

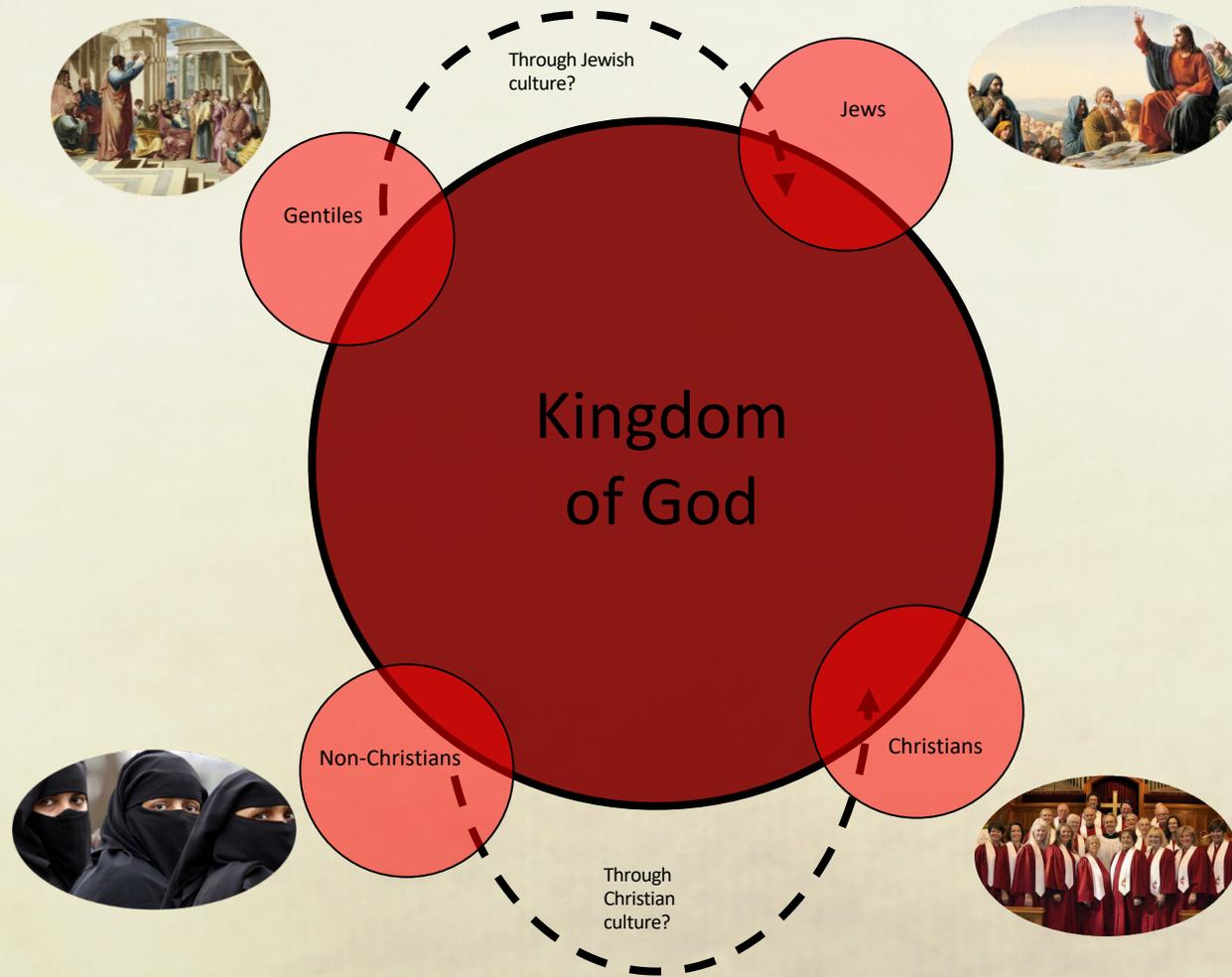


Matthew 13:45-46





empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus



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1 Corinthians 7:17-24

¹⁷ Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches.

Jew or Gentile = religious identity (circumcision)

²⁰ Yes, each of you should remain as you were when God called you.

Slave or Free = social identity

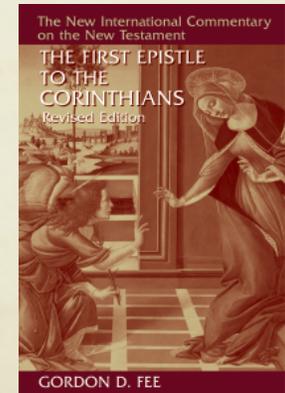
²⁴ Each of you, dear brothers and sisters, should remain as you were when God first called you.

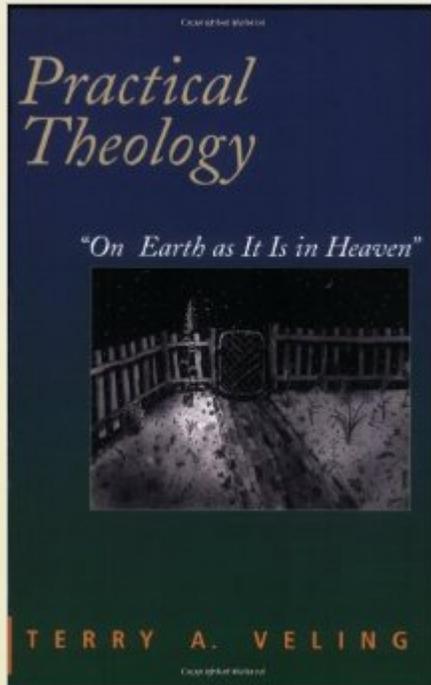
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

They are to live out their Christian lives in the situation where God called them. Vs 18-19 apply this to ethno-religious life (being Jew or Gentile), which now counts for nothing. There are no exceptions here: let each one *remain* in his/her calling.

Paul has seen clearly the implications of this issue for the gospel. Allow change here, and the cross is effectually negated, because such a change for religious reasons attaches significance to status as such. This in effect destroys grace as God's way of salvation.

Whatever your situation was at the time of your call, don't let that become a concern to you. One's calling in Christ raises one above that urgency.





I cannot respect the dignity of another human being, or enter into a dialogue with another human being without at the same time respecting the dignity of their culture, entering into dialogue with their culture, seeking better to understand their culture.

Terry Veling

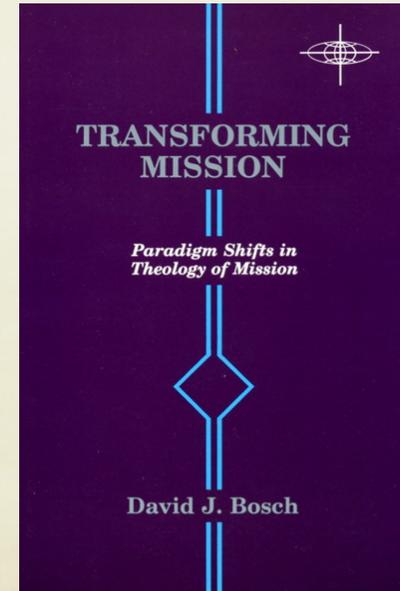
The gospel is not presented in a vacuum, but in and through a language, a culture and a world view situated in a particular location at a specific moment in history.

Les Henson



David Bosch “Transforming Mission” pg 297

- *The gospel always comes to people in cultural robes. There is no such thing as a “pure” gospel, isolated from culture.*





Mark 5:1-20

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