

DISCIPLESHIP: THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL



THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL

- The Church has a **prophetic obligation** to reveal to the world the Glory of God. This is the primary mission given to God's **remnant people**.
 - The church's mission must not primarily be to increase the church's membership.
 - The first work of mission is to bring salvation in Jesus to the world; church membership is a by- product.
 - Unfortunately, we formulate our ministry plans by what seems to produce numbers.
 - If ministry is done **God's way**, there will be better numbers in the end.
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THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL

- Seventh-day Adventists believe that the "three- angels messages" of **Revelation 14** is the mission statement of God's remnant people.
 - The church must do ministry in keeping with that commission.
 - the first message is the calling of all nations to **give glory to God** and worship the Creator;
 - the second is announcing that Babylon is fallen; **shame**
 - the third is teaching the **undesirable consequences** of having the "mark of the beast."
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THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL

- Note, also, that these messages proclaim the **characteristics of the remnant**: they **keep** God's commandments and remain **faithful** to Jesus.
 - The church's ministries must proclaim all of these truths.
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THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL

- Unfortunately, Adventists have often made Rev **14:12** the central message – God's people will be keeping His commandments and following Him.
 - The core message becomes the **emphasis on the remnant—on human beings**.
 - However, the focus of the message should be on **the One who deserves our worship**.
 - No value of the remnant's commandment “keeping” and “faithfulness” if not bringing Glory to God?
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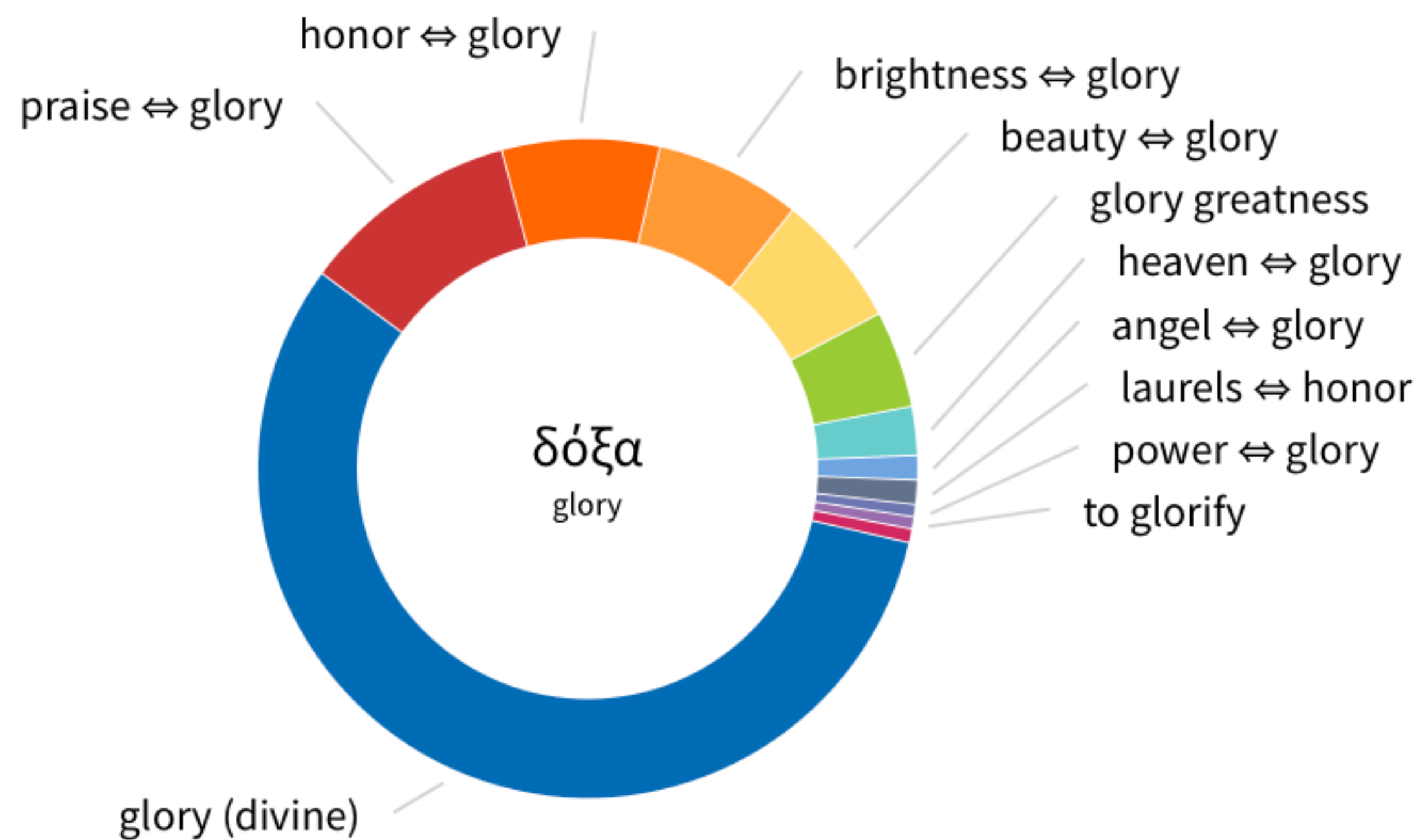
THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL

