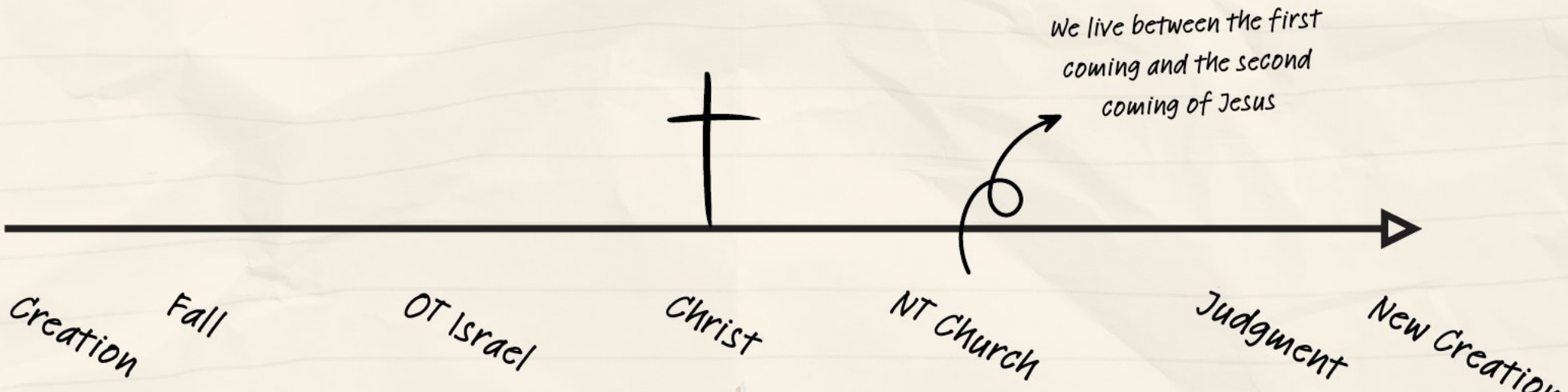


THE CHURCH

A Workshop by The Garden Project

The Story Behind the Systems



Ecclesiology

Ecclesiology is the theological study of the Christian Church itself. Originating from the Greek word ekklesia (meaning "assembly" or "congregation") and logos (meaning "study"), it examines the church's origins, nature, purpose, structure, leadership, and its relationship to Jesus Christ.

The Church is...

- Body of Christ (Romans 12:4-8)
- Temple of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:6-9)
- People of God (Titus 2:14)
- Household / Family of God (1 Timothy 3:15)
- Royal Priesthood & Holy Nation (1 Peter 2:9-10)
- New Humanity (Colossians 3:9-17)
- Flock & Branches (John 10 & 15)

Why Are There So Many Denominations?

The Five Axes of Christian Identity

Theological System

(Reformed, Wesleyan, Covenant Theology, Dispensationalism, etc.)

Missional / Cultural Emphasis

(Evangelism, Justice, Discipleship, Monastic, Cross-cultural missions, etc.)

Spirituality / Worship Style

(Liturgical, Charismatic, Contemporary, Contemplative, Revivalist)

Sacramental Theology

(High sacramental, Memorialist, Covenantal, Real presence)

