MADE FOR COMMUNION

Why Community Matters

Tihomir Lazic

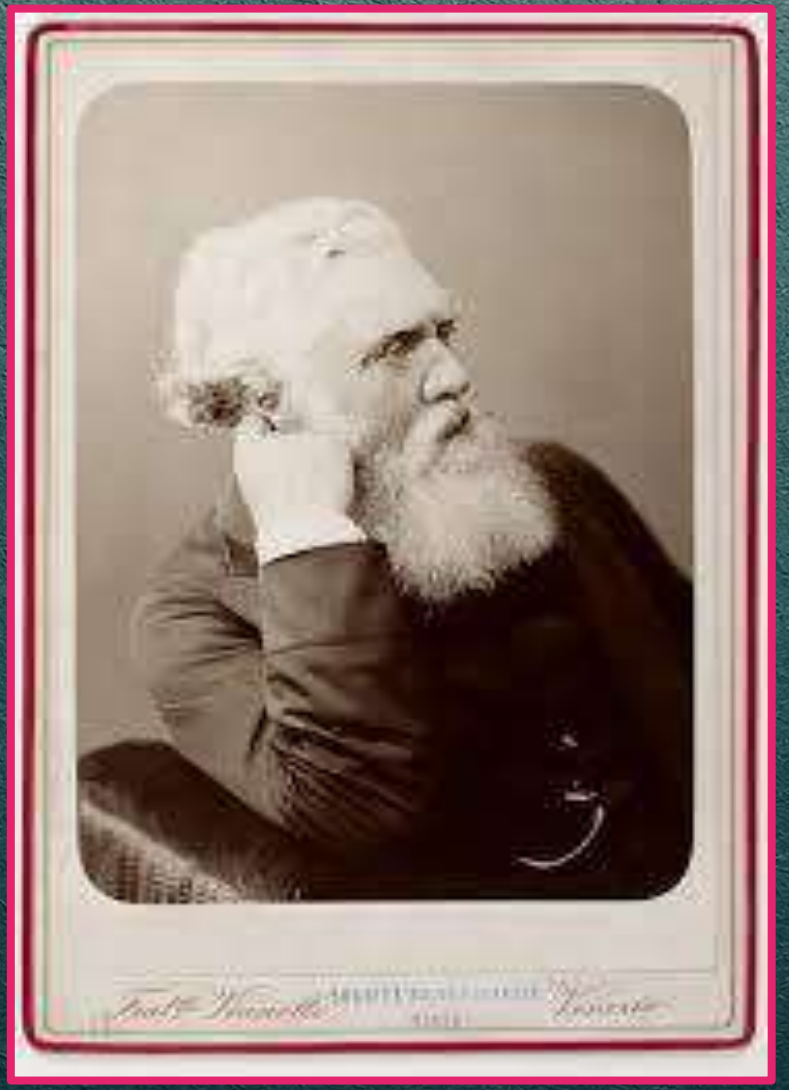
Canford school



Canford school



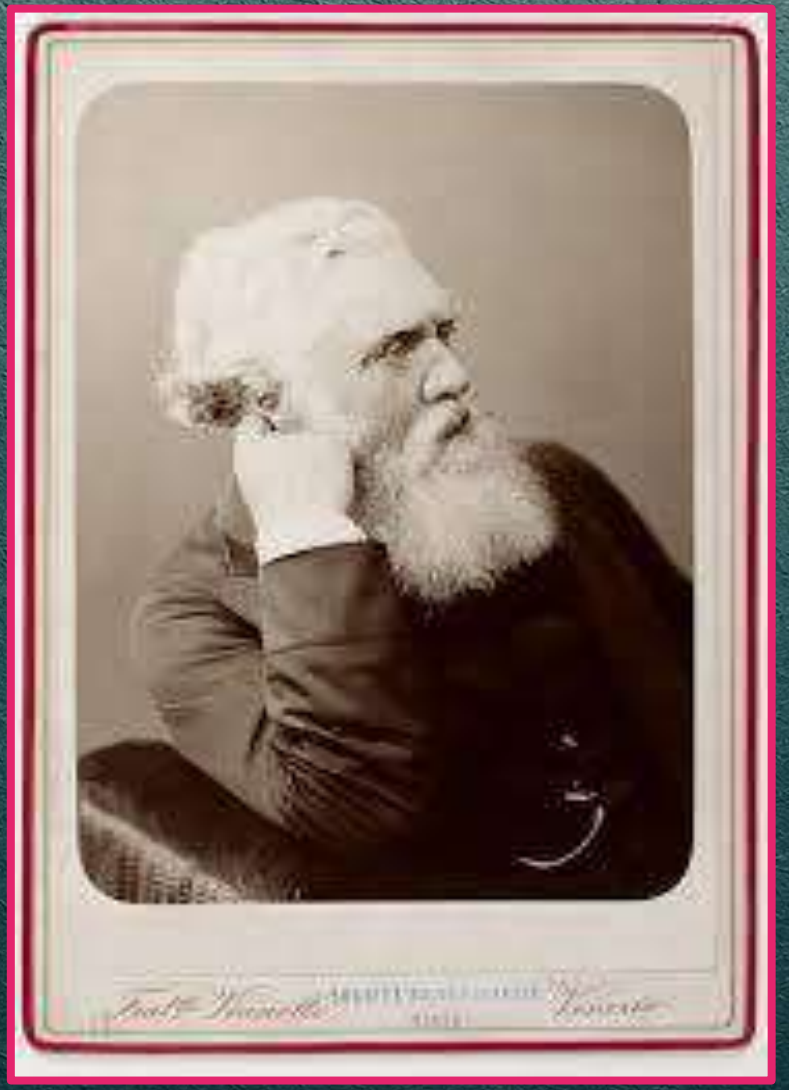
Sir Austen Henry Layard



Canford school



Sir Austen Henry Layard



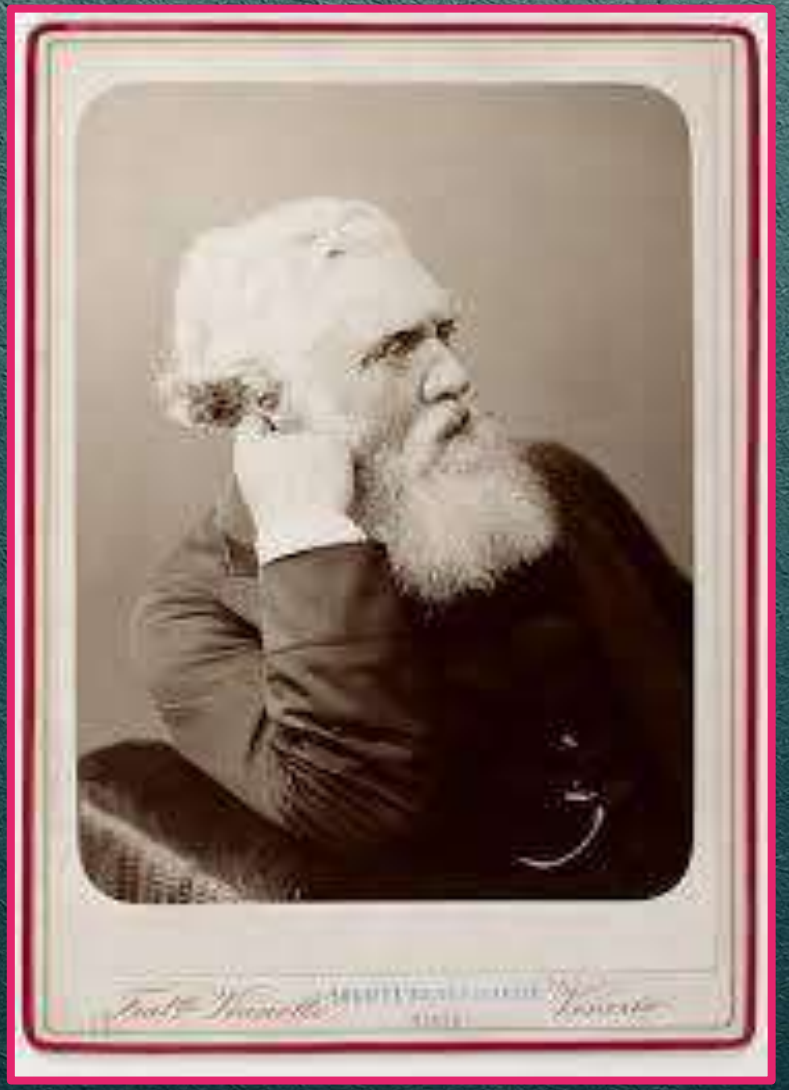


A lost Assyrian stone from the throne room of Assyrian King Assurnasirpal II (883–859 BC)

Canford school



Sir Austen Henry Layard





A lost Assyrian stone from the throne room of Assyrian King Assurnasirpal II (883–859 BC)

Canford school



Sir Austen Henry Layard



£11.9m



A lost Assyrian stone from the throne room of Assyrian King Assurnasirpal II (883–859 BC)

