

# SEEING - MARKS OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH



Christ Church 4

# DNA of fresh expressions

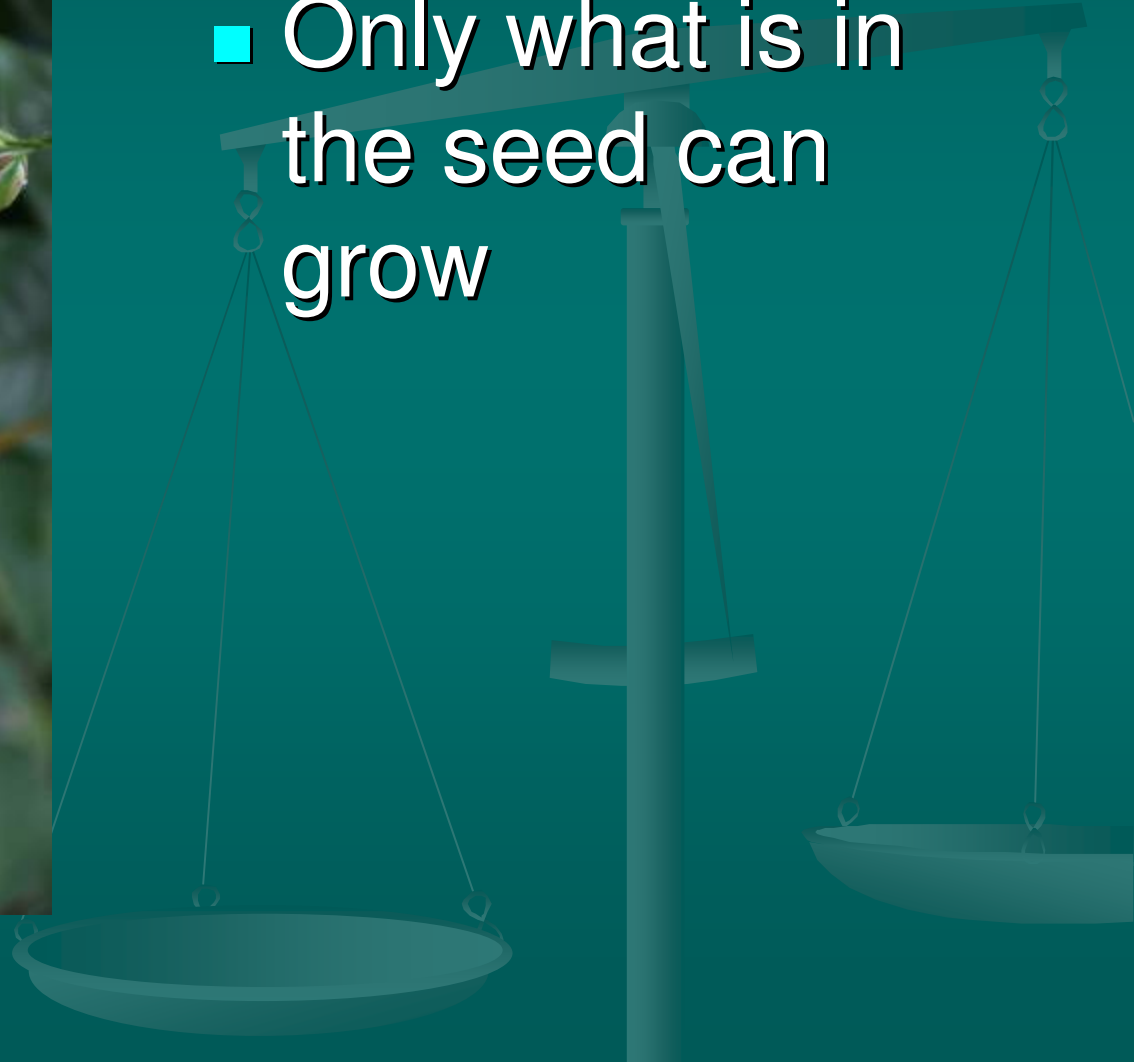


- Everything that will grow is present at the beginning

# DNA of fresh expressions

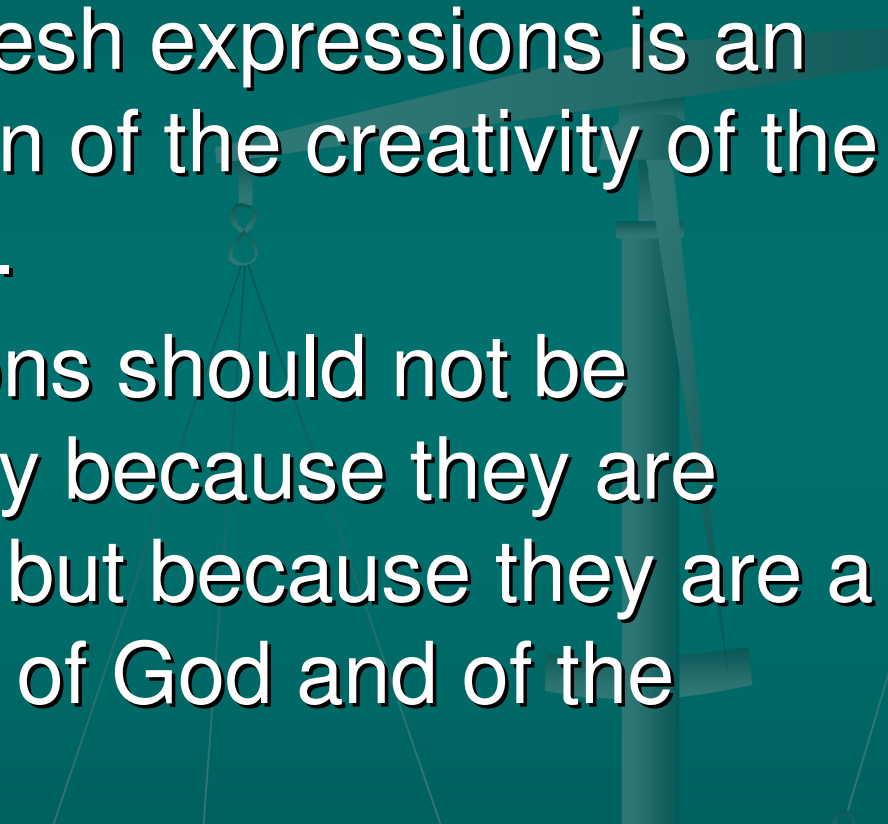


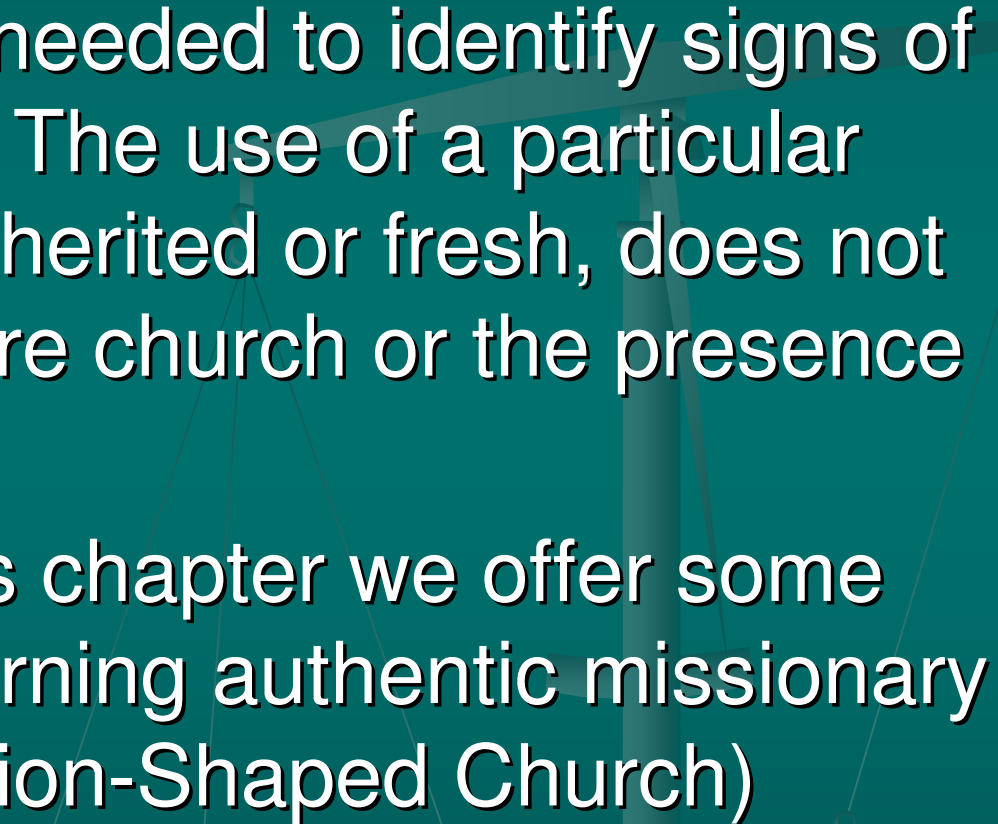
- Only what is in the seed can grow



# **DNA - FIVE VALUES FOR MISSIONARY CHURCHES**



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- The variety of fresh expressions is an encouraging sign of the creativity of the Spirit in our age.
  - Fresh expressions should not be embraced simply because they are popular or new, but because they are a sign of the work of God and of the kingdom.

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- Discernment is needed to identify signs of God's kingdom. The use of a particular methodology, inherited or fresh, does not guarantee mature church or the presence of the kingdom.
  - To conclude this chapter we offer some criteria for discerning authentic missionary churches. (Mission-Shaped Church)

# FOUNDATION

- One additional element is assumed rather than specifically identified. That is the credal foundation of any missionary church, congregation or initiative within the Church of England.
- This report assumes, but does not take for granted that, to be missionary, a church has to proclaim afresh the faith of the Scriptures and the creeds. This is not a 'value' of the church, but the foundation upon which church is built.

