

Episode 2
Thriving in Babylon
Living and Leading in the New Normal
Chip Ingram

The heart of man plans his way, but it's the purpose of the Lord that prevails.
Proverbs 19:21

We have a responsibility to plan:

- The Great Commission
- The Great Commandment

What now and what Next? Where do we go from here?

- No return to normal [World Magazine, Andre Sue Peterson]
- Entering a New era – the end of an epoch [Atlantic Financial, Bruce Fenton]
- Epoch: a period of time or history in a person's life typically one marked by notable events or particular characteristics. The beginning of a distinct period of history of someone or something.
 - ✓ Birth of Christianity
 - ✓ Fall of Roman Empire
 - ✓ Birth of Islam
 - ✓ Renaissance
 - ✓ Industrial Revolution
 - ✓ French & American revolutions

At the end of an epoch there is no greater change and no greater opportunity. It's a time for bold, a time for leaders, a time for builders. It's a time for visionaries and for dreamers to think outside the box. The old is gone and it cannot be repaired. It can only be rebuilt." (Bruce Fenton)

What must Christians do?

We must focus on the priority of:

Christ – not causes

- Unified in our commitment and devotion to Him rather than causes
- Important causes will be best served when followers of Jesus return to their first love

Christ – not causes

Healing – not hostility

- How do we make a difference?
- How do we help people?
- How do we speak the truth in love?
- How do we stop posting so we can be people that meet specific needs of specific people?
 - ✓ Let God take our revenge
 - ✓ Feed our enemies
 - ✓ Overcome evil with good

Christ – not causes

Healing – not hostility

Relationships – not Real Estate

- People are desperate for community and relationships
- How are we doing as Christians?

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Christ – not causes

Healing – not hostility

Relationships – not Real Estate

Innovation – not Indignation

You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. Mark 7:13

- Things have changed and we get indignant because it is:
 - ✓ My church
 - ✓ My country
 - ✓ My world
 - ✓ My rights

Christ – not causes

Healing – not hostility

Relationships – not Real Estate

Innovation – not Indignation

Substance – not Success

- People do not know God's Word or theology or the radical living out of faith

Christ – not causes

Healing – not hostility

Relationships – not Real Estate

Innovation – not Indignation

Substance – not Success

Trust – not Technology

- God and His Word
- Institution of Marriage
- Institution of the Church
- Technology promises to be a deliverer
- Character is important

Our sin nature is at the heart of our problems

Question

Chip Ingram talked about six things we need to emphasize in the future. Please describe what you think about what he said for each of the six. Then, share how you think our Small Group ministry could embrace or use the six ideas to reach, teach and disciple people.