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Sir Austen Henry Layard



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A lost Assyrian stone from the throne room of Assyrian King Assurnasirpal II (883–859 BC)

WHAT'S CHANGED?

Once we see things for what they really are, we change our attitude towards them.

Putting things intO

PERSPECTIVE

This invites us to readjust
our estimations, our evaluations,
and behaviours as a result.

COMMUNITY

Putting things intO

PERSPECTIVE



CHURCH UNDER CROSSFIRE

THE SEARCH FOR THE AUTHENTIC SELF



EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

FIVE CORE CONFICTIONS

Interiority (real self is within)

Desire (feelings/intuitions/desire define identity)

Uniqueness (each self is irreducible)

Expression (must be outwardly expressed)

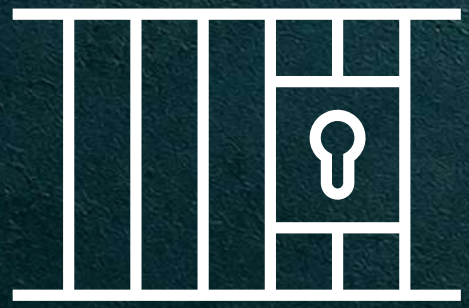
Authenticity (life must align with inner self)



BE YOURSELF!

CULTURAL MANTRA OF OUR GENERATION

church, tradition, institutions, community = **restrictive**



Where the Search Leads

Changing Patterns of Believing and Belonging

- SBNR
- SBNA
- Religious Nones
- De-churched
- Unchurched
- Post-Christian
- Disaffiliated
- Spiritual Nomads
- Spiritual Independents
- Free-range believers
- Churchless believers

TENSION

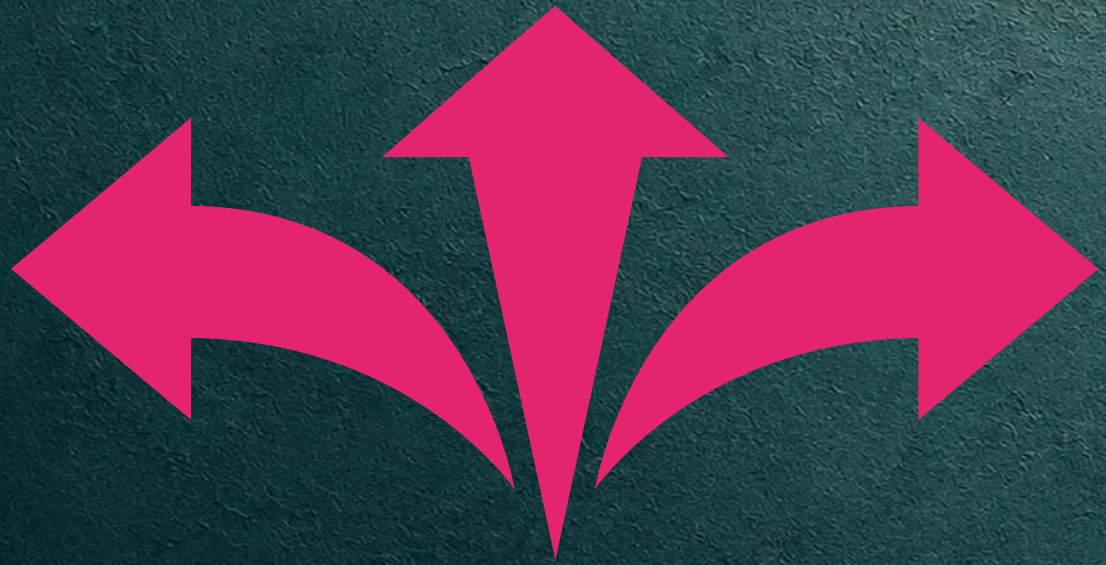
BE YOURSELF!