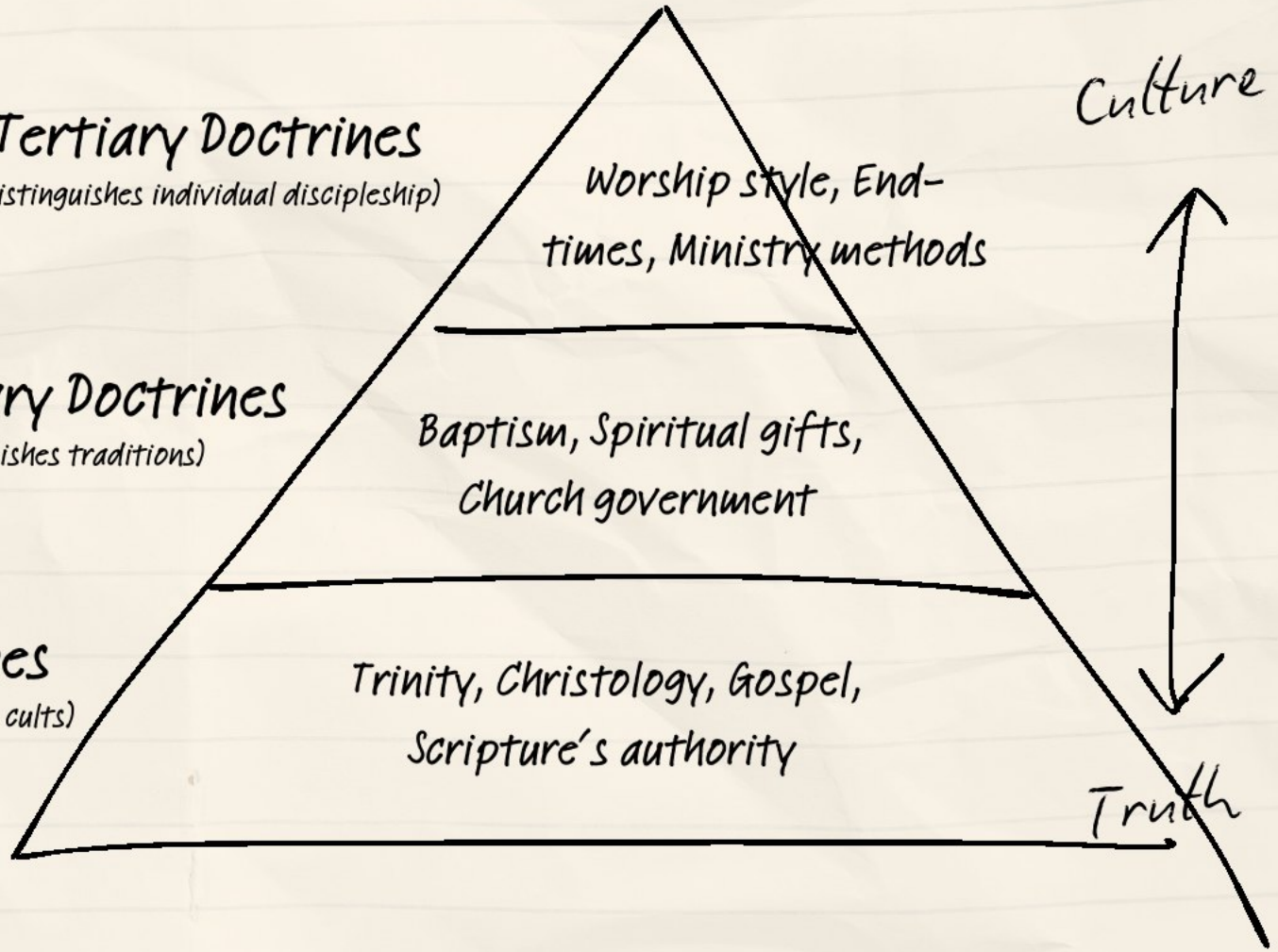
Church Tradition / Policy

(Episcopal, Elder-led, Congregational, Independent)

The Theological Pyramid

Criteria:

1. Amount of Scripture support & canonical centrality
2. Necessity for salvation
3. Clarity of teaching



The Church Through History:
Movements & Institutions



Jesus the Cornerstone

"I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18)

Institutional Formation

(The Canon, Creeds, Councils)

Renewed Institutions

(Doctrines, Seminaries, Liturgies, Traditions, etc.)