# DNA of fresh expressions

- Focused on God the Trinity
- Incarnational
- Transformational
- Disciple making
- Relational

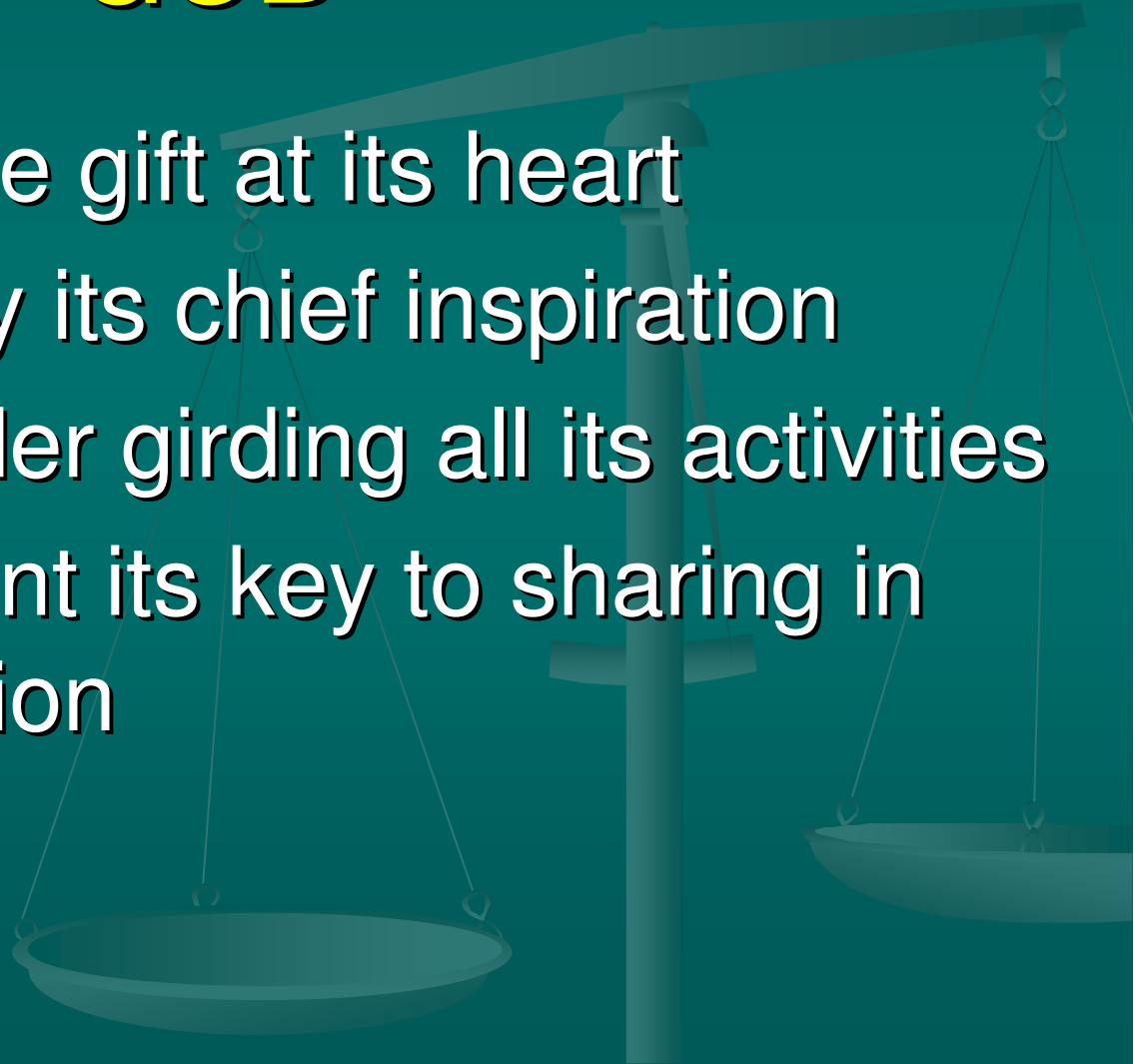


# FOCUSED ON GOD THE TRINITY

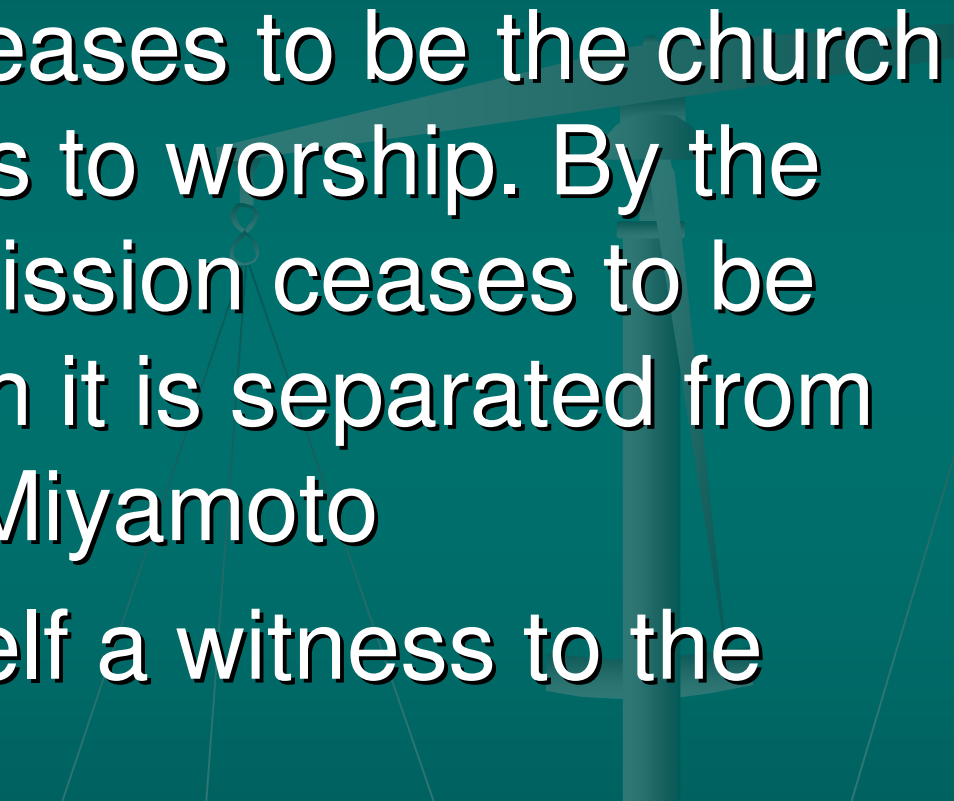


# CENTRED IN THE TRIUNE GOD

- Worship the gift at its heart
- God's glory its chief inspiration
- Prayer undergirding all its activities
- Discernment its key to sharing in God's mission



# Worship & Mission

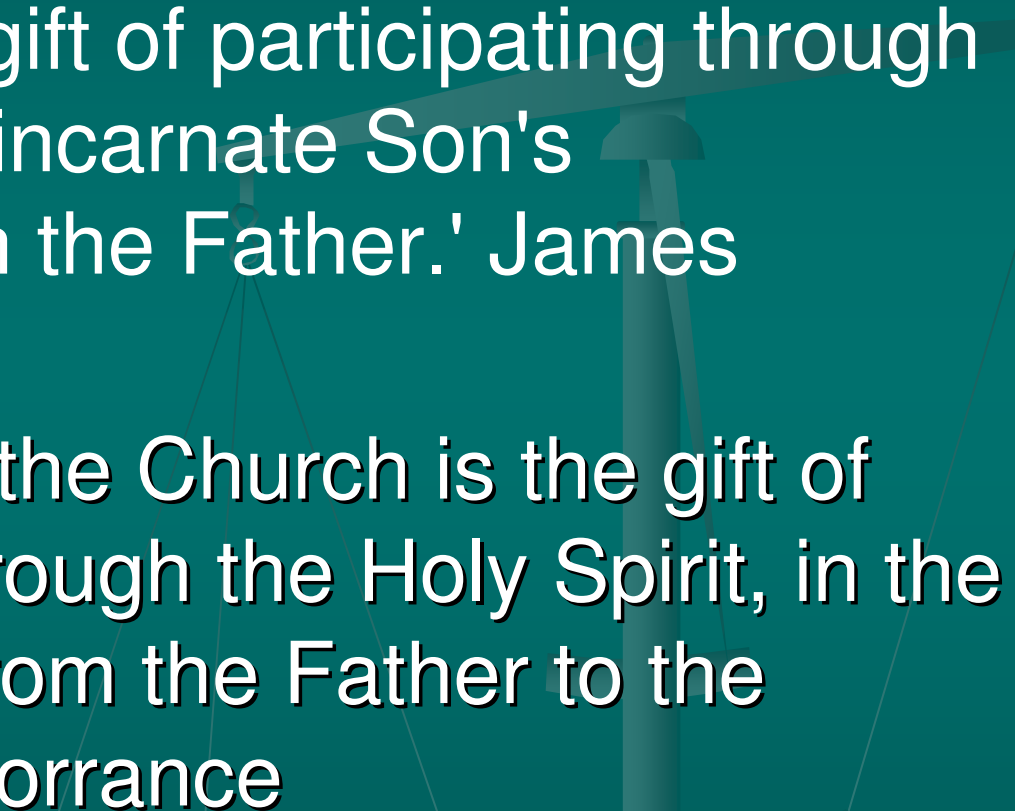
- 'The church ceases to be the church when it ceases to worship. By the same token mission ceases to be Christian when it is separated from worship.' KC Miyamoto
  - 'Worship is itself a witness to the world.' ACC
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# True Worship

- Can never be world evading
- We must not separate worship and mission.



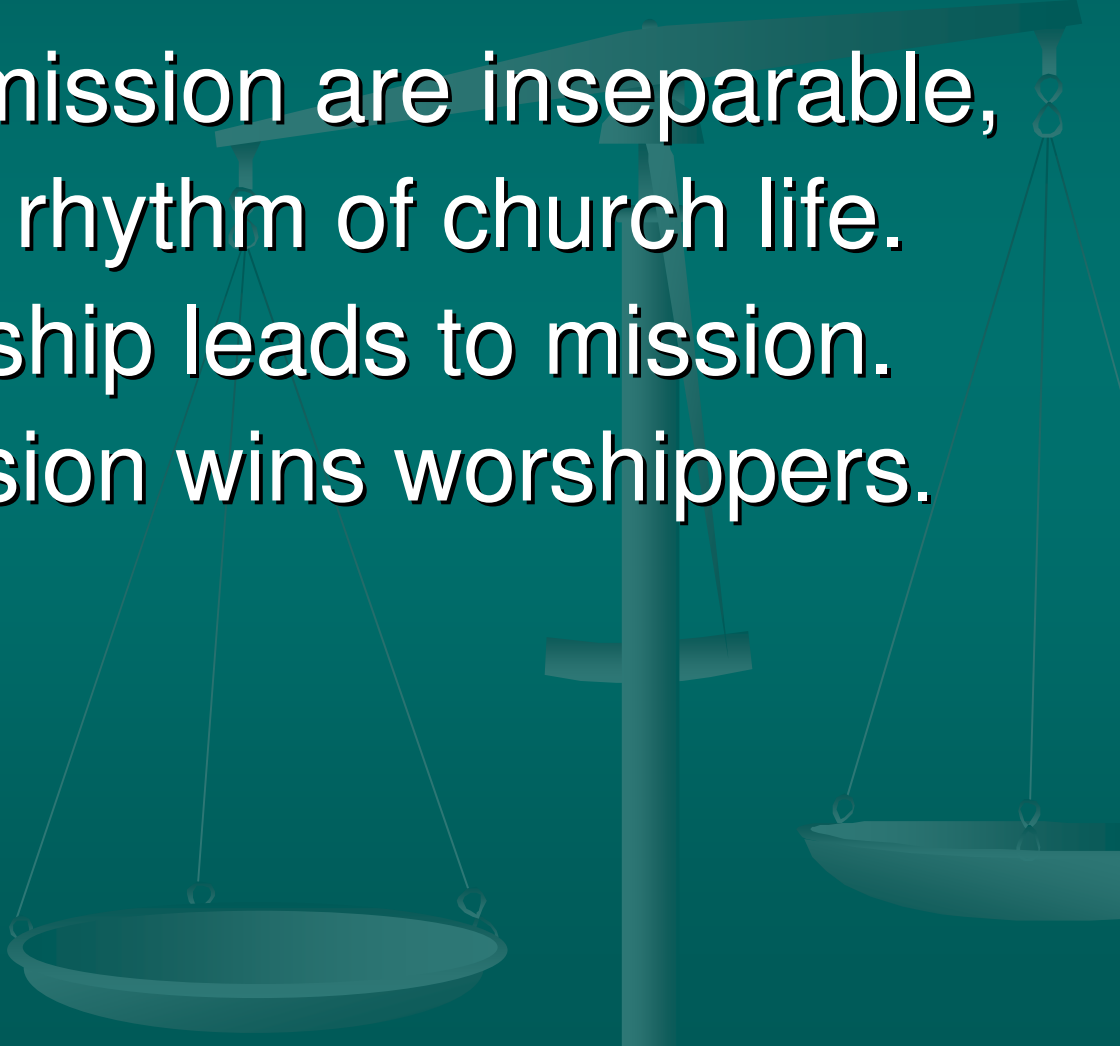
# Sharing the divine life

- 'Worship is the gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son's communion with the Father.' James Torrance
  - 'The mission of the Church is the gift of participating, through the Holy Spirit, in the Son's mission from the Father to the world.' James Torrance
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# Worship the Father in Christ by the Spirit



