

CULTURAL RENEWAL: what is it?

Rich Johnson

slides, handouts and recommended resources at:
www.allsaintsworcester.org.uk/newwine



world



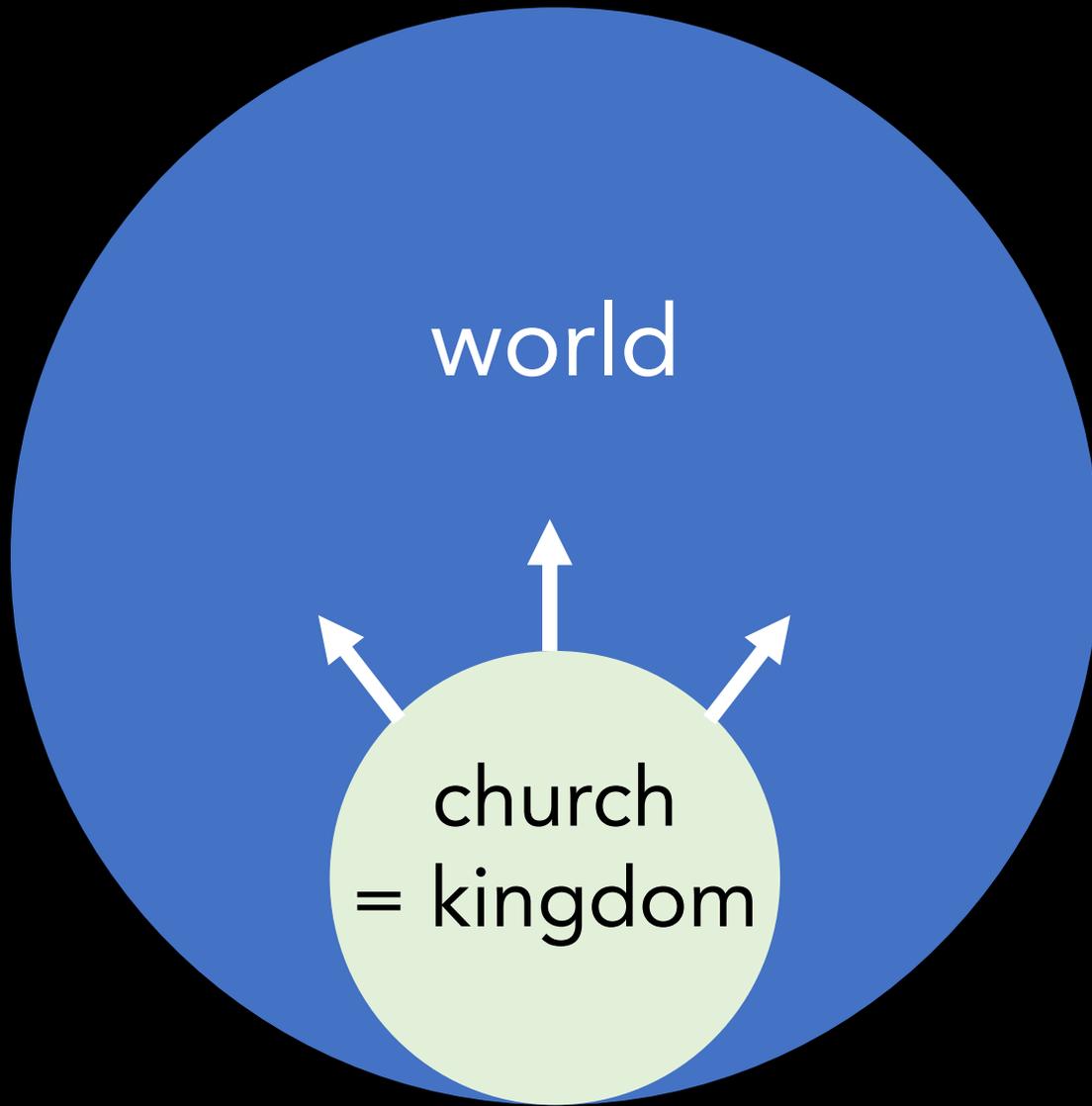
world
kingdom

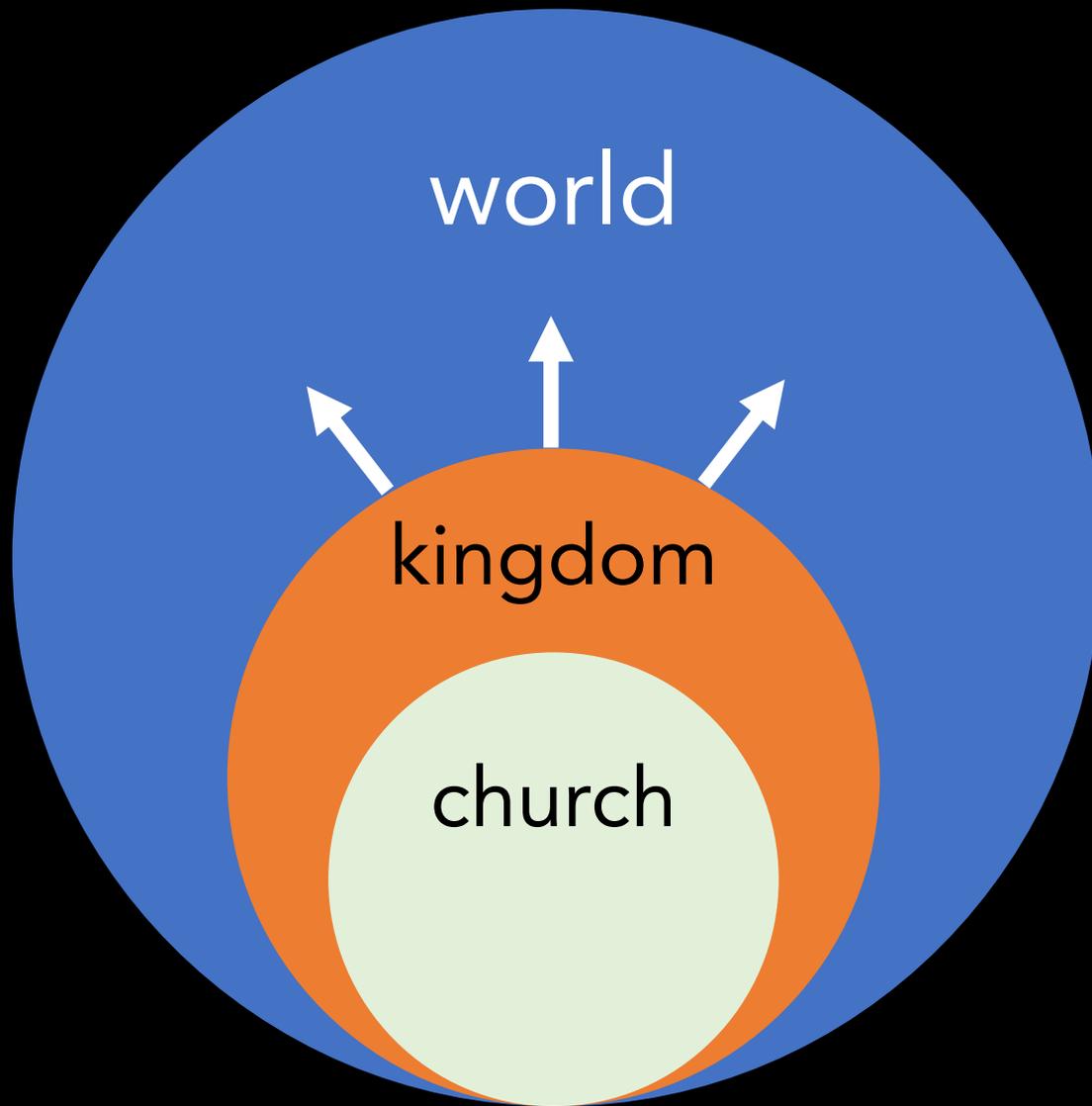
CHRISTENDOM

all "Christian"

ATTRACTIVE CHURCH

church growth





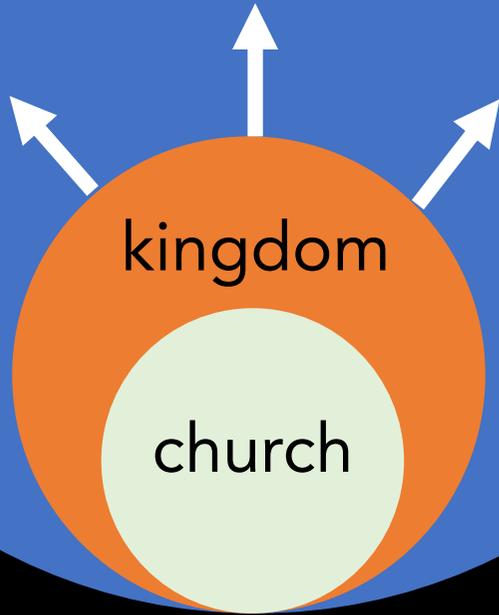
**MISSIONAL
CHURCH**

**post-
Christendom**

incarnational

world

RENEWAL



RENEWAL

spiritual
social
cultural

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- **spiritual** – discipleship, evangelism
- **social** – care for the poor, justice
- **cultural** – arts, business, government, education, third sector

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Ordering chaos for human flourishing.

JON TYSON

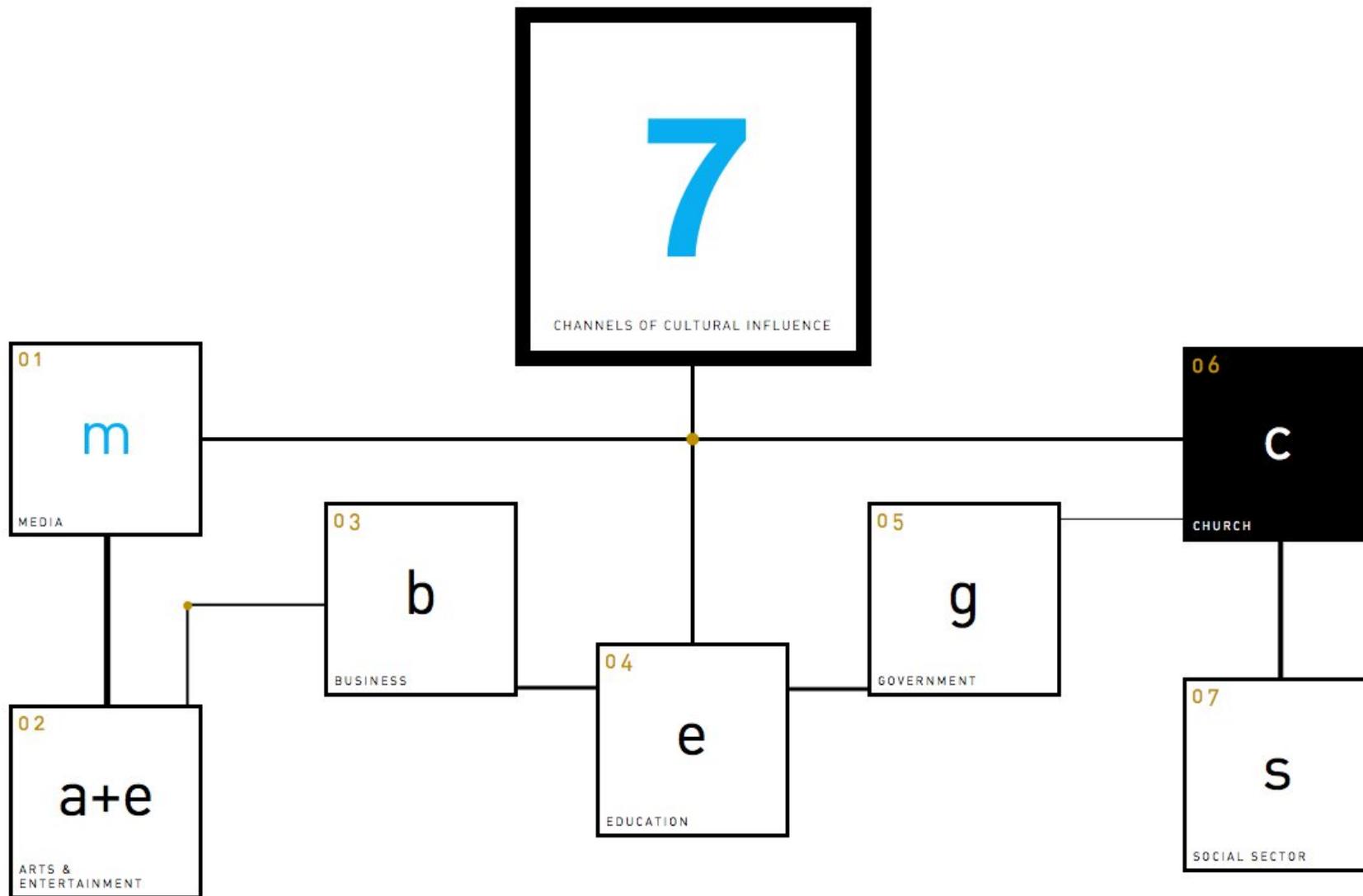
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“Culture is the beliefs, behaviours, values, language, intellectual achievement, artistic expression and the entire way of life of a particular group of people or a society as a whole”.

ANDY CROUCH

“Culture happens through systems but it is for and by people”.



Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'

ANDY CROUCH

“Culture making is creating and cultivating things both useful and beautiful”.

TIM KELLER

“It is rearranging the raw material of God's creation in such a way that it helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish.”

"A world of fabulous design,
yet scarred with misery and pain,
but underneath this brokenness,
our Maker's signature remains".

Ben & Hannah Dunnett

1 John 3:8

"The reason the Son of God came was to destroy the works of the devil."

ABRAHAM KUYPER

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'"

"Christ & Culture" - Niebuhr

1. Christ against culture
2. Christ of culture
3. Christ above culture
4. Christ and culture in paradox
5. Christ transforms culture

CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION

RESTORATION

HALF STORY

FULL STORY

Colossians 1:19-20

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Revelation 21:5

He who was seated on the throne said,
'I am making everything new!'

KAINOS

all things new
(not all new things)

N.T. WRIGHT

"God's missionary purposes are cosmic in scope, concerned with the restoration of all things, the establishment of shalom, the renewal of creation and the coming of the Kingdom as well as the redemption of fallen humanity and the building of the Church."

TIM KELLER

"If...the story of salvation is creation, fall, redemption, restoration, then things look different...the purpose of redemption is not to escape the world but renew it...if we lose the emphasis on the corporate – on the kingdom – we lose the power of the gospel for cultural transformation".

PAUL MARSHALL

"This world is our home: we are made to live here. It has been devastated by sin, but God plans to put it right. Hence, we look forward with joy to newly restored bodies and to living in a newly restored heaven and earth. We can love this world because it is God's, and it will be healed, becoming at last what God intended from the beginning."

N.T. WRIGHT

“When Jesus rose again, God’s whole new creation emerged from the tomb, introducing a world full of new potential and possibility. Indeed precisely because part of that new possibility is for human beings themselves to be revived and renewed, the resurrection of Jesus does not leave us as passive, helpless spectators. We find ourselves lifted up, set on our feet, given new breath in our lungs, and commissioned to go and make new creation happen in the world”.

GRAHAM CRAY

Involvement distinctiveness *within*
our host culture (holiness)

&

Subversive engagement *of*
our host culture (grace)

Jeremiah 29:4-7

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 'Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.'

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Philippians 2:3-5, 12-16

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:...

...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.



GERHARD LOHFINK

"It can only be that God begins in a small way, at one single place in the world. There must be a place, visible, tangible, where the salvation of the world can begin: that is, where the world becomes what it is supposed to be according to God's plan. Beginning at that place, the new thing can spread abroad, but not through persuasion, not through indoctrination, not through violence. Everyone must have the opportunity to come and see. All must have the chance to behold and test this new thing. Then, if they want to, they can allow themselves to be drawn into the history of salvation that God is creating. Only in that way can their freedom be preserved. What drives them to the new thing cannot be force, not even moral pressure, but only the fascination of a world that is changed."

MADELEINE L'ENGLE

"We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

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3. Contingent calling

THREE QUESTIONS

1. What should role of the arts/education/government/business be in culture from a Biblical perspective?
2. What's wrong with how arts/education/government/business is expressed or functions in our culture at the moment?
3. What would a redeemed Kingdom version of it look like and how can that be achieved?