



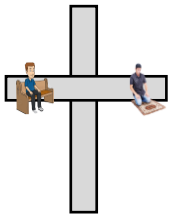
## Theological Education Discussions #4: Culture, Context, Change & the Gospel

### The Inevitability of Culture – Acts 17:26-27; Revelation 7:9-10

- Culture is what makes you a stranger when you are away from home
- Culture is a pattern of beliefs, values, and behaviours
- Countries will have cultures; workplaces will have a culture, a church will have a culture
- There is no one 'right' culture but we feel comfortable in the culture we're familiar with
- Sometimes the cultures we're in war with each other: e.g. church vs. workplace culture



### The Need for Contextualization – 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23; Acts 2:1-11



- It's hard to move from culture to culture
- We often don't understand the 'why' of other cultures
- The gospel is not chained to one culture
- New Testament Christians might be horrified by the way our churches operate
- Sometimes we confuse something in our culture with the gospel- such as the right way to worship
- We must separate the eternal truth of God from our culture so we don't create barriers to evangelism & outreach

### The Crisis of Change – Acts 11: 1-18; 1 Cor. 9: 19-23; Acts 6: 1-7

- God brings change so that we may reach new people -
- Change is always hard, often is misunderstood or opposed
- Change must be led by the Holy Spirit and must serve God's kingdom



### The Danger of Compromise – Romans 12:2

- In any change, we cannot do evil to try and bring good – Rev. 2: 12-17
- We cannot change things or organize in ways just to make us feel comfortable – Rev. 3:14-22
- We are to be IN the world but not OF the world – John 17:6

TED Talks™ are a worldwide phenomenon. The TED organization began as a conference in 1984 to provide short and powerful talks on what it called "Ideas That Matter" in the fields of Technology, Education & Design. Now, in addition to conferences, it produces 100's of widely viewed short videos on a huge variety of topics.

Our Queensway version of TED Talks will focus on particular key ideas about what It means to be 'the Church' in a fast changing world. Drawn from Biblical references and key ideas from theologians and church leaders, our Theological Education Discussions will come regularly and will provide a 5 -7 minute look that will help us as a community to focus on our purposes, organization, & tasks.

Please use this page at home to reflect upon in the light of who we are as a church today. Open up your Bible to check the references, and then think and pray about what you've read. As we all do this, we will be opening ourselves to the leading of God's Spirit in our church community.