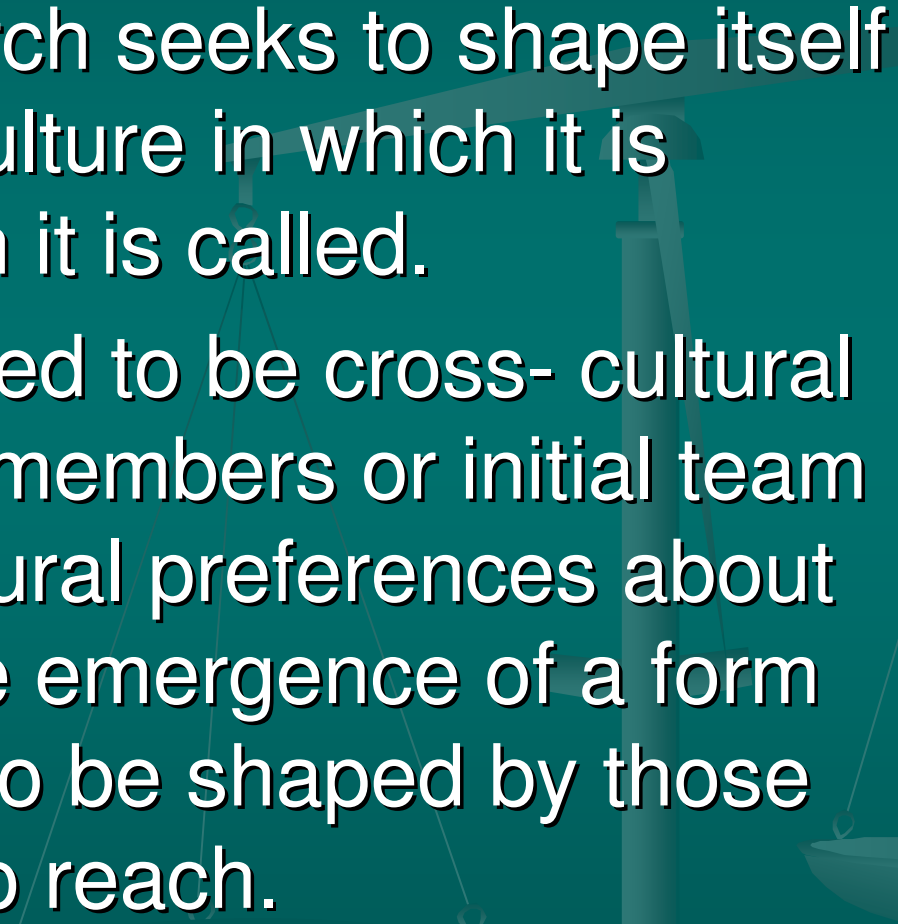
- 'The Father is the author of worship, the Son the worshipper and the Spirit the agent of worship.' Alan Torrance

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- Worship and mission are inseparable,
  - They form the rhythm of church life.
  - Authentic worship leads to mission.
  - Authentic mission wins worshippers.

# INCARNATIONAL

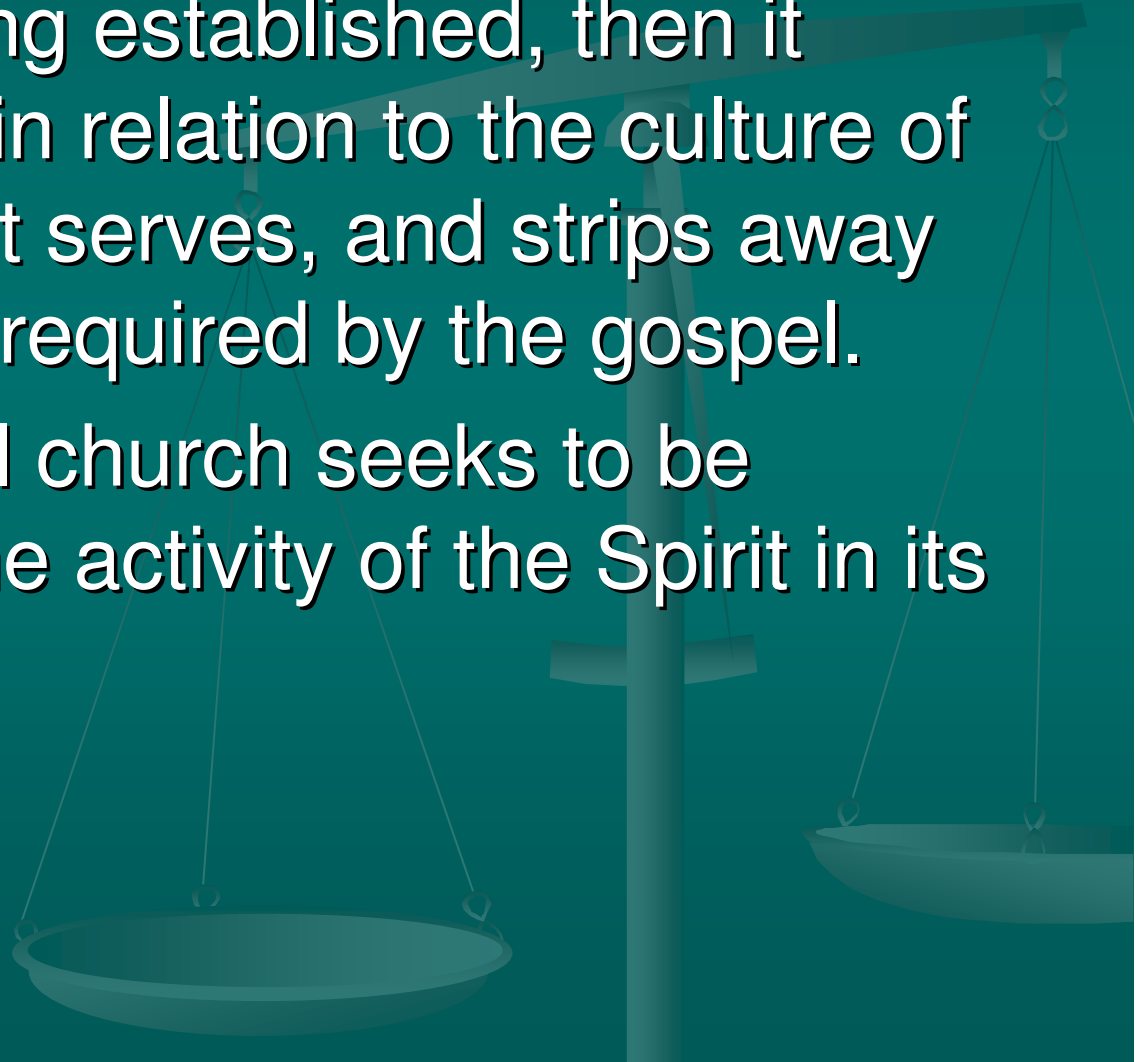


# INCARNATIONAL

- A missionary church seeks to shape itself in relation to the culture in which it is located or to which it is called.
  - Whenever it is called to be cross-cultural then its long-term members or initial team lay aside their cultural preferences about church to allow the emergence of a form or style of church to be shaped by those they are seeking to reach.
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# INCARNATIONAL

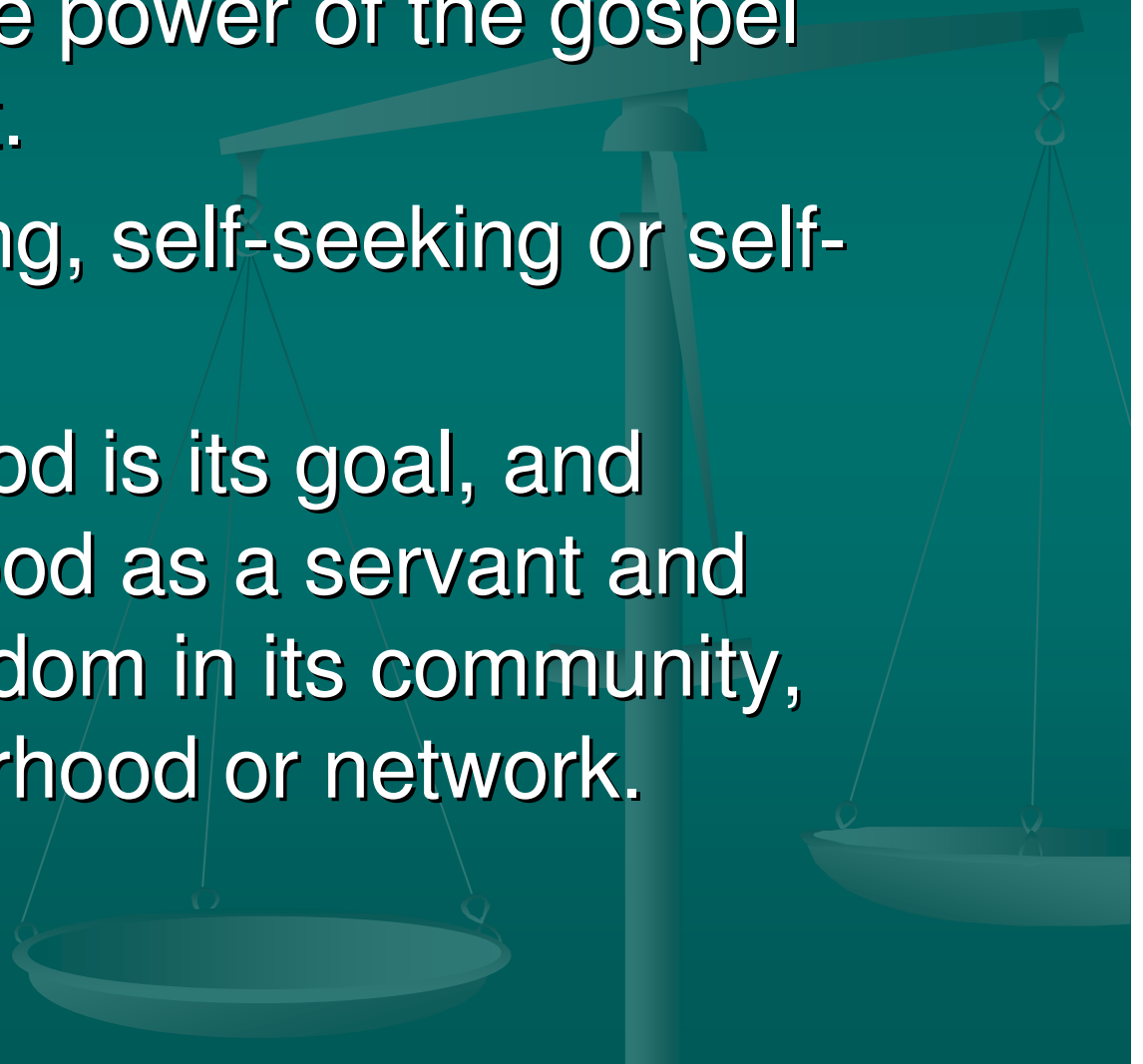
- If a church is long established, then it evaluates itself in relation to the culture of the community it serves, and strips away whatever is not required by the gospel.
- An incarnational church seeks to be responsive to the activity of the Spirit in its community.



