

# The Disappearing Church

September 25, 2016

# Remembering our place

- As the Church is increasingly influenced by the consumer mentality -- the customer is king
- And increasingly influenced by democratic thinking—each person is equal in every imaginable way
- And the prosperity we enjoy subtly persuades us that “Christian principles” are the pathway to prosperity
- It’s easy to forget that we are servants

# Jesus was God's Servant

- Isaiah 42.1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.
- Isaiah 52.13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

# Many Bible characters are called servants

- Genesis 26.24: Abraham
- Numbers 12.7 Moses
- Numbers 14.24 Caleb
- II Samuel 3.18 David
- Job 1.8 Job
- Romans 1.1

# Servants

- Are inferior to their masters. John 13.16
- Are servants by virtue of being redeemed. I Corinthians 7.17-24
- Are rewarded by their Master for faithful service. Matthew 25.14-30
- Even though we don't profit God by our service. Luke 17.7-10
- Have an intimate relationship with God. John 15.14-17

# So then

- Every generation of believer has an obligation to be faithful
- Not “successful”
- It is not our task to discover innovate ways to get people in to Church.
  - II Corinthians 2.17
  - II Corinthians 4.1-2