

## **The Societal Dimension— Improving the Contextualisation of the Church**

Are our ministries designed to reproduce past models or to creatively fulfill our present mission? How can our churches resonate with secular unbelievers today? This session will share contextualization principles, tell stories of effective urban ministry, and help you rethink your church's posture to society and culture.

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### **I. A Case Study From Rome**



### **II. Vision: embodying a communal evangelistic dynamic for post-modern urban Europe**

### **III. Our Relational Context**

- A. Extension of young adulthood
- B. Tribalization of society
- C. Fragmentation of the family
- D. Hunger for (and dread of) community  
Conviction: planting circles of belonging is the most effective strategy today

### **IV. Toward a Relational Dynamic**

- A. Congregational process (instead of events or traditions)
- B. Evangelistic community (instead of evangelistic events)
- C. A relational paradigm (belong > believe > behave) that helps people grow in all three and experience increasing levels of repentance, faith, and participation, instead of
  - 1. Traditional evangelical model (believe > behave > belong)
  - 2. Secularized protestant model (believing without belonging)
  - 3. Secularized catholic model (belonging without believing)



## V. Applying the Process

### A. Sunday worship

1. Cultural contextualization
2. Religious contextualization
3. Inclusive preaching
  - a. Vocabulary of journey (as we call people to increasing levels of repentance)
  - b. Inclusive language (“we” instead of “us” vs. “them”)
  - c. Urban sensibility
  - d. Assumption of intelligence
  - e. Grace-focused preaching that speaks to believers and non-believers
  - f. Welcoming dynamic that is sensitive to non-believers

### B. Congregational process

1. Raise awareness among congregation
2. Hold catalytic events (social gathering and/or public proclamation)
3. Sow the gospel
4. Invite people to make a conscious and mature decision for Christ
5. Celebrate decisions
6. Forward for discipleship
7. Seeker Bible Studies
  - a. The concept
  - b. How to incorporate them into the regular rhythm
  - c. How to lead them

## VI. Conclusion: Shaping the Culture – What is Celebrated?

- A. What is your main step?
- B. What is your next step?