# TRANSFORMATIONAL



- A missionary church exists for the transformation of the community that it serves, through the power of the gospel and the Holy Spirit.
- It is not self-serving, self-seeking or self-focused.
- The kingdom of God is its goal, and church is understood as a servant and sign of God's kingdom in its community, whether neighbourhood or network.



**‘The transformation of the community that it serves, through the power of the gospel and the Holy Spirit.’**



# SERVICE UNSEEN



# The Valley Estate Swinton

- 280 tonnes of rubbish
- 200 gardens
- Park/dog walking area
- Street cleaning
- Resource centre
- Connecting path
- Reconciliation
- No reported crime



# LASTING CHANGE



# TRANSFORMATIONAL

- Never self serving
- Seeks first the Kingdom in its community
- Exists for the transformation of its community



**MAKES DISCIPLES**

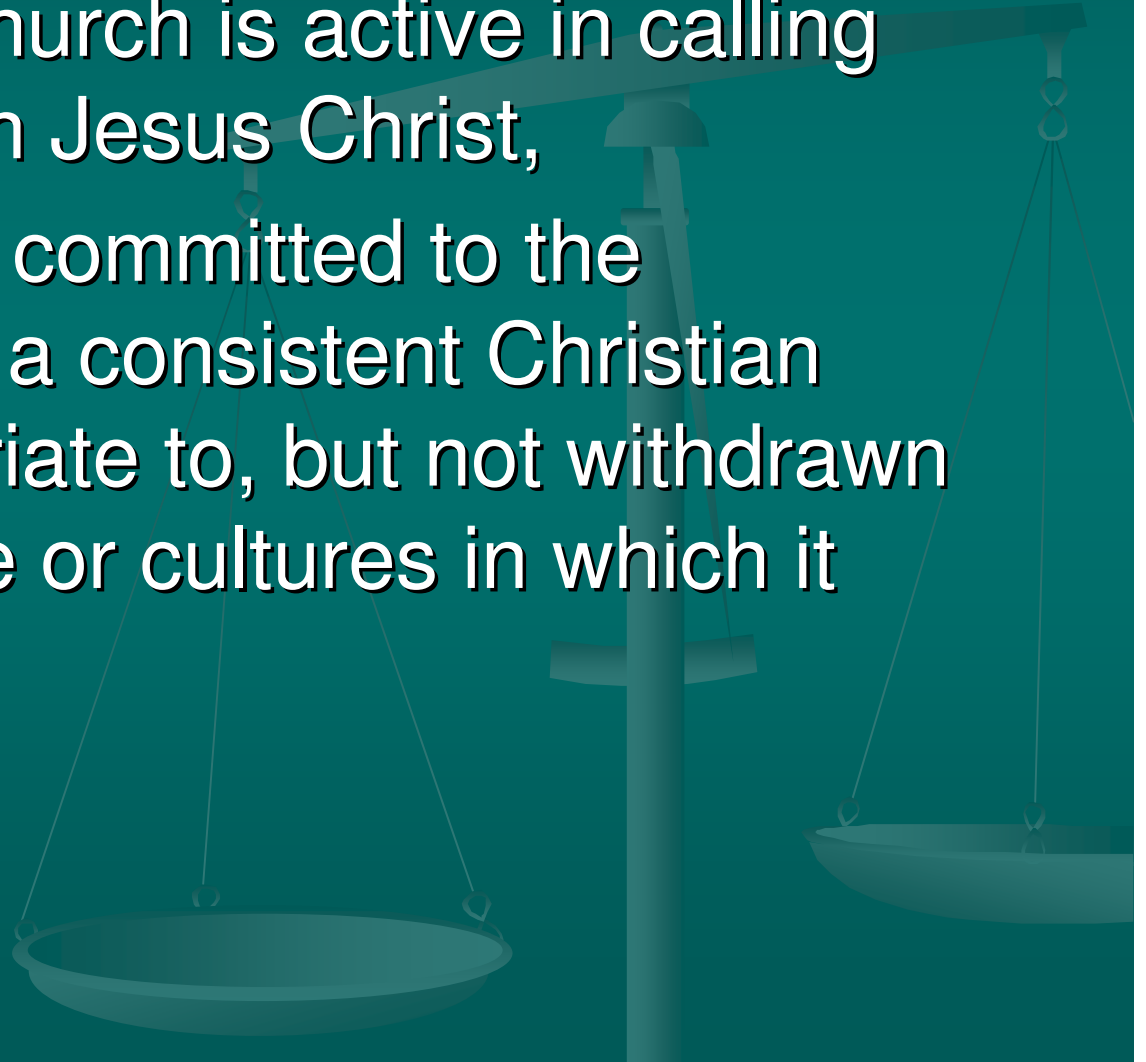


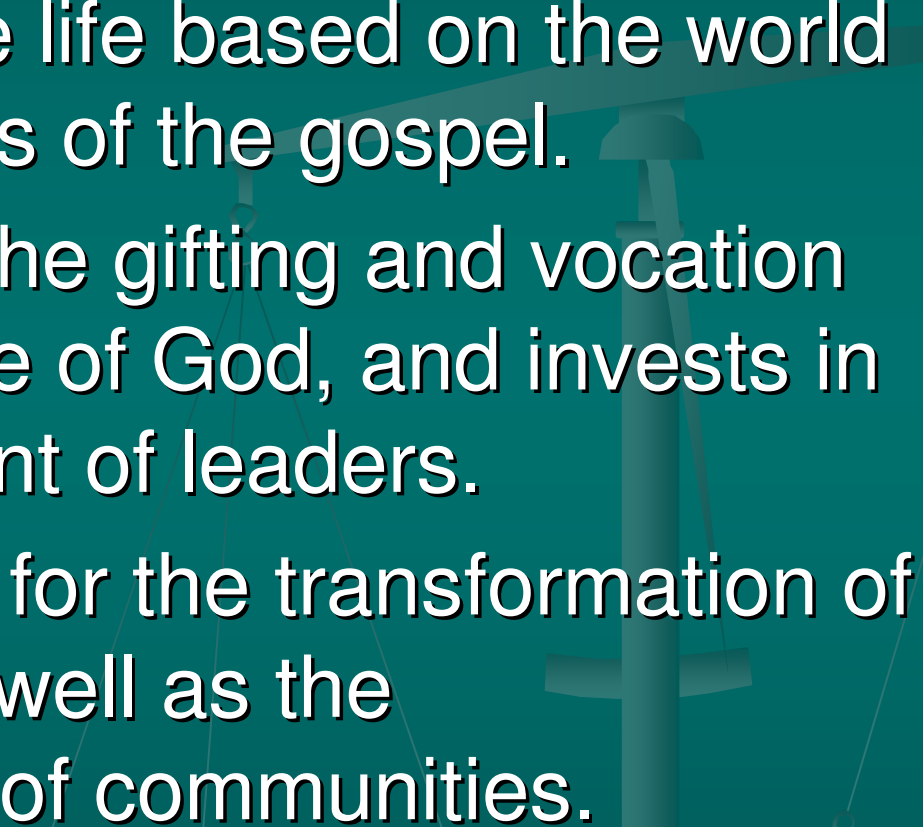
# DISCIPLESHIP

- ‘When dealing with discipleship and the related capacity to generate authentic followers of Jesus, we are dealing with that single most crucial factor that will in the end determine the quality of the whole – if we fail at this point then we must fail in all the others.’ Alan Hirsch

# DISCIPLE MAKING

- A missionary church is active in calling people to faith in Jesus Christ,
- and it is equally committed to the development of a consistent Christian lifestyle appropriate to, but not withdrawn from, the culture or cultures in which it operates.



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- It engages with culture, but also presents a counter-cultural challenge by its corporate life based on the world view and values of the gospel.
  - It encourages the gifting and vocation of all the people of God, and invests in the development of leaders.
  - It is concerned for the transformation of individuals, as well as the transformation of communities.

# The Purpose of Mission Is Discipleship



- 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

# Discipleship

- 'The Great Omission from the Great Commission in which the Great Disparity is firmly rooted'
- The great disparity between 'the hope for life expressed in Jesus and the actual day to day behaviour, inner life and social presence of most of those who now profess allegiance to him.' Dallas Willard

# The Purpose of Discipleship Is To Be a Blessing



# Jesus fulfills the promise to Abraham

- 12:3 Go ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed
- 18:18 all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him (Abraham)
- 22:18 all the nations of the earth gain blessing
- 26:4 and all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing
- 28:14 all the families of the earth shall be blessed
- Mt. 28:19 Go and make disciples of all nations