- "Babylon is fallen" – important message, only because it reveals that God's Character has been vindicated. **Only He deserves our worship.**
 - The **third** angel – emphasizes the **true worship** of God, by contrast with false worship of the beast that is doomed to destruction.
 - The messages of the second and third angel are in **response to and in explanation of the first**: "Give glory to God and worship Him."
 - **The Remnant are those who do that!**
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THE GLORY OF GOD MODEL

- The ministry and **mission of the remnant people** of God is primarily to **"reveal the glory of God"** by attracting people to truly worship their creator.
 - "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. **The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory**" (Ellen White 1911: 9).
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▼ SENSES



- ▶ glory (divine) 95 of 168
- ▶ praise ⇌ glory 18 of 168
- ▶ honor ⇌ glory 13 of 168
- ▶ brightness ⇌ glory 12 of 168
- ▶ beauty ⇌ glory 11 of 168

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THE MEANING OF "GIVE GLORY TO GOD"

- Heb. kābôd (**glory**) - the idea of "worth," "**honor**."
 - "Glory" is an **attribute of God**, as well as our **recognition of His worthiness**.
 - In a visible sense it seems to mean "**radiance**," is especially related to the **light that radiates from God's presence**. Adam & Eve – clothed in light.
 - The glory of God, conceived of as the **revelation of his character**, is the loftiest of truths.
 - "The glory of God is not . . . a particularized attribute like the wisdom of God **but an attribute of the total nature of God**, virtually an attribute of the attributes."
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THE MEANING OF "GIVE GLORY TO GOD"

- God's glory is all the good characteristics that God reveals about Himself – love, mercy, justice, wisdom, power.
 - “When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Exodus 33:27 (NIV)
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What is the purpose of the church?

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. The Great Commission is first to "delight yourself in the LORD" (Ps. 37:4) and then to declare, "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy" (Ps. 67:4). In this way, God will be glorified from beginning to end, and worship will empower the missionary enterprise until the coming of the Lord.

JOHN PIPER

GLORY OF GOD MODEL OF WORSHIP

VISION OF GOD'S GLORY: WHO GOD IS?

I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said: . . .

VISION OF WHO WE ARE?

⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

VISION OF THE INCARNATION

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.