Apostolic Movement

(Acts 2, 13, 15)

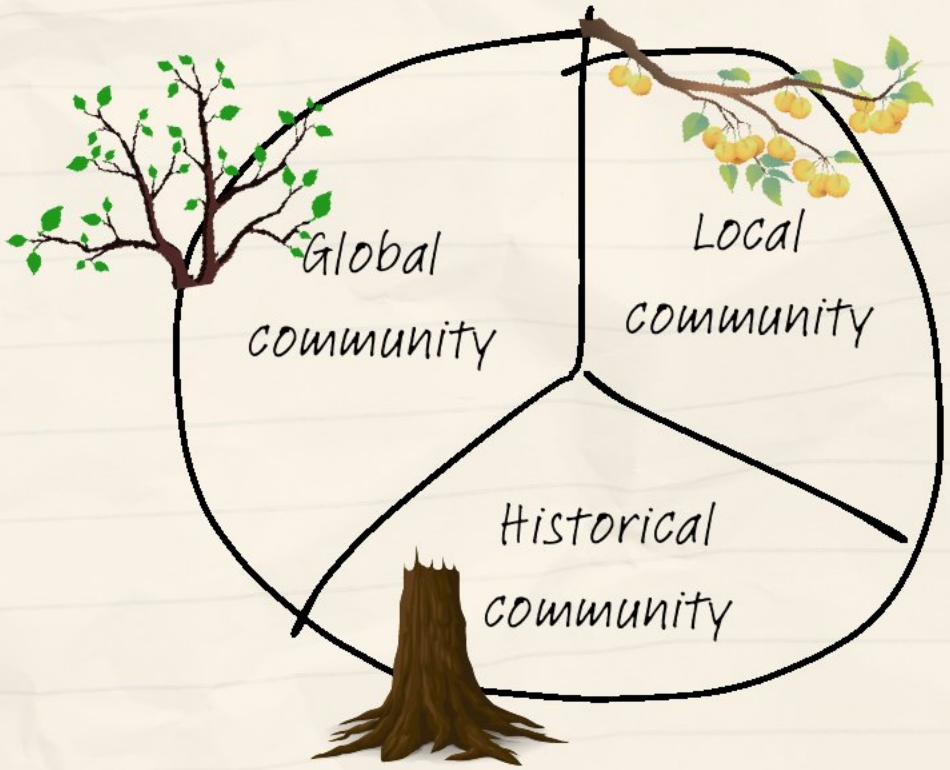
Renewal Movements

(Desert Fathers, Protestant Reformation, Methodist Revival, etc.)

The Kingdom of God is still on the move...



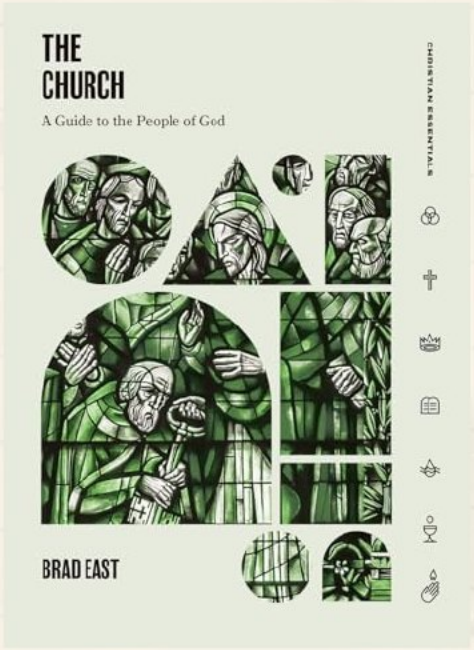
Inter-denominational Communication



Each tradition has its spiritual treasures and blind spots.
How do members of the one Church faithfully communicate across traditions?

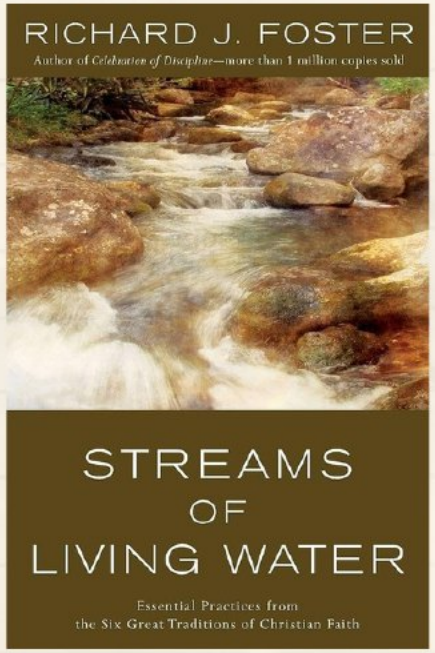
Inter-denominational communication is the practice of listening, learning, and laboring together as members of the one Body of Christ while remaining rooted in Scripture, growing in one's local church, and contributing faithfully to the global and historical faith communities.