# Jesus fulfills the promise to Abraham

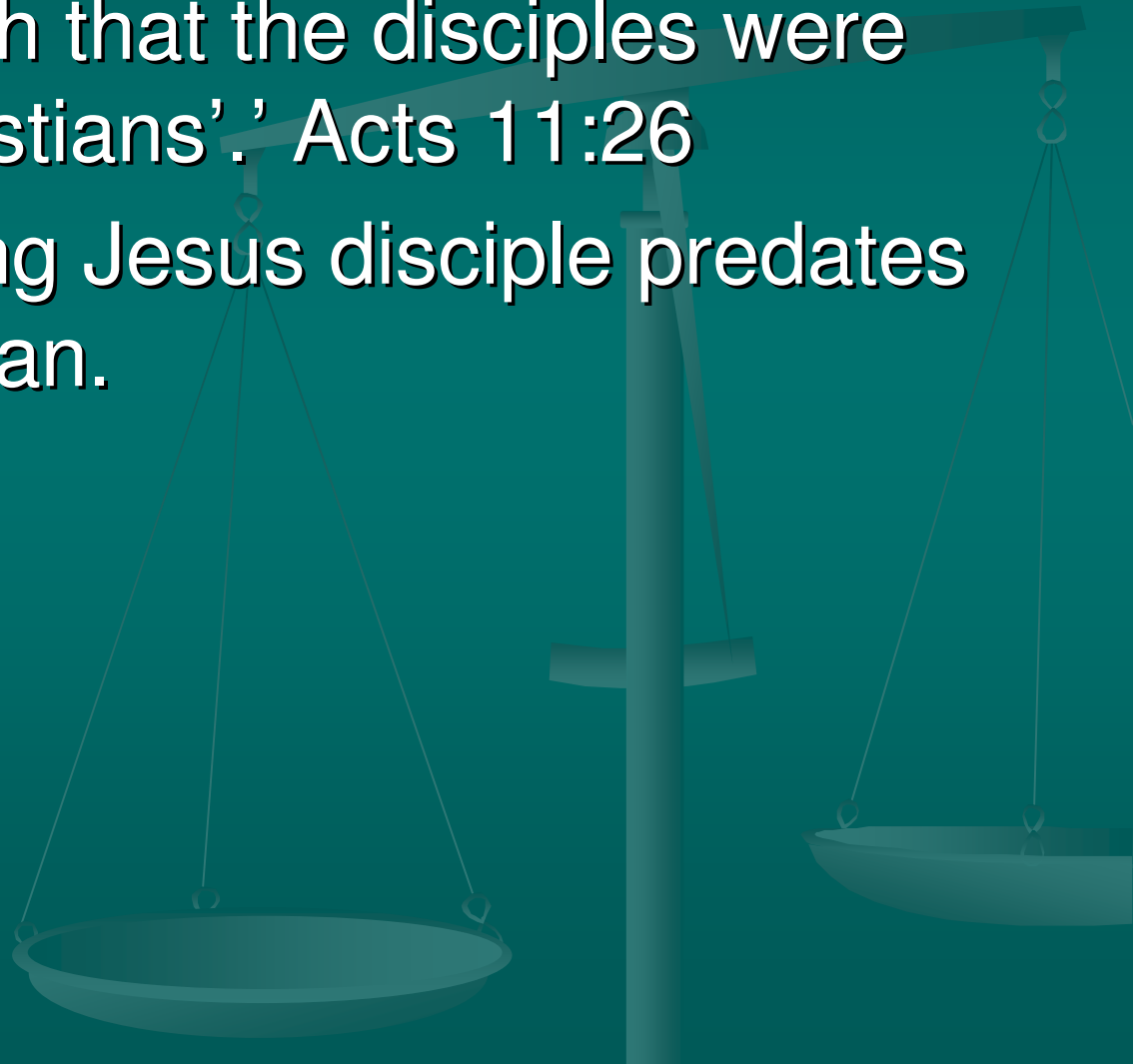
- Gal.3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.'
- Mt. 1:1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- Mt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations

# What Is Discipleship?



# What Is Discipleship?

- 'It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.' Acts 11:26
- The idea of being Jesus disciple predates the word Christian.



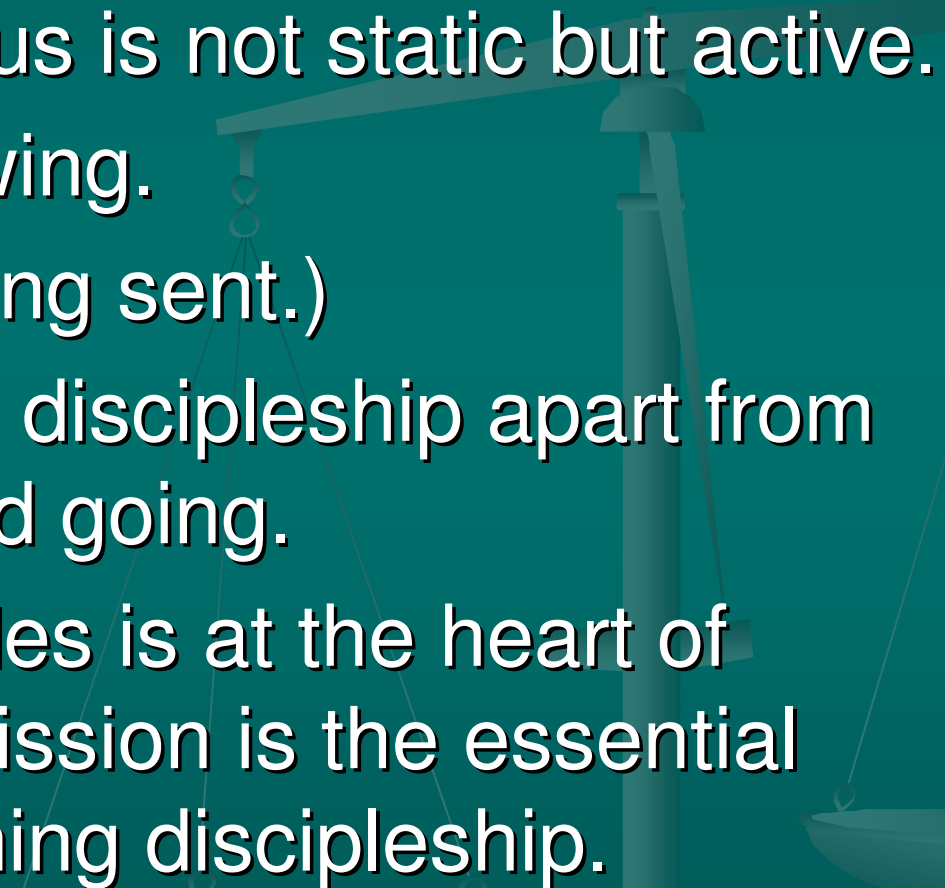
# What Is Discipleship?

- Mark 3:14-15 And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message and to have authority to cast out demons.
- The heart of discipleship is being with Jesus, in order to be like him.
- Matthew 10.25: it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher.
- 'If I am to be Jesus' disciple that means *I am with him to learn from him how to be like him.* Dallas Willard

**There is no discipleship  
without mission.**

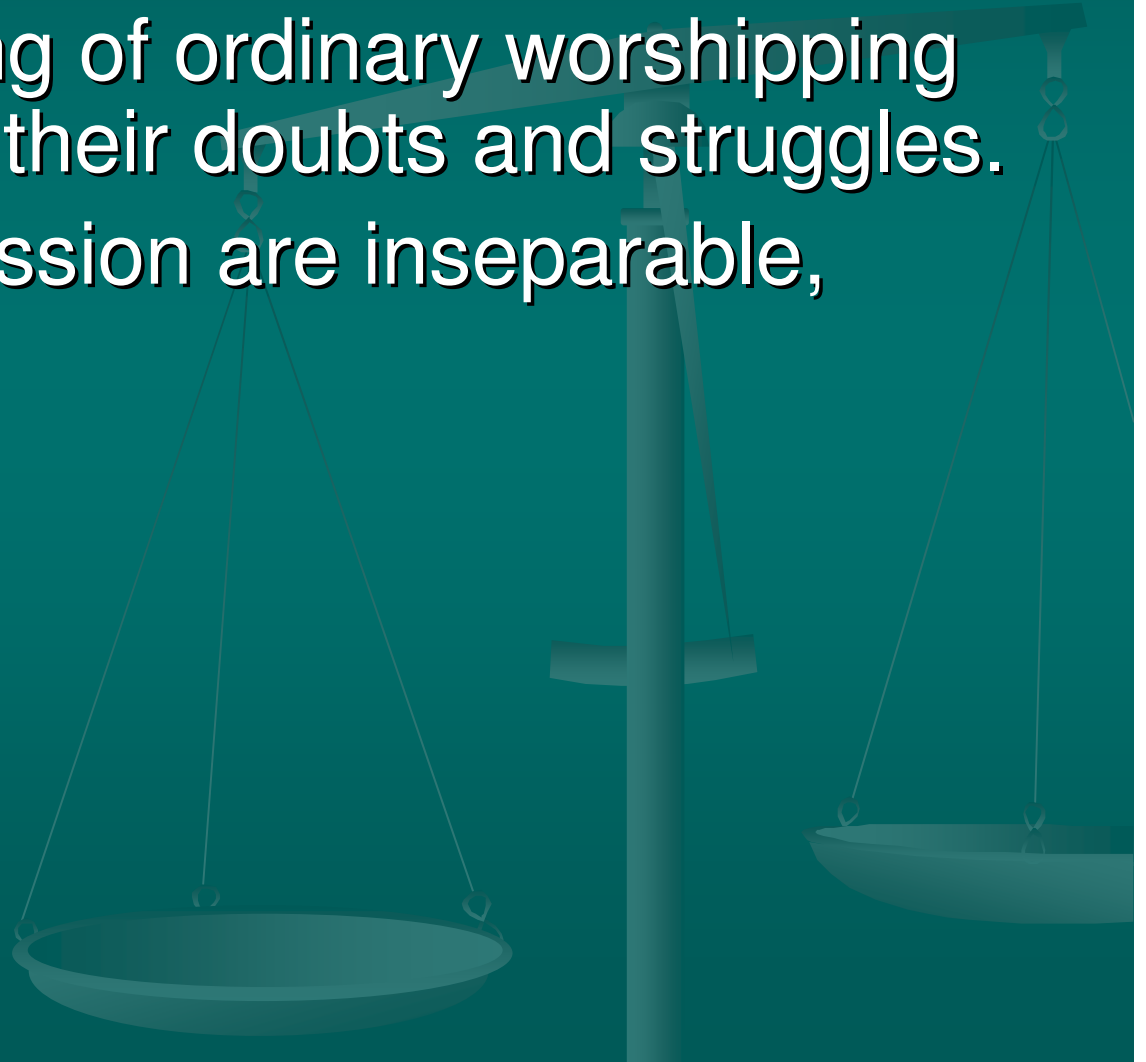


# There is no discipleship without mission.

- To 'be with' Jesus is not static but active.
  - It involves following.
  - (And going - being sent.)
  - There will be no discipleship apart from the following and going.
  - If making disciples is at the heart of mission, then mission is the essential context for learning discipleship.
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# **There is no discipleship without mission.**

- This is the calling of ordinary worshipping Christians, with their doubts and struggles.
- Worship and mission are inseparable,

