the church together which make this switch unlikely?
- How can current mission/church organizations/workers better attend to the religious switching to unaffiliated/secularism?
- What key aspects of regional culture/societies are influencing this, and how can the church have kingdom impact in these areas?

### Sub-Topics

- Reaching secularized people for the gospel
- Preventing religious switching from Christianity to secular unaffiliated ('religious nones')
- Kingdom impact in influential sectors of secular culture

### 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 'Secularism'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch