



Hope for Kingdom impact in a post- Christian postmodern city

A perspective from Amsterdam

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Culture of authenticity

- Our brain is trained to ask what is good for me? ultimate personal freedom and development.
- To express and live out your feelings is not an option, it is a must. If you are not acting out of your authentic feeling, you sin against yourself.

CUTURAL IDOLS: (Gertjan Roest, CtCAmsterdam)

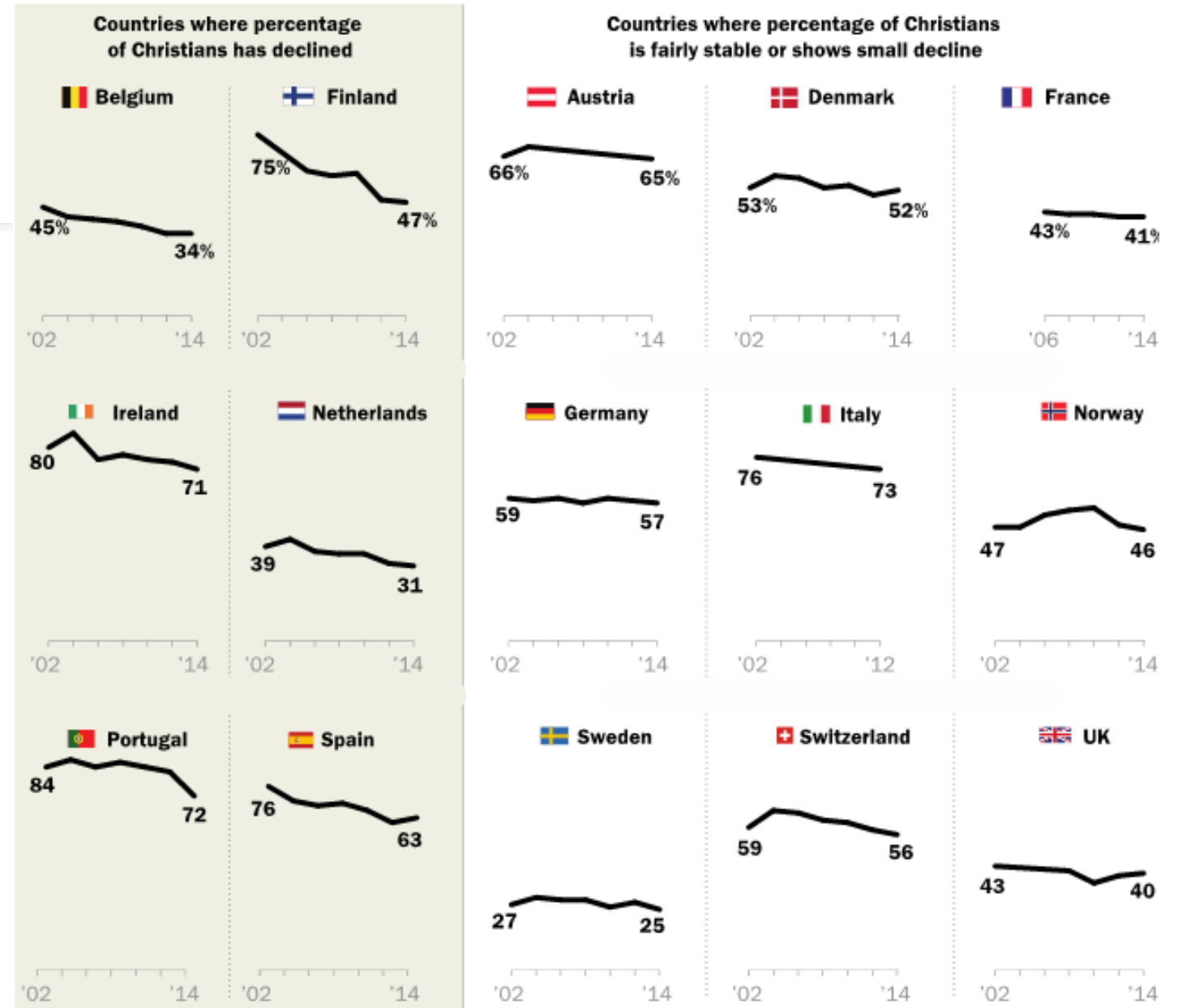
- The focus on the power we adore and trust: the power of human agency
- The focus on the kind of person we adore and want to be: free and individual, self-sufficient and self-cultivating
- The focus on this life: the centeredness on immanent prosperity and security

Idols from (Roest, p 318 -319)

Post-Christian reality in Western Europe

In several Western European countries, recent declines in Christian identity

% who say they belong to a Christian denomination



Post-Christian, WHY?

