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How to Change the World
A New City Commons

A healthy desire to change the world for the better has been done with mixed results.

1. Implicit social theory that guides many is deeply flawed.
2. World changing implies power and a model that leads to political domination
 1. Power is seen as “political power”
 2. The desire for power fueled by resentment
1. Defense against—the problem is secularization
2. Relevance to—the problem is exploitation
3. Purity from—the problem is violence of power

How should Christians engage the world?

1. We need more than good intentions
2. Likely no single method
3. Faithful presence

Jeremiah 29:4-7

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

The Church in Tension

—with itself

—with the world