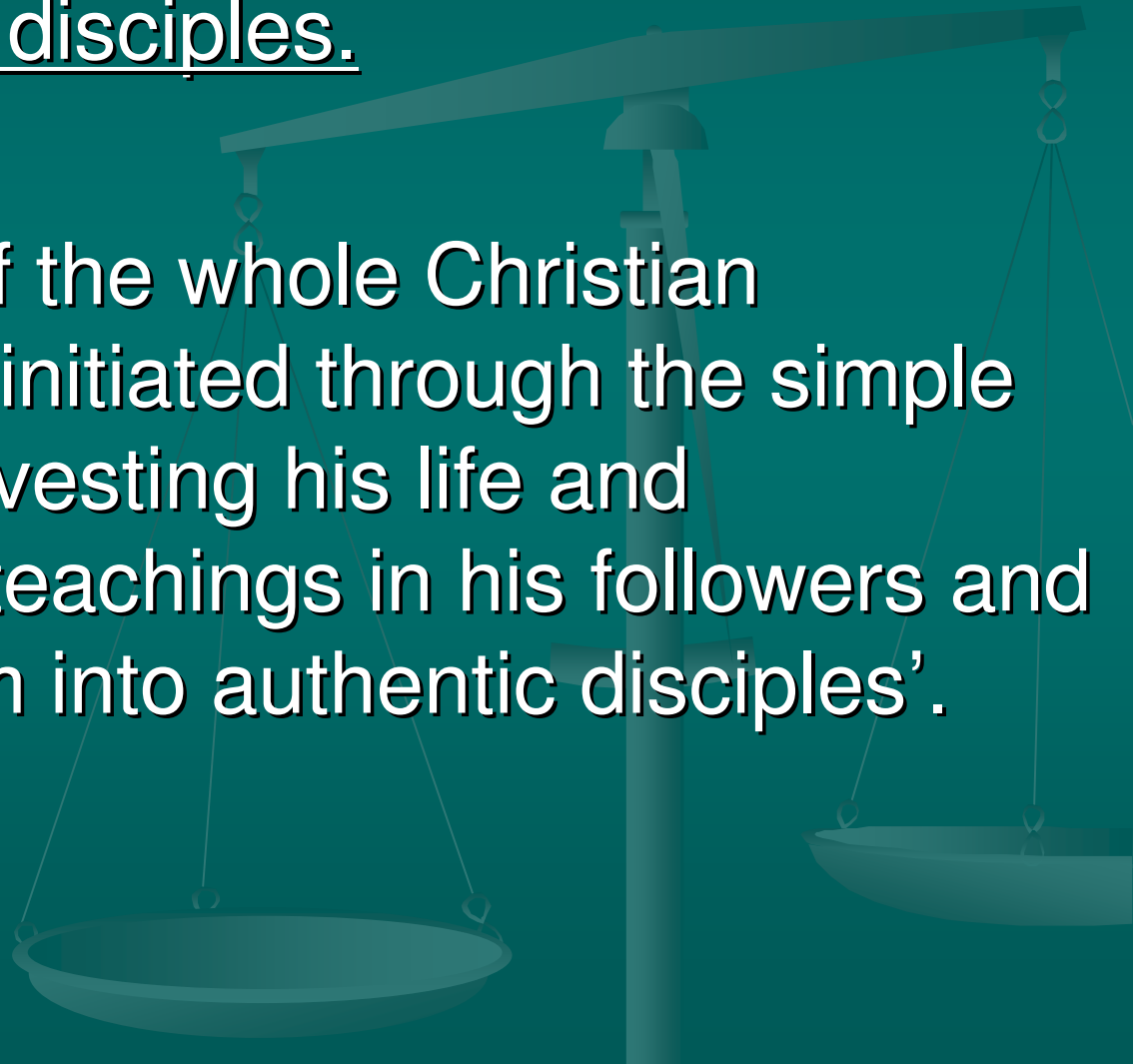


# HOW ARE DISCIPLES MADE?



# How are disciples made?

- As Jesus made disciples.
- ‘The founding of the whole Christian movement was initiated through the simple acts of Jesus investing his life and embedding his teachings in his followers and developing them into authentic disciples’.  
Alan Hirsch

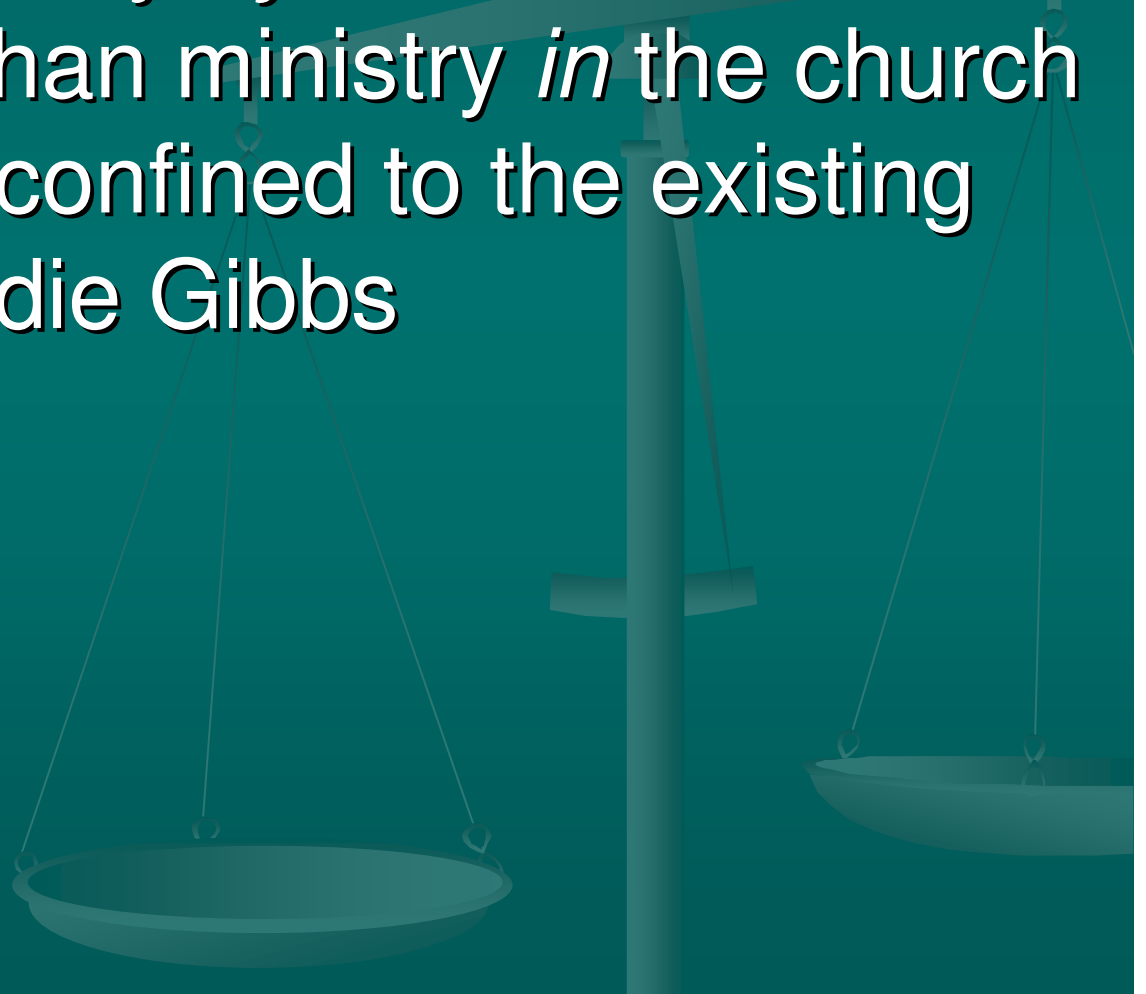


# How are disciples made?

- Only disciples make disciples.
- 'He commissions his own disciples to go out and replicate themselves by creating communities of obedience among the nations. ... Mission is replicated discipleship, learned through ethical obedience and passed on through teaching.' Christopher Wright

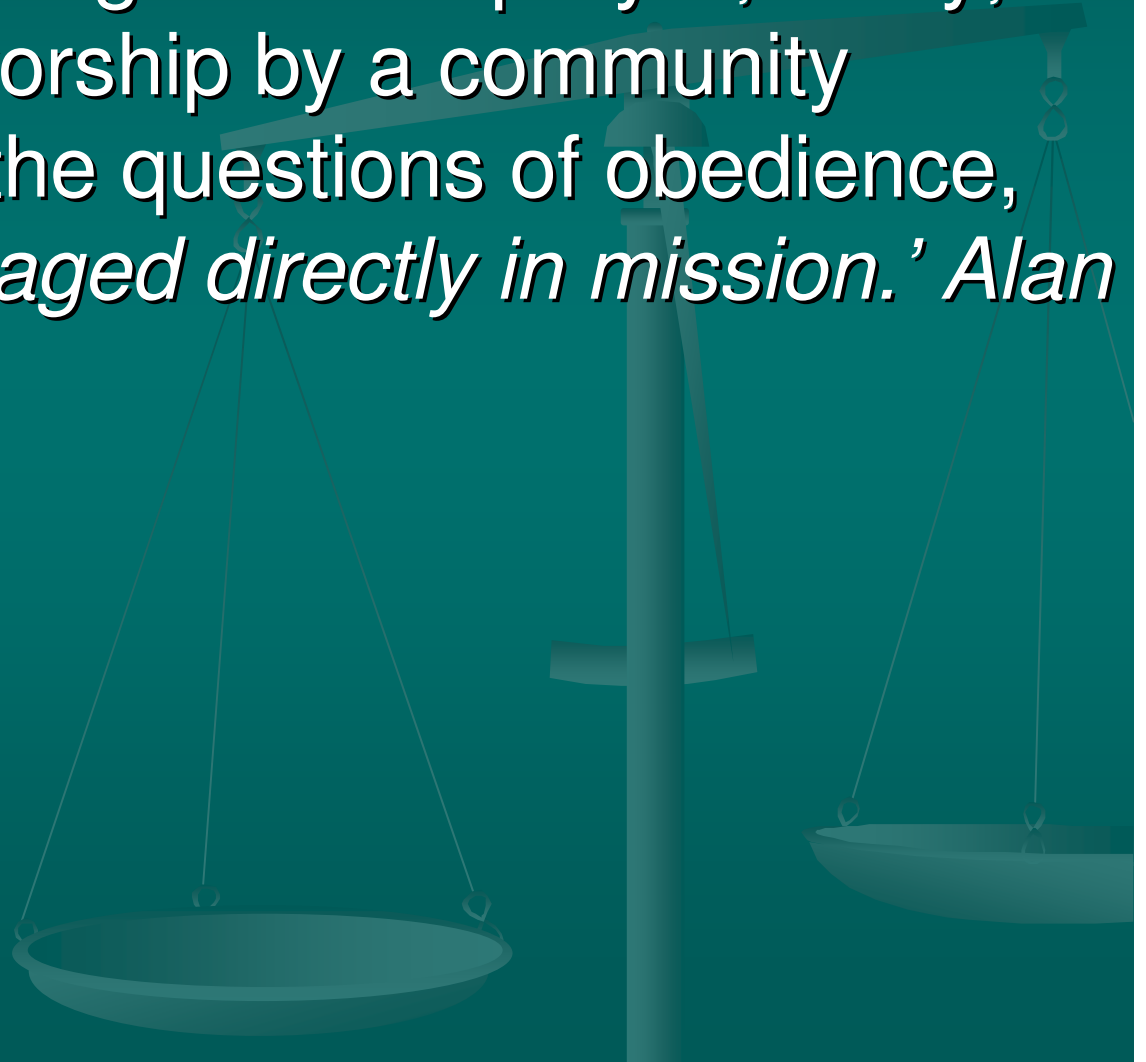
# By 'Going'

- 'Focus on ministry *by* the church in the world, rather than ministry *in* the church that is largely confined to the existing members.' Eddie Gibbs



# By 'Going'

- 'Discipleship emerges out of prayer, study, dialogue, and worship by a community learning to ask the questions of obedience, *as they are engaged directly in mission.*' Alan Roxburgh