- Christianity intertwined with political power - instead of being a Kingdom movement

In writing about the thousand-year golden age of Christianity in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, Phillip Jenkin remarked, Christianity might have survived indefinitely in these lands had not Christianity, in part, “lost most of its vigor, and became the cultural badge of yet another hill tribe.”

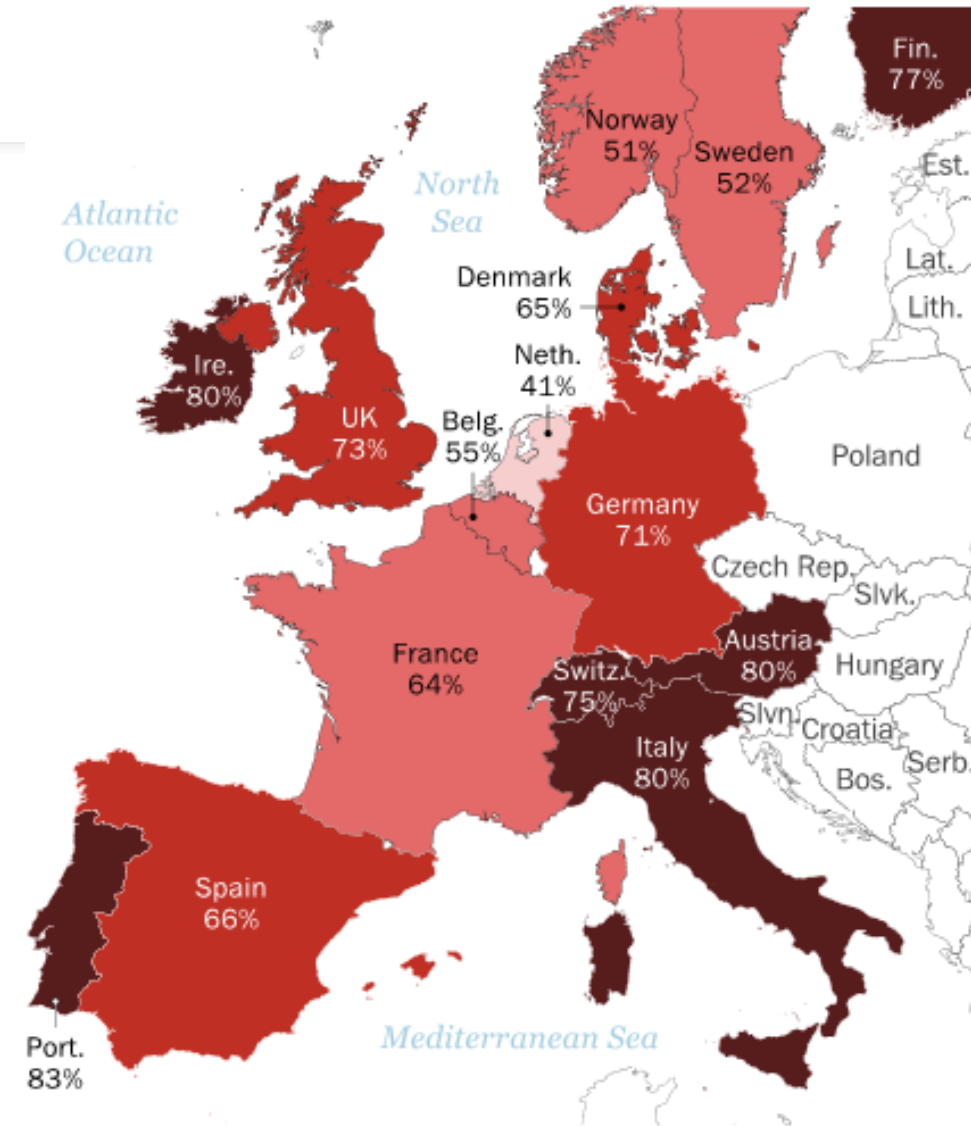
Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia- and How It Died*. New York: HarperOne, 2009. p. 240.

