

Church Revitalisation

A 10 Week Online Training Course
Session Seven : working on the societal dimension

The societal dimension

Improving the contextualisation of the church.

To help Christians live their lives in the contemporary world

- Not to live in a totally parallel world to the rest of the population
- To understand and believe the Bible faced with today's challenges
- To build bridges to unbelievers and see the needs of society outside the church

The societal dimension

Culture is all encompassing

“Culture is the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses not only art and literature but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”

Definition of UNESCO

The societal dimension

Improving the contextualization of the church

- ❖ Local culture
- ❖ National culture
- ❖ Postmodern European culture

The societal dimension

Culture is

- a gift from God to give us identity
- simplifies our daily life
- contributes to our mental representation of the world

But the danger is when there is confusion between culture and nature : this comes from “plausibility structures” (Peter Berger).

The societal dimension

Improving the contextualisation of the church.

“The men of Issachar, who understood the times and know what Israel should do”
(1 Chronicles 12.32)

1. To help Christians live their lives in the contemporary world
In other words, to help us face the challenges of our time
As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 8-10 concerning food offered to idols
2. To build bridges to unbelievers
In other words, to contribute to the plausibility of our faith

The societal dimension

The importance of plausibility in today's world

- “What isn't dismissed immediately”
- “What is included in the field of the possible”

Plausible > desirable > credible

I must check this out > I like it > Is it true?