MISSION IN TERMS OF GIVING GLORY TO GOD

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Isaiah 6: 1-8

THE CHURCH'S MISSION—TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GLORY

“At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known.** Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the **light of His glory**, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth. Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. **The children of God are to manifest His glory.** In their own life and character they are **to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.**” (Ellen White 1900:415-416)

HOLISTIC DISCIPLESHIP

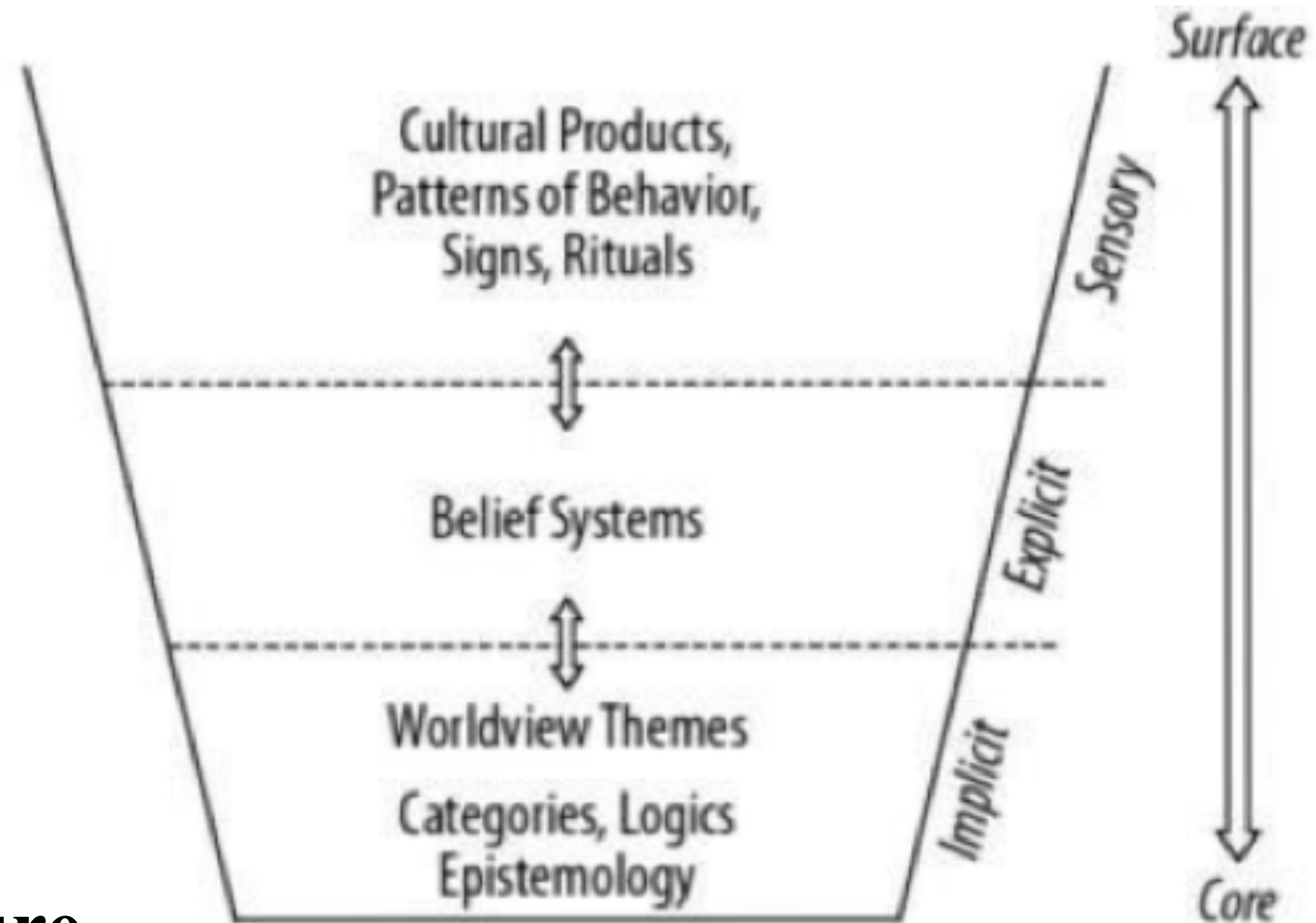


Figure 1. Levels of culture.

Note. Reprinted from *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change* (p. 33), by P. G. Hiebert, 2008, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

The "fundamental cognitive, affective, and evaluative presuppositions a group of people make about the nature of things, and which they use to order their lives."

Worldviews are what people in a community take as given realities, the maps they have of reality that they use for living.

Conversion may include a change in beliefs and behavior, but if the worldview is not transformed, in the long run the gospel is subverted and the result is a syncretistic Christo-paganism, which has the form of Christianity but not its essence. Christianity becomes a new magic and a new, subtler form of idolatry.

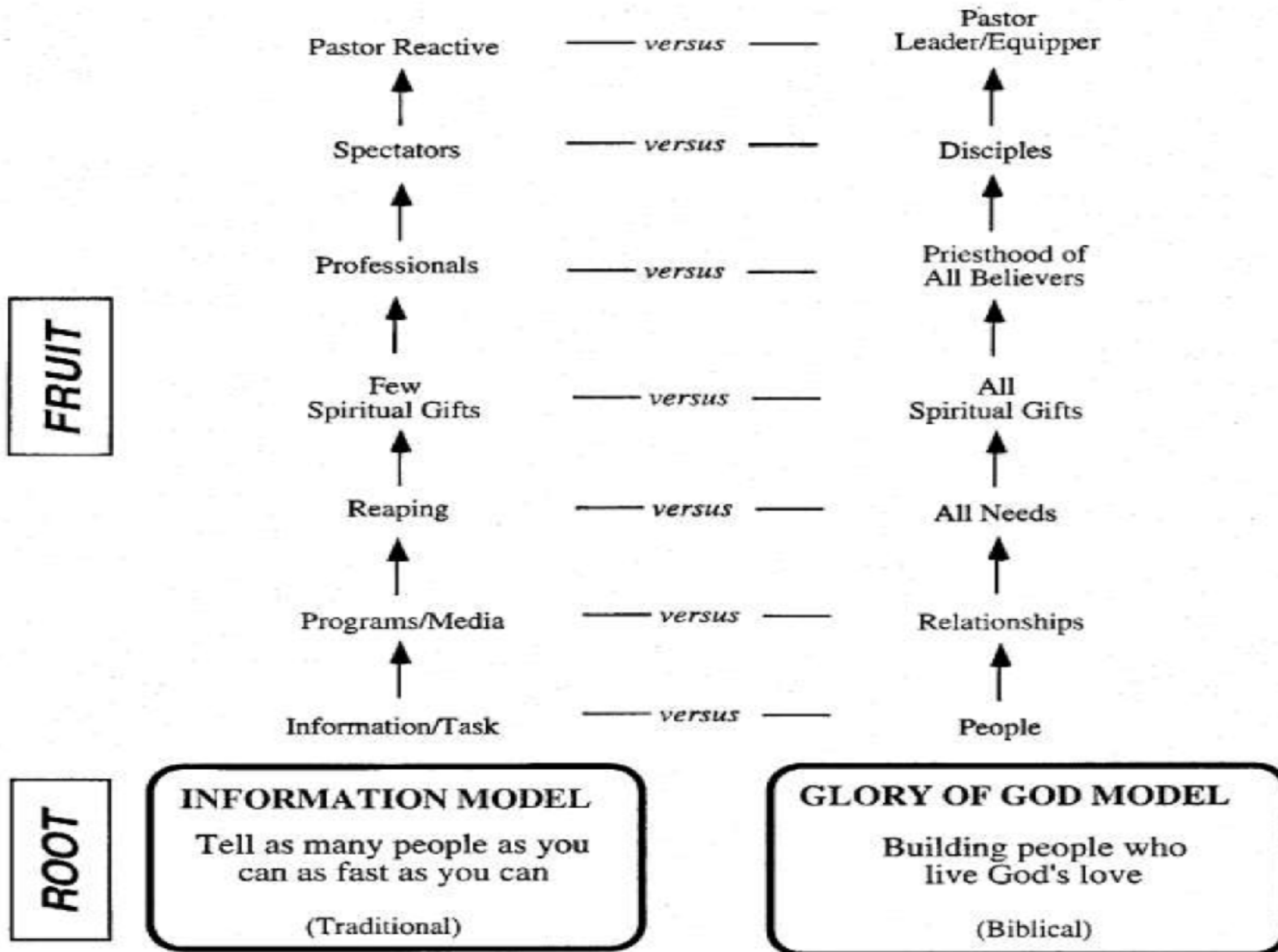
DOING CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE “GLORY OF GOD” MODEL