- Powerless faith & spirituality – (drifting away from scripture, the work of the Spirit and discipleship)

Majorities across Western Europe identify as Christian

% who say they are Christian

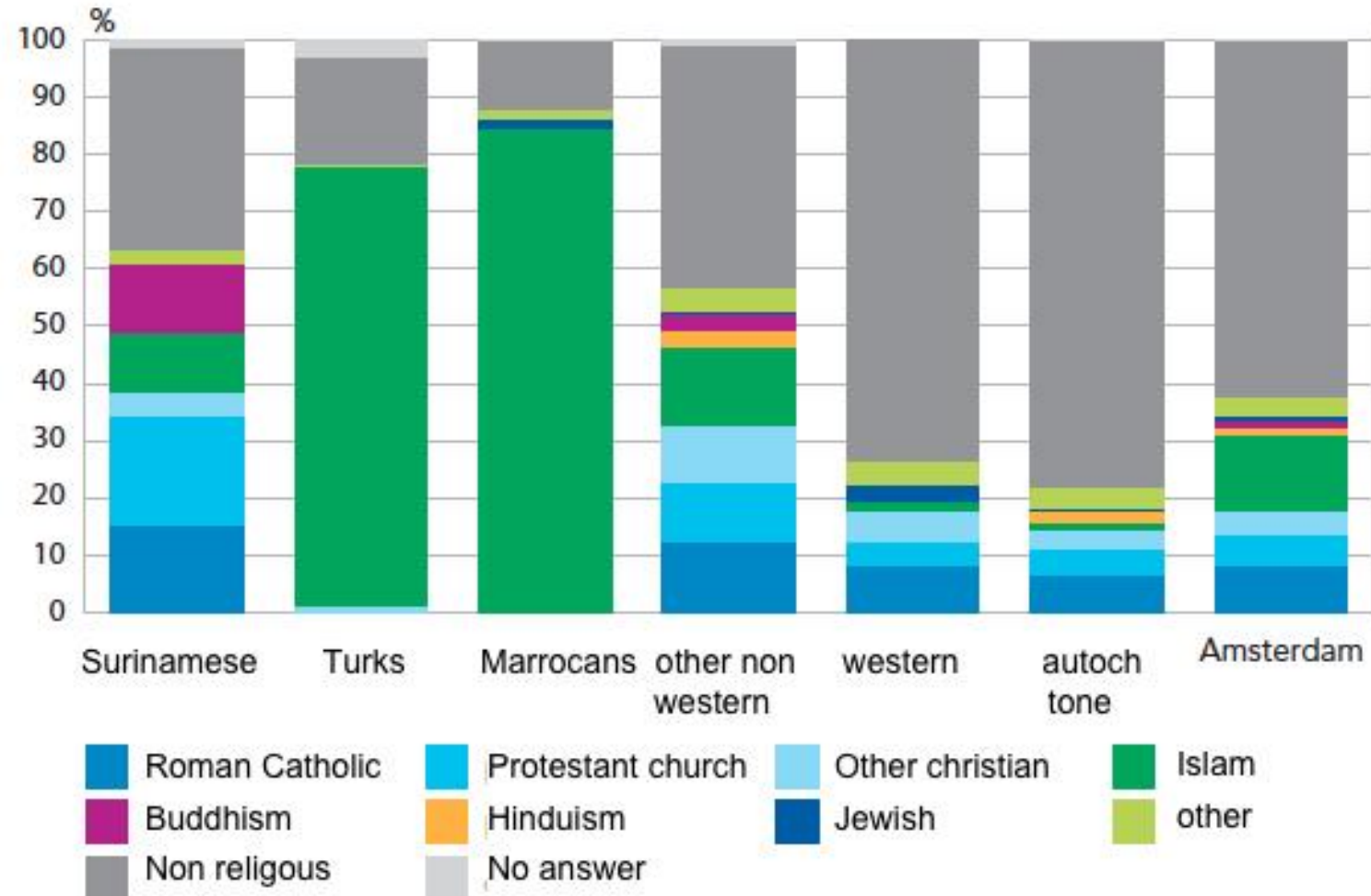
0-49% 50-64% 65-74% 75%+ Non-surveyed country



