

*Are We*  
**Accelerating** or **Inhibiting**  
*Movements to Christ?*

# #1: Identity as Believer

## Accelerating: Preserve insider Identity

- Gospel is perceived as “inside”, “natural” to their culture.
- Encouraged to keep ID in order to each their own.
- Remain in culture. If culture is strongly intertwined with religion they are free to follow Jesus while remain “inside” ethno-religious id.

## Inhibiting: Establish foreign Identity

- Gospel is perceived as “foreign”, “outside” their culture.
- New believers ID as Christians, seen to have left ethno-religious identity.
- Expelled by family and community or coerced to return from “foreign religion”.

# #2: Communities

## Penetrate Existing communities with the Gospel

- Remain in and cultivate families even if fellowship is curtailed for a while.
- Start fellowships in families
- Women play important role in reaching family and discipling next generation
- Witness through existing and new relationships and reach own.
- Arranged marriages may result with Gospel spreading into new families/communities

## Extract believers into New communities

- New believers are shunned by their own breaking them apart.
- Create new communities with other believers – limited ability to witness to their former communities.
- Women play vital role in connecting communities together
- Gospel has difficulty to spread – seen as foreign religion
- Arranged marriages to coerce converts back into their traditional ethno-religious identity

# #3: Leadership

## Cultivate Local Leadership

- New believers can lead with appropriate mentoring and discipling.
- Locals are leaders from the start for fellowship in their family or community
- Biblical training suited for lay leaders.
- May have natural leaders who don't meet criteria for elders.
- Elders selected to connect local fellowships in larger kingdom community but don't replace other leaders.
- Persecution- meet separate with leaders visiting to encourage and teach
- Persecution is low, may occasionally meet in larger meetings

## Start with Foreign Leadership

- Foreigners are leaders as the believers don't know each other.
- Leadership is for the mature, with seminary training.
- Elders must be appointed as there are no natural leaders when people don't know each other.
- Sometimes professional pastors may work together to connect their churches.
- Persecution – meet in houses and wait for freedom to go into church buildings
- Low persecution meet in church buildings and seek to grow the size of the church

# #4: Fellowship

## Emphasis: community-oriented

- Emphasis on relationships and community
- Existing patterns of community are redeemed for Jesus-oriented fellowship and meet also on other occasions
- Meets in homes or self-built buildings not built with outside help and not called “church”.
- Informal gathering led by lay leaders so that Gospel can spread into other communities. Reaching unreached rather than organizing the reached is the emphasis.

## Emphasis: Meeting-oriented

- Fellowship built around meetings and structure.
- Meet on Sundays and similar to foreign ways of “doing church”.
- Meet in buildings often built with outside money. Can’t pay for it themselves.
- Begin at first focusing on outreach but then organizational matters often consume much of their time. (e.g. planning worship, prepare sermons, administration)

# #5: Practices

## Contextualized: Gatherings, worship and sacraments

- Bible is only authority for fellowships forms/customs and other are develop consistent to local culture.
- Develop own practices for gatherings/worship normal for their culture.
- Develop Biblically based practices for baptism and Communion that fits local context and culture
- Use contextualized terms and concepts in their own language and contextualized translation of the Bible

## Foreign church practices for gatherings, worship, sacraments

- Gravitates towards foreign forms, customs as they are shown how to fellowship and worship by foreigners.
- Foreign traditions often carry as much weight as Scripture in determining “how to do church”.
- May use foreign terms and concepts including a non-contextualized Bible translation.

# #6: Doctrine

## Develop contextualized doctrine

- Bible only authority and believers are free to develop their own contextualized perspectives on controversial doctrines.
- H/S is primary guide “into all truth” (Jn 16:13) not church traditions or people.
- Develop habit to seek self for answers instead of relying on seminary-trained professionals.
- Believers are given freedom to pursue “insider” identities.
- “Insider” believers may develop own contextualized doctrines w/out being judged. (Acts 15 and Romans 14:1)

## Accept traditional doctrine

- Church traditions are combined with the Bible in determining appropriate doctrine.
- Believers develop habit of relying on seminary-trained professionals in addressing doctrinal questions.
- Other Christians often pass judgment on what emerging church should believe. If it differs from Judeo-Christian traditions it may be considered as heresy even if it does have Biblical merit and Western denominations disagree on the same matters.

# #7: Independence

## Preserve Local Independence

- Pursue approaches that are locally reproducible and sustainable preserving long-term independence.
- Fellowships avoid or minimize foreign funding because it is not locally sustainable and frequently leads to foreign control.
- Send cross-cultural workers to unreached peoples, do so with minimal or no external funding.

## Accept Foreign Dependence

- Fellowships accept short-term approaches that are likely to lead to long-term dependence on outside resources.
- Fellowships frequently accept foreign funding instead of pursuing locally sustainable strategies.
- Cross-cultural workers are typically sent using partial or full foreign funding.