- The **traditional** Adventist worship model has been the **Informational** Model, which is based on the philosophy of **telling the information “to as many people as you can as fast as you can.”**
 - The church has truth to share, and it has promoted many good ways to share those truths with the world.
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DOING CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE “GLORY OF GOD” MODEL

- When this is the primary model, the church will fail to fulfill the mission of every disciple giving God glory.
 - This model results in the emphasis of evangelism centering on a few (“professionals”) who have the gifts of evangelism, preaching, and teaching – only a few of the gifts listed in Scripture.
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TWO MODELS OF CHURCH



DOING CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE “GLORY OF GOD” MODEL

- The **Glory of God model**, on the other hand emphasizes “**building people who live God’s love.**”
 - The church working from this model will **reach out to people in relationships.**
 - This requires the **use of every spiritual gift** since **different people are attracted to God’s glory in different ways.**
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DOING CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE “GLORY OF GOD” MODEL

“Churches developed during the Modern era generally exist to dispense information. **Unbelievers become Christians by receiving new information** and grow in Christ to become leaders through enhanced understandings. The role of the preaching minister or pastor is that of teacher, dispensing information to the flock. **Churches thus became cognitive groups** ascribing to a set of teachings and meeting for a few hours each week in a palace of bricks and mortar to receive additional teaching. God, however, expects more. He desires that his people not only know about him but that they also **walk personally with him**. Enoch.

DOING CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE “GLORY OF GOD” MODEL

Envision churches full of people whose lives exist in relationship with God, where members passionately, wholeheartedly pursue full devotion to Christ. **As Christians look toward the glory of God, they are ‘being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord’ (2 Cor 3:18). Like the early Christian church, they devote ‘themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer’ (Acts 2:42)” (Van Rheezen 2004).**

MINISTRY AND STRATEGIES WILL BE FORMULATED TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD

- When church leaders are motivated to really lead the members to walk with God and reveal His glory, evangelism will truly happen.

“When the glory of God himself saturates our preaching and teaching and conversation and writings, and when he predominates above our talk of methods and strategies and psychological buzz words and cultural trends, then the people might begin to feel that the central reality of their lives and that the spread of his glory is more important than all their possessions and all their plans.” (Piper 1993, 38)

MINISTRY AND STRATEGIES WILL BE FORMULATED TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD

- **The biggest job of leaders is not to produce good programs for the church, but to help the church look at what they are now doing and evaluate each aspect as to its place in the mission of the remnant.**
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MINISTRY AND STRATEGIES WILL BE FORMULATED TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD

- Lesslie Newbigin (1995) sees mission as being threefold: “**Faith in Action,**” “**Love in Action,**” and “**Hope in Action.**” If Christians are truly disciples reflecting God’s glory, their faith, love, and hope will show itself in action. They will reveal in their lives that they are secure in God, they will show an **unselfish love** in all they do, and they will be involved in their communities **giving people hope** in their struggles.
 - In a church of 200, **evangelism will be happening in 200 ways**, not just one. **The Holy Spirit will guide them** in how to do His work.
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