Post Christian reality in Amsterdam

People somewhat regularly engaged
in a church community in
Amsterdam.

Estimated 3.5% of the population
2% of these are migrants





Post-Christian Challenges for the Church

- Long process of church decline & loss of 'Christian culture'.
- Biblical values are diffused, Church is no longer perceived as relevant
- There is strong common understanding in the contemporary mind-set that Christianity is something of the past; something that has been tried and did not work. The Church and the Christian message seem to be the least logical place to turn to for answers or help.
- After 3 generations post-Christian reality, there is hardly any residue of elements from the Bible, gospel or what a church actually is.

ACCEPTANCE

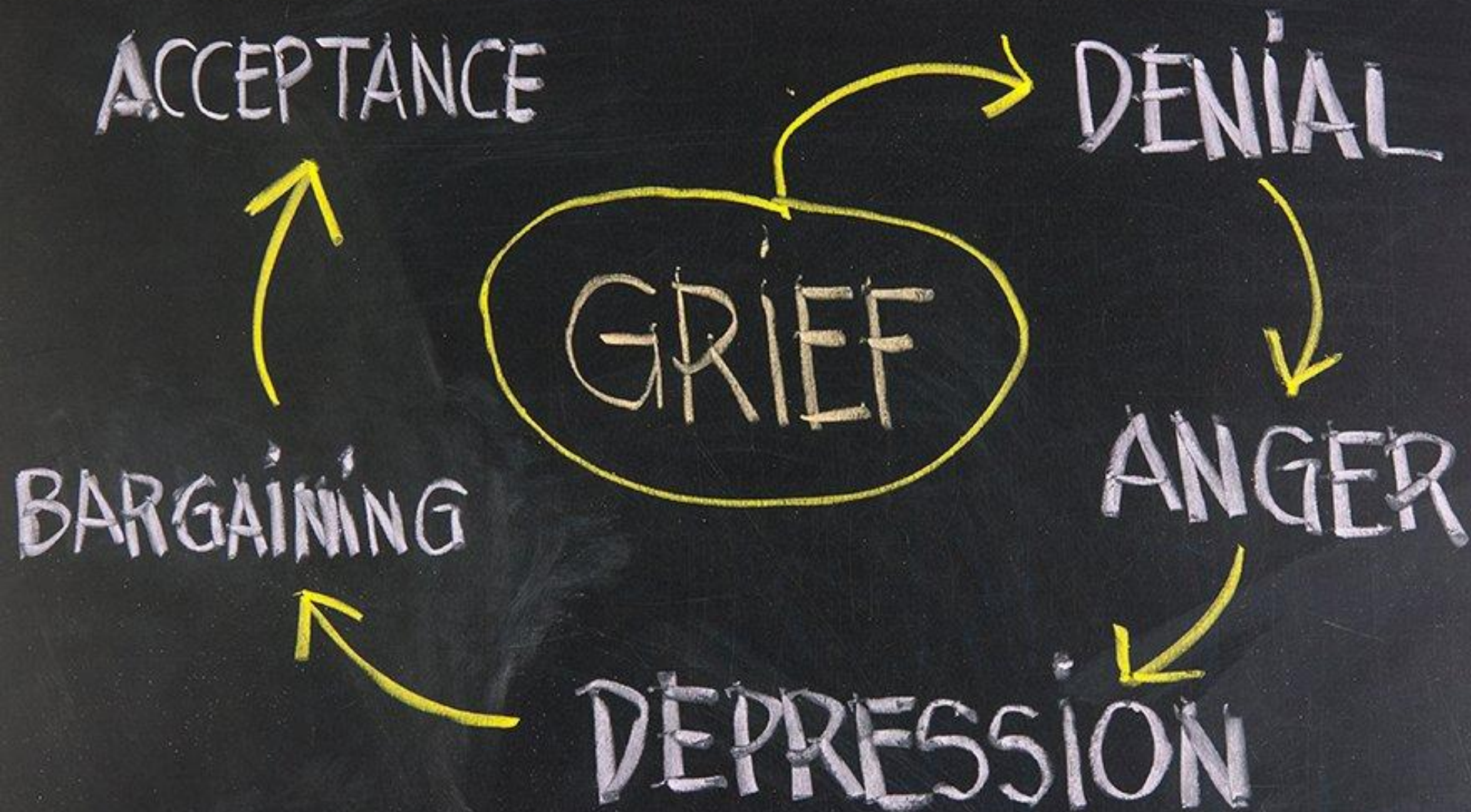
DENIAL

GRIEF

ANGER

DEPRESSION

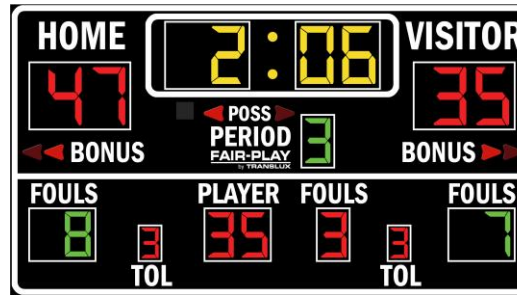
BARGAINING





The whole church is needed as one ecclesia to work together to see the city's spiritual alienation, pain and brokenness changed and moving towards a floursing destiny, through faith, hope and love - from the good news of the gospel of the Kingdom of God

- **DO WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO PUT THE SCOREBOARD OF THE SUCCES OF OUR CHURCH / MINISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY/ CITY AND NOT IN OUR OWN ORGANISATION?**



Churches move from Grief to mission and innovation

My message “is not the desperate attempt to safeguard myself and others from becoming post-Christians. Rather, it is the invitation to move beyond the post-Christian condition. The question is not – how one can still be a Christian? – but – how one can already be a post-post-Christian?” (de Wit, 2011, p. 5).

