

DERWIN **GRAY | TRANSCRIPT**

Hey, what's happening? I'm Pastor Derwin Gray of Transformation Church. If 2020 has done anything, it has been revealing for us as pastors, as ministry leaders. It has revealed some things.

When I was in high school, I played football at a school called Converse Judson right outside of San Antonio. One of the things that our head coach and defensive coordinator taught the defensive players was this. It's a concept called sudden change. What does that mean? It means this. That as a defensive player, our job was to stop the offense from scoring. When we'd stop the offense from scoring, we'd come off the field, but there would be times where our offense would get the ball and would turn the ball over. We'd have to get up off the bench and back into the game. Oftentimes that was after we were exhausted and tired. Instead of complaining, what our coaches taught us to do, not just during the game, but during practice, during off season, during weightlifting, doing sprints, is this concept called sudden change. Do you know what sudden change meant?

It meant that adversity was opportunity. Let me say it again. Adversity was opportunity. Instead of complaining that our offense lost a ball, that adversity was an opportunity for us to go back on the field and to help our team win. Well, 2020 and the pandemic, the racial and civil unrest, the political division, the fractures that have been discovered in the church, that've always been there has been a sudden change. Now, the question is will we as leaders allow the Holy Spirit to change us in the midst of this adversity for opportunity. There's three things that I believe going forward has to take place for us as the church.

Number one is an ancient holistic Jesus-centered gospel shaped multi-ethnic local churches that embody the kingdom of God, that understand racial justice and racial reconciliation are intrinsic to the gospel, that we are motivated by the mission of Jesus to enact justice and evangelism and mercy. In other words, to embody the ministry of Jesus Himself because that's what sanctification is. It is we are born into the kingdom of God to become like the King's kids, to be transformed to the image of Jesus, who broke down ethnic barriers, gender barriers, socio-economic barriers. He was about justice. He was about mission. He was about evangelism. He was about worship. In other words, He embodied the church and now indwells us and through the spirit to embody His ministry and mission.

Number two is to understand that digital is not going anywhere. And number three, this is really important. We've got to catalyze our teenagers. Gen Z is ready. They are ready for the mission of Jesus. They are ready for the gospel. Number one, in Luke 4:16 through 18, Jesus says this in his messianic mandate. The spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. That's not only physically poor, that's spiritually poor. He sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recover sight of the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Jesus is quoting Isaiah 61:1, the messianic mandate. This is an embodiment of who we are called to be as the church. As you read the rest of Luke 4:16 through 30, Jesus tells the story in his hometown synagogue of two Jewish prophets who do miracles for Gentiles.

At the end of that text, we see Jesus's hometown synagogue wanting to throw him off of a cliff. Why did they do that? Because Jesus came to be a multi-ethnic savior. He didn't just come to make Israel great again. He came to make his gospel great again, that it's humanity first, that Jesus came to redeem all people to be a savior. What we see here is our culture is longing for this gospel that not only forgive sins, but creates a family with different colored skins. This family understands that racial injustice and racial reconciliation is intrinsic to the gospel. It's not like batteries included. It is intrinsic to the gospel. Local churches that display that type of love, that understanding, that caring for the poor, that injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere. That's an area where we need to be equipped and encouraged.

Digital isn't going anywhere. In Jesus's day, all roads lead to Rome. Well, in today's world 2020, understand this. The internet leads to Jesus. There are people who are not going to walk into a church facility for a while. They are exploring. Understanding that digital is not only equipping your congregation, but it's evangelistic. It is also [inaudible 00:06:05] understand leveraging technology for new members classes, for training, for equipping. Understand that after COVID is done, there will be a physical imprint, but there's going to also be a digital imprint. It is vital that we as the church own that and are strategic and communicate the glories and beauty of the gospel using this incredible platform that literally in a moment, our message is around a world. We have the greatest message there is. King Jesus is risen.

Number three, Gen Z and teenagers. I want to encourage you. Get teenagers in the main service. Get teenagers to serve. About 20% of our servant leaders, that's what we call volunteers, are under the age of 18. We don't believe that teenagers are the church of tomorrow. They're the church of now. Get them involved. Don't put them on the sidelines. Don't put them in time out. Think about it. If their schools teach calculus, trigonometry, AP history, we can teach them the doctrine of the Trinity, the hypostatic union, the reality of the great commandment, the great commission and spiritual formation and discipleship. They are sponges to learn. Gen Z wants to be a part of Jesus's justice. They want to be a part of Jesus's reconciliation. They want to be a part of Jesus healing in the world. The church after COVID is more like the church in the first century. Hey, I'm Dr. Derwin Gray, Transformation Church. I hope this encouraged you. Peace. I'm out.