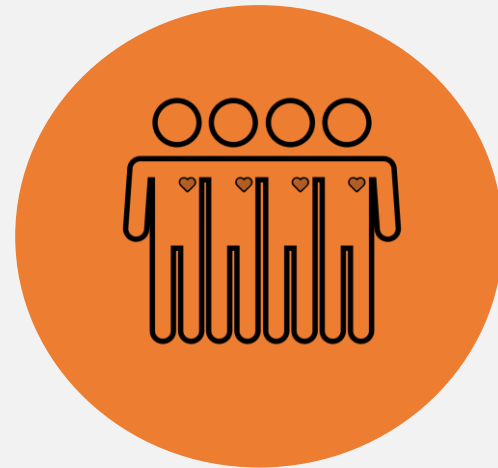


Future Faith

Challenge #9:
Belonging Before Believing
November 17, 2019



Facilitator: Dr. Greg Smith

Agenda

- Announcements, Attendance, & Prayer
- Activity: The 3 Bs of Religious Identity
- The Great Reversal
- New Norms & Impact on the Organized Church
- So What? Continuing the Conversation

The 3 Bs of Religious Identity

Believe

List as many core Christian beliefs as your group can agree on (e.g., Jesus is the son of God)

Behave

List as many essential Christian behaviors as your group can agree on (e.g., worship weekly)

Belong

List as many ways to experience Christian belonging as your group can agree on (e.g., church membership)

The Great Reversal

~~Believe → Behave → Belong~~

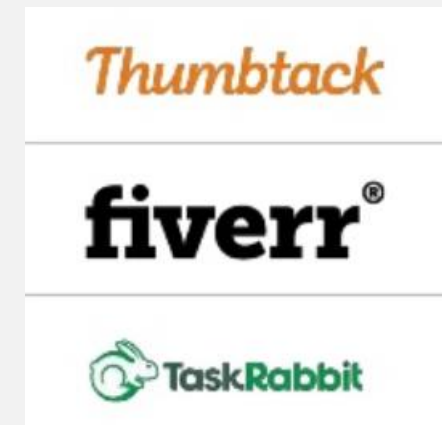
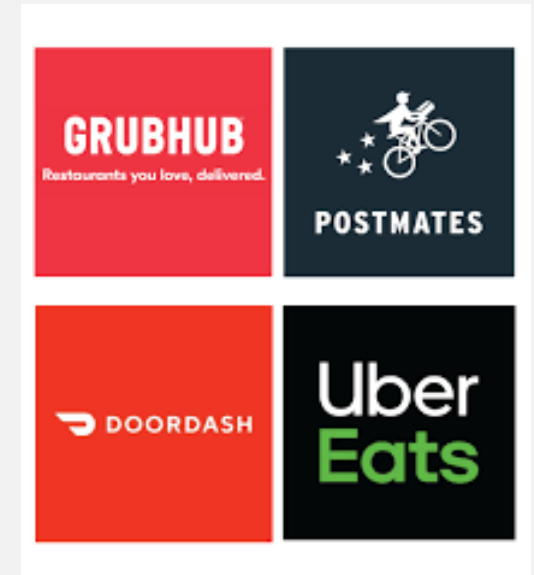
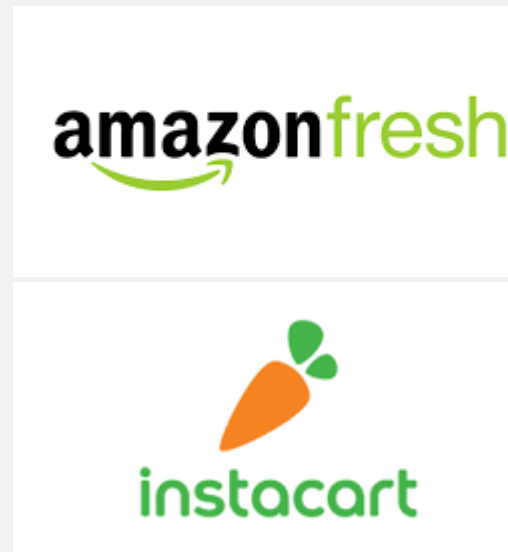
Belong → Behave → Believe



Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening (2012)

Chapter 7: The Great Reversal (p.199-216)

New Norms



Impact on the Organized Church

- #1 Less trust in and loyalty to established religious institutions
- #2 Dogma is less important than community, and relationships often transcend doctrine

“Denominations and religious institutions must reinvent the models of how they function or gradually constrict into enclaves of survival with decreasing tribes” (Future Faith, p.201).

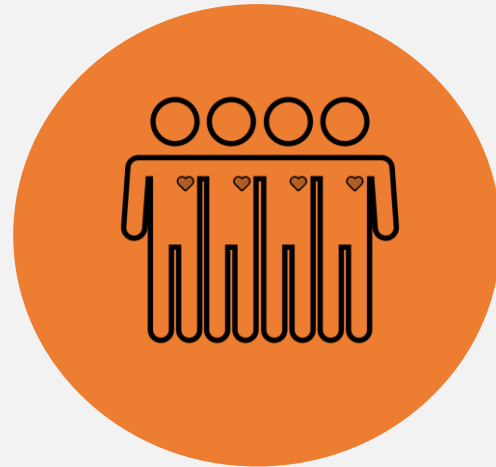
So What? Continuing the Conversation



- ✓ Recall some of your best experiences of Christian belonging. What did these share in common?
- ✓ What do you find more important: right belief (orthodoxy) or right behavior (orthopraxy)? Why?

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