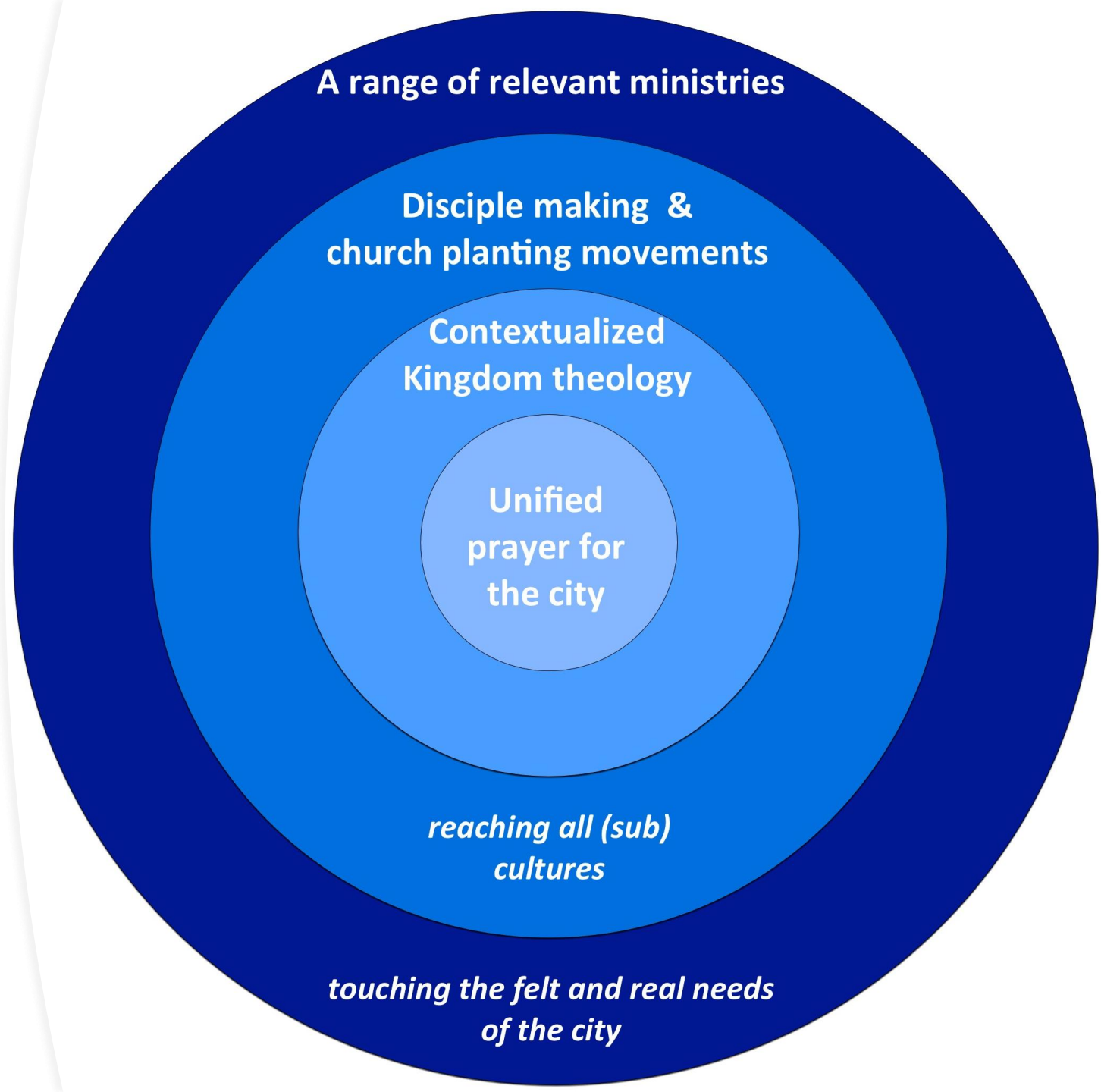


Rom 1:16-17

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation^[1] of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith' (Rom. 1:16-17).

[1] The Greek word used for salvation (Strong's nr. g4991) in this passage is derived from the word *sozo* (wholeness) (Strong's nr. g4982).

A KINGDOM eco system in the city





Transformational response – courage to put our scoreboard in the city

We cannot afford to be separated as churches, denominations and christian ministries
→ **growing as a Kingdom Eco-system**

We cannot afford to be prayerless → **15 years of 24x7x365 prayer for the Church and the city**

We cannot afford to be internally focussed → **studing the city, our culture the realities and destinies of the city together.**

We cannot afford to be percieved irrelevant → **performing Faith Impact studies – measuring the civic and social impact of the church in the city & initiating transformational conversations with social, civic and marketplace partners**

We cannot afford to be disengaged → **growing to be missional, redeeming the lostenss, the pain and the brokenness of the city and contribute to its flourishing**

We cannot afford to hide the gospel → **serious effort and collaboration to contextualize the gospel for the Amsterdam culture and realities, live it out and share it with boldness. There is a better story ... real good news of the Kingdom**

We cannot afford to be absent → **train every beleiver as Kingdom Ambassdor in their sphere of influence, release apostels and prophets in the marketplace**



Counter cultural communities -> changing culture inside out

A Community of praise (acknowledging Jesus as Lord) and thanksgiving
(Acknowledging goodness of the Father)

A Community of truth (disciples of Christ, submitted to Him as the truth and the life)

A community of servanthood, that does not live for itself but is deeply involved in the concerns of its neighborhood.

A Community of priests, people who take up their priestly role in the daily business of the world

A community of mutual responsibility. If the Church is to be effective in advocating and achieving a new social order in the nation, it must itself be a new social order.

A community of hope, living as a sign, instrument, and foretaste of God's redeeming grace for the whole life of society.

A community of the Kingdom – agents of blessing, reconciling, serving and proclaiming through the power of the Holy Spirit

Newbigin, Lesslie. The Gospel in a Pluralist Society . Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition.(Loc. 4253-4344 of 5182)