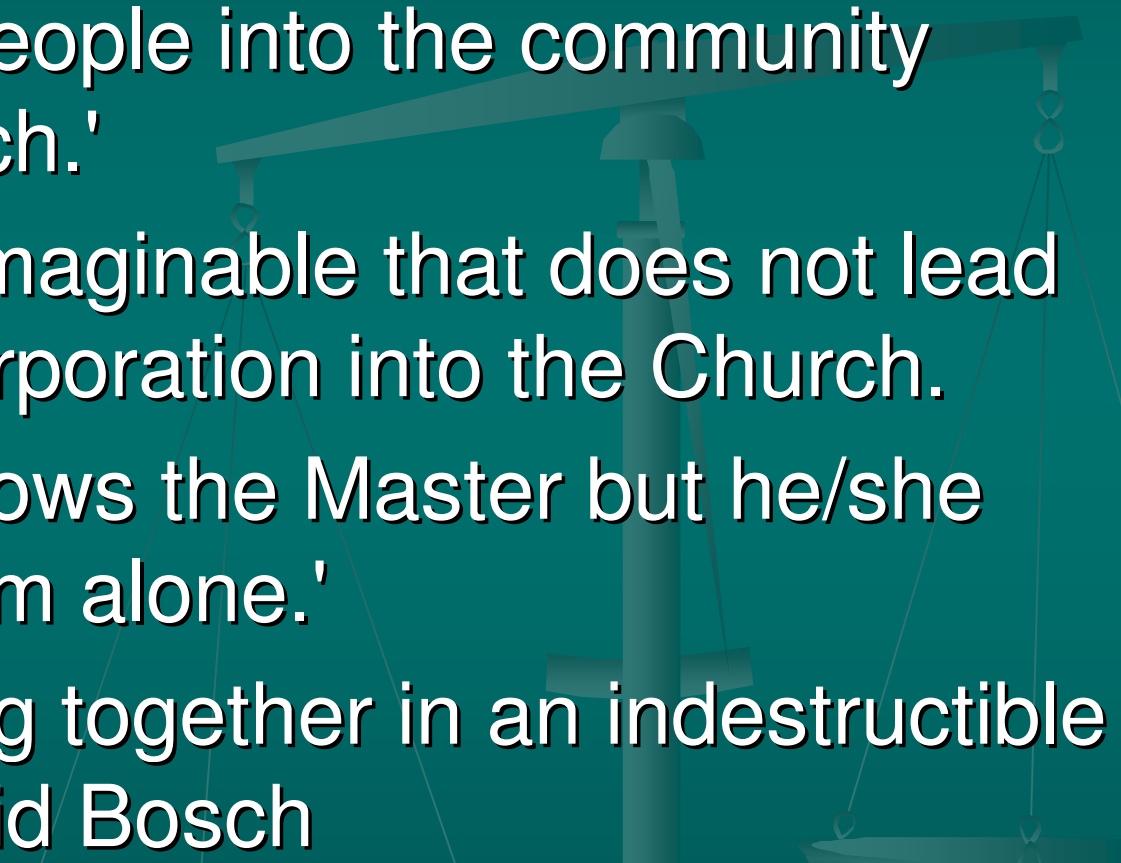


# By 'baptizing'

- That through the Son, and by the Spirit we will share the Son's relationship with the Father – which is the key to his discipleship.
- And 'As members of Christ's body they are baptized into his mission, equipped by the Spirit to make their distinctive contribution to the totality of the ministry of the church.'

Eddie Gibbs

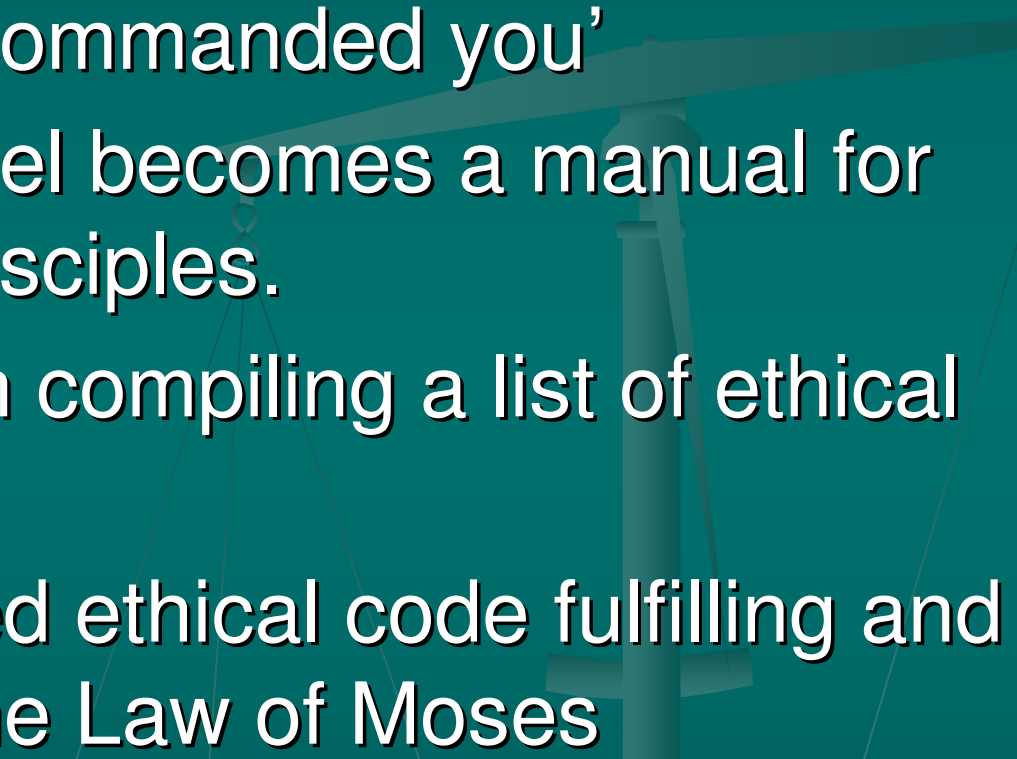
# By 'baptizing'

- 'Incorporating people into the community called the Church.'
  - 'No mission is imaginable that does not lead to people's incorporation into the Church.'
  - The disciple follows the Master but he/she never follows him alone.'
  - 'Disciples belong together in an indestructible fellowship.' David Bosch
- 
- A faint, semi-transparent image of a balance scale is visible in the background of the slide. The scale is positioned on the right side, with its central pillar and horizontal beam extending across the middle. Two pans are suspended from the beam, one on each side. The scale is slightly tilted, with the right pan appearing lower than the left. The background is a solid teal color.

**By 'teaching'**

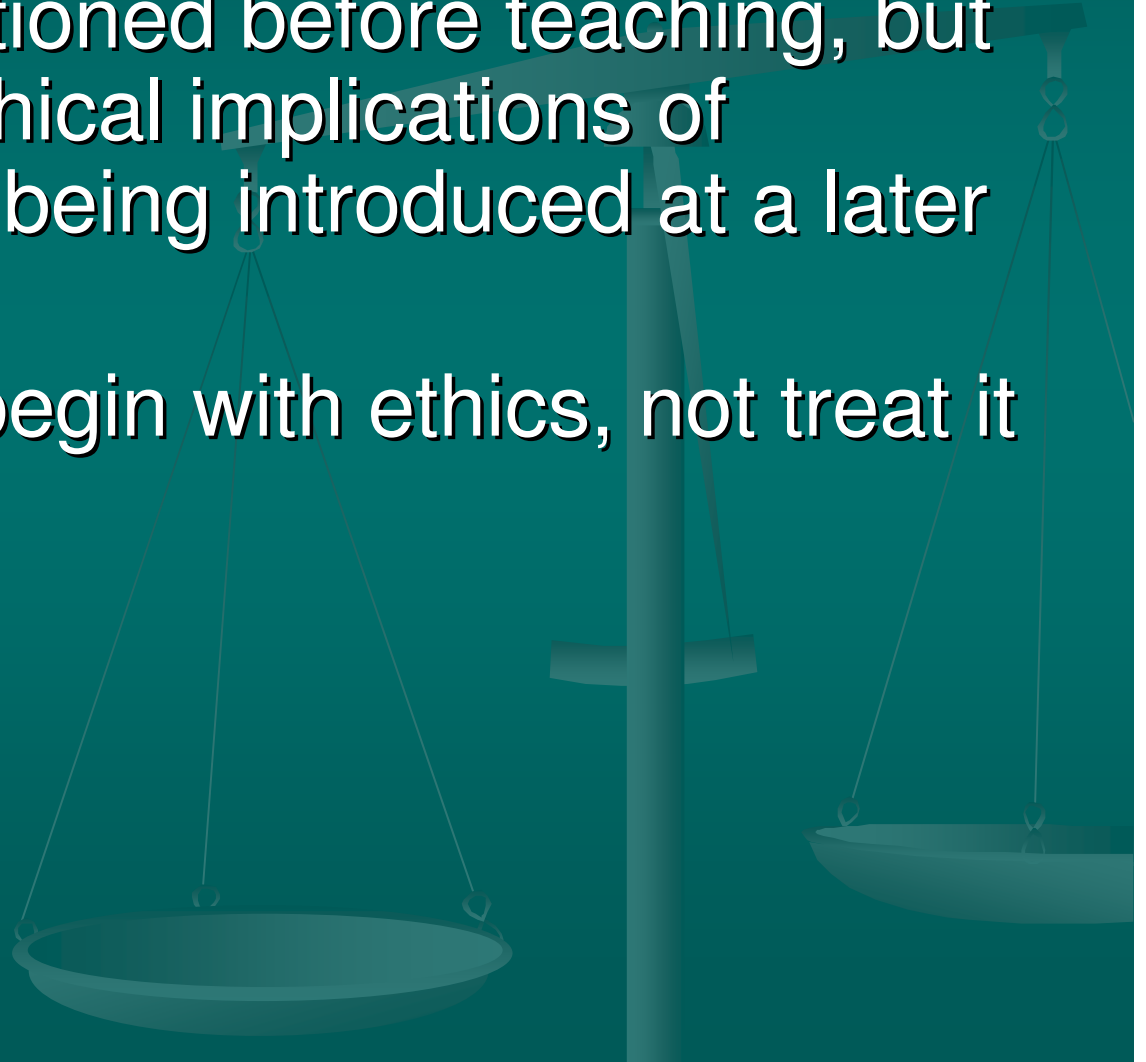


# By 'teaching'

- 'All that I have commanded you'
  - The whole gospel becomes a manual for the making of disciples.
  - Much more than compiling a list of ethical requirements.
  - It is an integrated ethical code fulfilling and going beyond the Law of Moses
- 

# By 'teaching'

- Baptism is mentioned before teaching, but no hint of the ethical implications of following Christ being introduced at a later stage.
- Evangelism to begin with ethics, not treat it as a postscript



**Only through Christ**



# Only through Christ

- Based on his achievement
- Under his authority
- In his presence



# No quick fix

- ‘It takes time to be a Christian. There are things that instantly make sense and make a difference and there are things that slowly, and sometimes rather painfully, find their way into your mind and heart.’ ++Rowan

