

NONES & DONES

It's no surprise that the Canadian religious landscape is changing. The latest statistics from multiple sources are telling us of the increase in the number of “nones” and “dones” in Canada.

What does this mean?

nones \ 'nɒnz \

*Nones are those who, when asked about their religious affiliation indicated that they had none.
(24% of Canadians)*

dones \ 'dɒnz \

Dones, while a less defined category, are those who consider themselves “done” with church. You may have had a conversations with people who identify as “spiritual but not religious.”

Many people recognize that there is a spiritual dimension to life but they are not looking to organized religion for answers to their questions or to help them navigate through the complexities of life. There is another group of people who consider themselves to “love Jesus, but not the church.” These people have not given up on God but may have given up on participating in congregational life because they do not see church involvement as adding to their life experience.

What is your reaction to reading about the increases in “nones” and “dones”?



For some it might create a sense of fear. As many of our CBOQ churches are already struggling to find life and vitality these days, the idea of engaging the nones and dones feels beyond our capacity. For some it might feel like a sense of adventure and challenge to find faithful and creative ways to share Good News with those who are in need.

But it is a challenge! On one level, engaging the nones and dones is beyond our capacity since it is God that transforms the hearts of men and women. On another level, the rise of the nones and dones is an invitation to do two checks.



A Heart Check

- Is there more that I could learn about the changing religious landscape of Canada?
- Do I have people in my life who would identify as nones and dones? Have I listened to them, without judgement or defensiveness, to the reasons they have left church?
- Is there someone who has left my church that I could reach out and listen to their experience?



A Church Resources Check

- What percentage of our resources (financial, time, energy, etc.) are we, as a church, using to reach out to the Nones and Dones?
- Are we as a church creating environments where nones and dones can engage in conversations about life, faith and Jesus?



Further Learning

- [Canada's Changing Religious Landscape](#)
Pew Research Center
- [Religious Nones: A Growing Trend](#)
New Leaf Network
- [Who Are the Dones?](#)
New Leaf Network



Podcasts

- New Leaf Network
Joel Thiessen
[Part 1](#)
[Part 2](#)
- Sarah Wilkes-Laflamme
[The Religious Nones in Canada](#)
- [Can evangelism be saved?](#)
Join us on Tuesday, January 30th 2018 at 11am for a webinar called Can evangelism be saved? With Rev. Dr. John Bowen & Cid Latty.



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