

I'm Curious About ... Ministry in a Secular Age

Notes from the discussion on Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Related Resources:

*Andrew Root's Ministry in a Secular age trilogy (Faith Formation in a Secular Age; The Pastor in a Secular Age; The Congregation in a Secular Age): <https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Formation-Secular-Age-Youthfulness/dp/0801098467/146-7155165-6003567?psc=1>

*How to the Survive the Apocalypse: <https://www.amazon.com/How-Survive-Apocalypse-Zombies-Politics/dp/0802872719>

*How (Not) to be Secular by James K.A. Smith: <https://www.amazon.com/How-Not-Be-Secular-Reading/dp/0802867618>

*A Secular Age, by Charles Taylor: <https://www.amazon.com/Secular-Age-Charles-Taylor/dp/0674986911> (This one's longer and more complex than the other suggested resources!)

****Important note about purchasing books: While we have provided Amazon links so you can make sure you are ordering the correct book, please do consider supporting local business & shopping locally when possible.***

Some questions that came up during the presentation:

What is the mythology that today's people live out of? Check out the video for a discussion around this question.

How does your church evoke awe? Do we try?

Key question of theology now: What makes life worth living? What do we bet our lives on?

What is worth our lives? Do we ever ask people for their lives – for the cause of justice? For self-giving love?

Notes from our discussion:

Are our churches cultivating awe? Are they creating or stewarding opportunities to help people encounter God?

What we're doing is not designed to appeal to non-church Christians, but is designed by and for church folks.

People feel welcome in spaces other than the church – maybe more welcome than they feel at church. One example was the welcoming, nonjudgmental environment of a particular yoga studio.

The institution can get in the way of encounters with Christ.

How do we move people from coming to church for answers to engaging/feeling comfortable with wonder, curiosity, and asking questions?

What's happening inside the walls of the church isn't reaching others (and maybe even some people inside). Small-group experiences seem more beneficial in this way than worship experiences. People come to know and experience Jesus in small groups.

We are invited to communicate the gospel in the native language of the people with whom you are sharing the gospel. What is the language of the present "age of authenticity"? How do we do the work of discipleship in that language?