# RELATIONAL



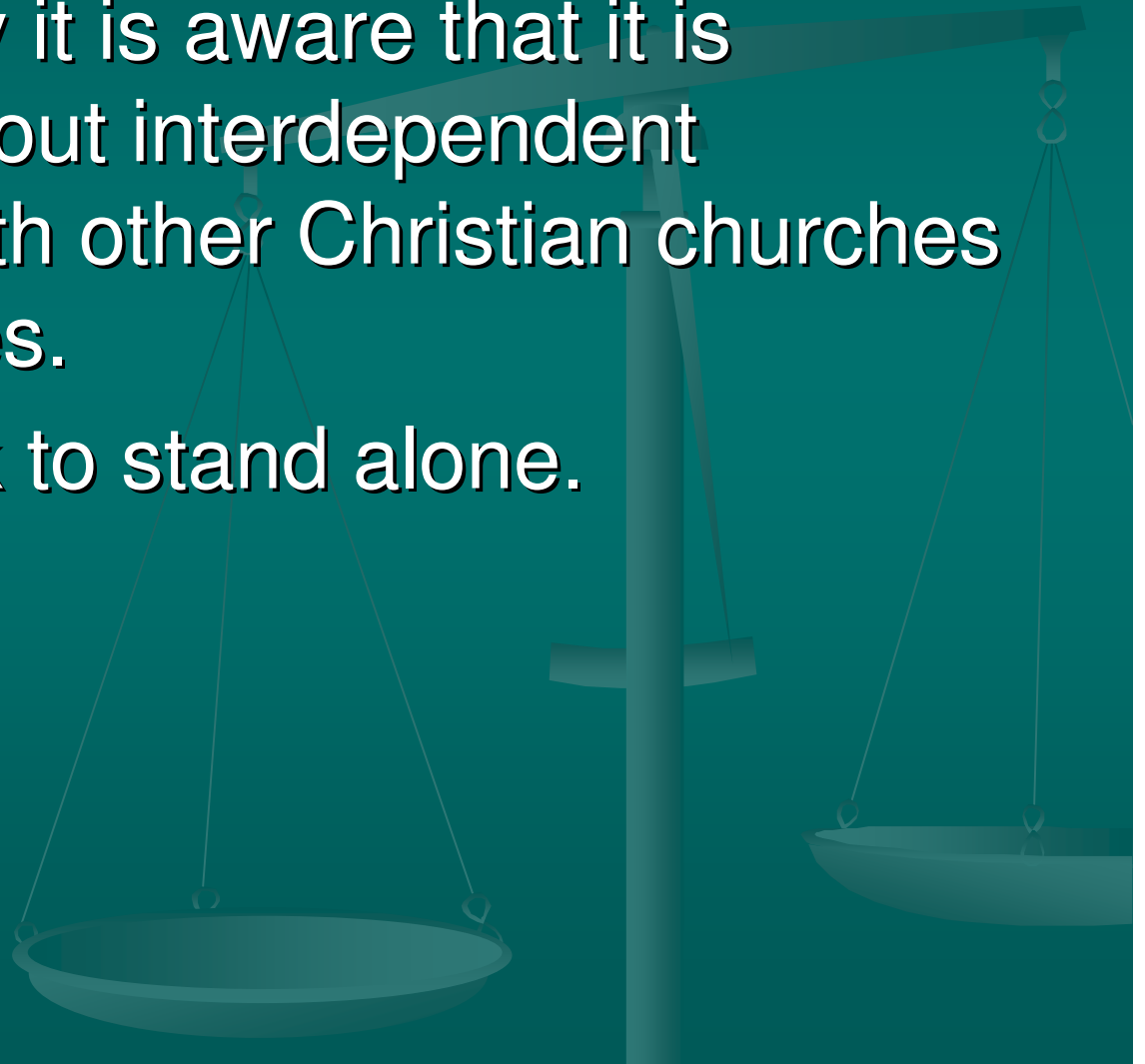
# RELATIONAL



- In a missionary church, a community of faith is being formed.
- It is characterized by welcome and hospitality.
- Its ethos and style are open to change when new members join.
- Believers are encouraged to establish interdependent relationships with fellow Christians as they grow into Christ.

# RELATIONAL

- As a community it is aware that it is incomplete without interdependent relationships with other Christian churches and communities.
- It does not seek to stand alone.



# Why the mixed economy?

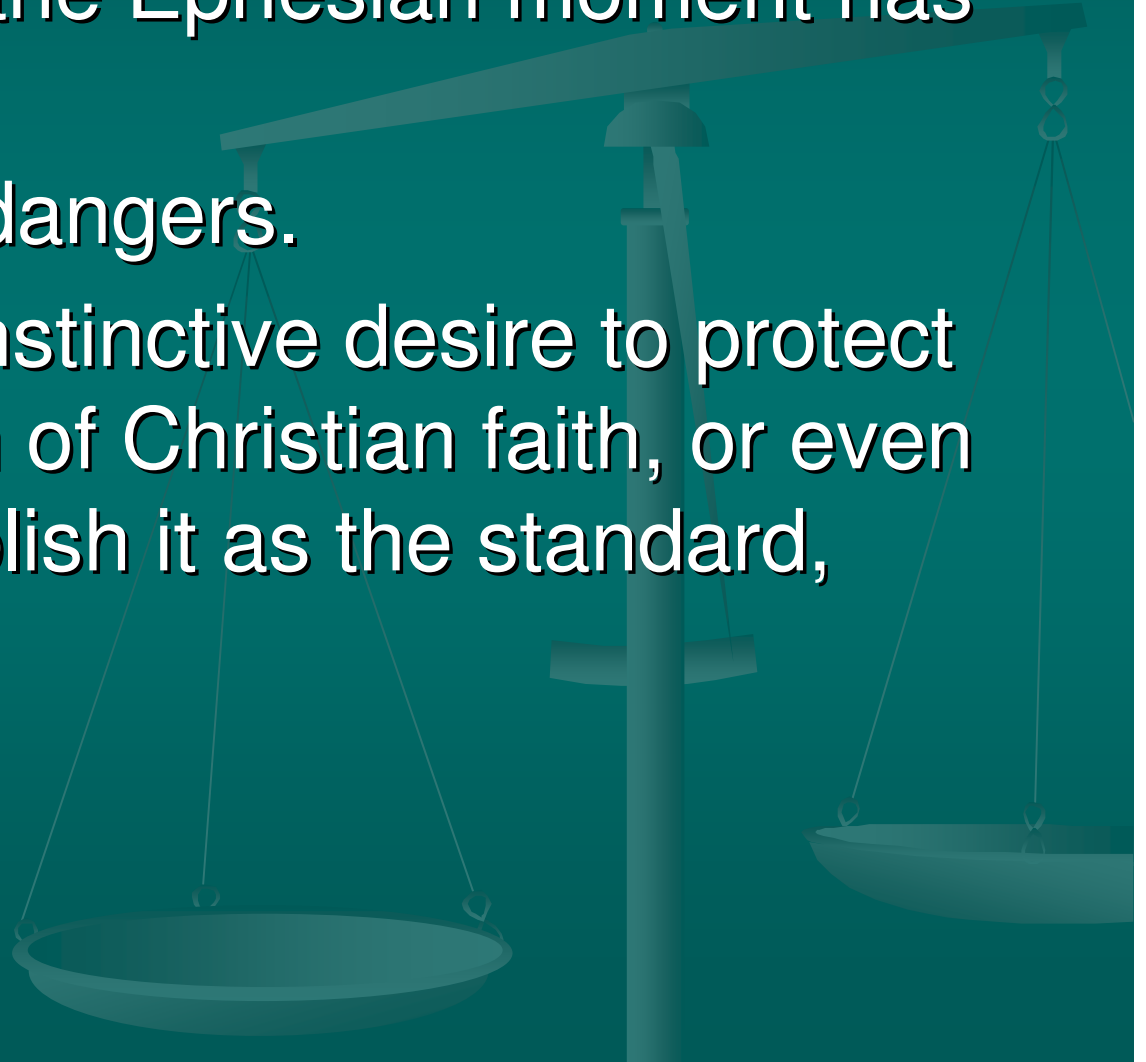


# UNITY AND DIVERSITY - Andrew Walls

- 'The church must be diverse because humanity is diverse; it must be one because Christ is one. Christ is human, and open to humanity in all its diversity; the fullness of his humanity takes in all its diverse cultural forms.
- The Ephesian letter is a celebration of the union of irreconcilable entities, brought about by Christ's death.

# 'THE EPHESIAN MOMENT'

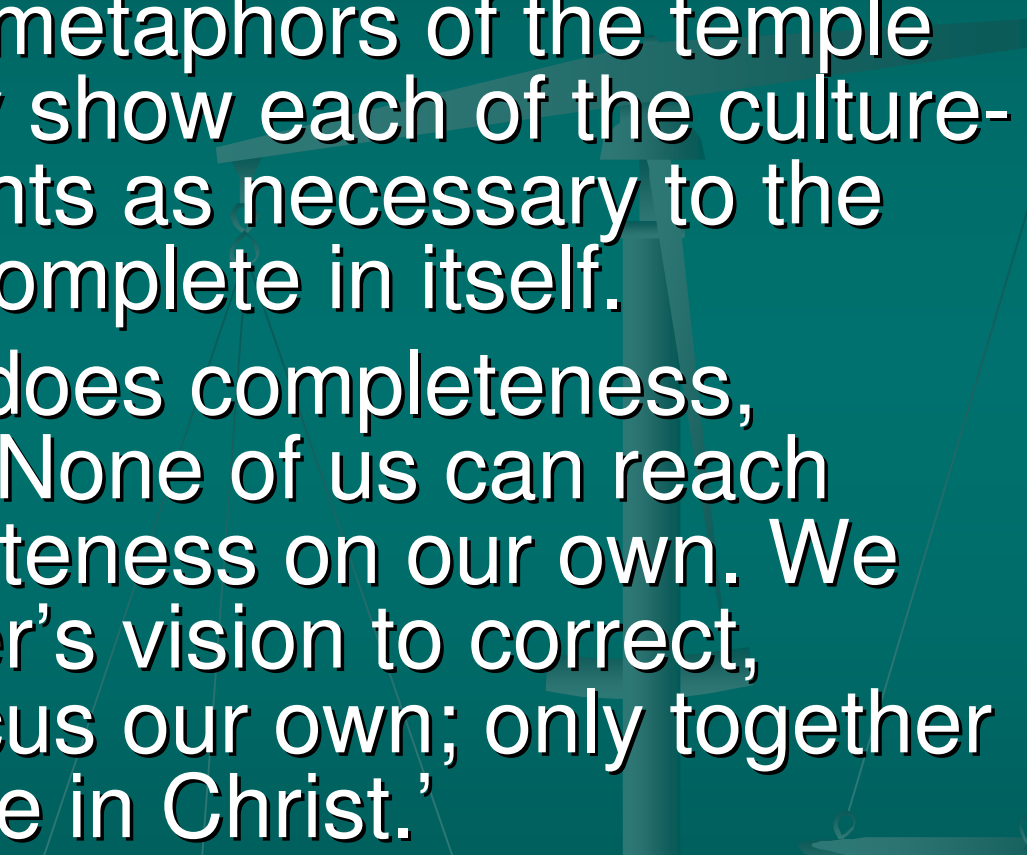
- In our own day the Ephesian moment has come again'
- 'There are two dangers.
- One lies in an instinctive desire to protect our own version of Christian faith, or even to seek to establish it as the standard, normative one.



# ‘THE EPHESIAN MOMENT’

- The other, and perhaps the more seductive in the present condition of Western Christianity, is the postmodern option: to decide that each of the expressions and versions is equally valid and authentic, and that we are therefore each at liberty to enjoy our own in isolation from all the others.
- Neither of these is the Ephesian way.’

# ONLY COMPLETE TOGETHER

- 'The Ephesian metaphors of the temple and of the body show each of the culture-specific segments as necessary to the body but as incomplete in itself.
  - Only in Christ does completeness, fullness, dwell. None of us can reach Christ's completeness on our own. We need each other's vision to correct, enlarge and focus our own; only together are we complete in Christ.'
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# VALUES FOR A MISSIONARY CHURCH

- Focused on God the Trinity
- Incarnational
- Transformational
- Disciple making
- Relational



**How are you doing?**



# SEEING - MARKS OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH



Christ Church 4  
+Graham Cray