Recommended Reading



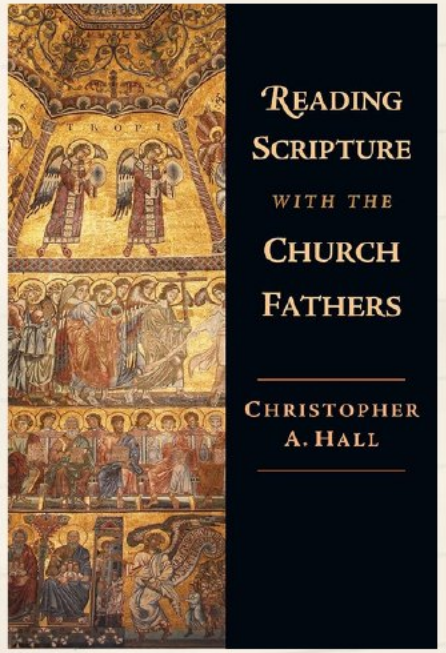
The Church by Brad East

"Recover the biblical identity of the Church."



Streams of Living Water by Richard Foster

"Appreciate the Church across traditions."



Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers by Christopher Hall

"Listen to the Church through time."

$ WHY DOES ECCLESIOLOGY MATTER?

BECAUSE HOW WE IMAGINE THE CHURCH DETERMINES:

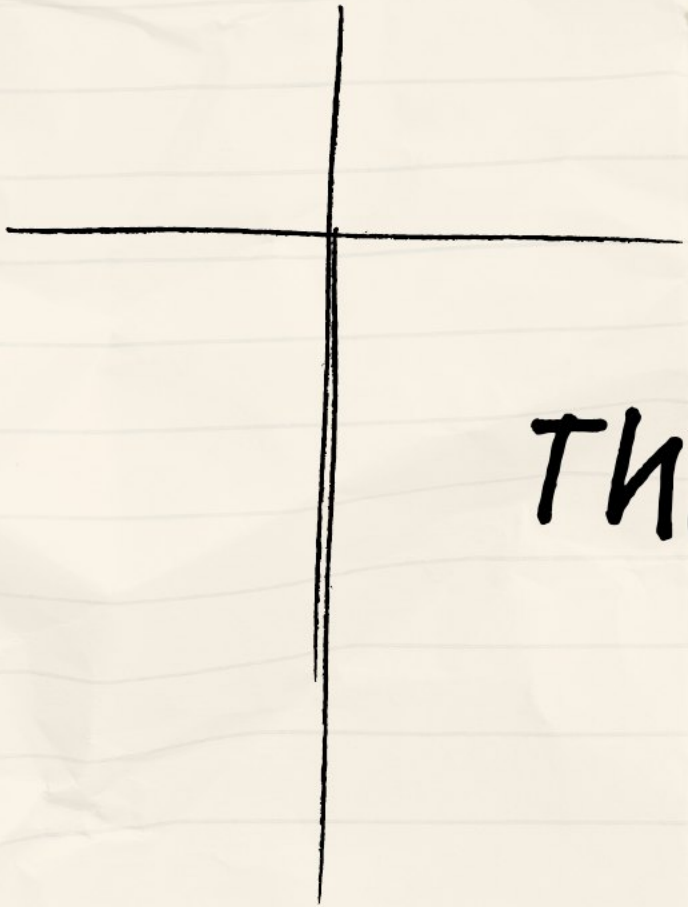
- HOW WE WORSHIP ↑
- HOW WE DISCIPLE → ←
- HOW WE LEAD →
- HOW WE ENGAGE THE WORLD ← →



The goal of ecclesiology is to help the Church become more like Christ.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
Ephesians 4:4-6

...So that, the Church may be united under the lordship of Christ, and faithfully participate in God's mission in the world.



Thank You


The
Garden
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