authenticity



belonging

individualistic path



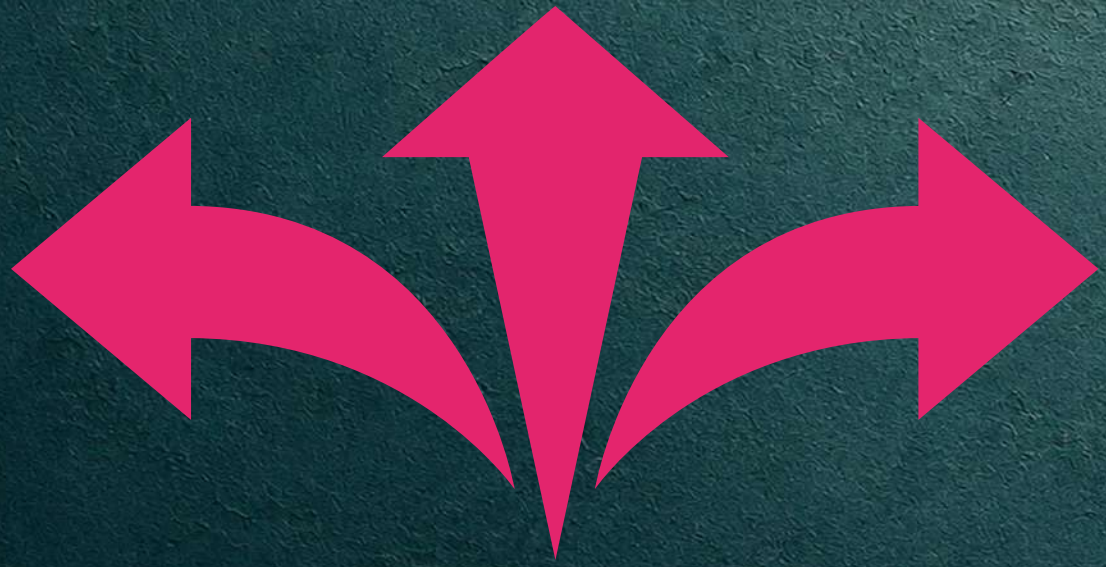
collectivist path

at the crossroads

JESUS CHRIST
DEMONSTRATED WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE FULLY AND TRULY HUMAN!

PERSON-IN-RELATION

communal path



individualistic path

collectivist path

at the crossroads

COMMUNITY IN PERSPECTIVE:



1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the **WORD** of life…we proclaim also to you, so that you may have **FELLOWSHIP** with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be **COMPLETE**.

1. LOGOS

2. KOINONIA

3. PLEROMA







The Scandal of
LOGOS

Greeks
dualism

Jews
Monotheism

Romans
ASCENT





The Wonder of
KOINONIA



The Wonder of
KOINONIA

KOINOS

common or shared

KOINONIA

fellowship – community – close relationship – communion – partaking – sharing - participation

FOCUS

KOINONIA?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

UNCOVERING THE APOSTOLIC VISION OF THE CHURCH AS KOINONIA

7 foundational insights

KOINONIA

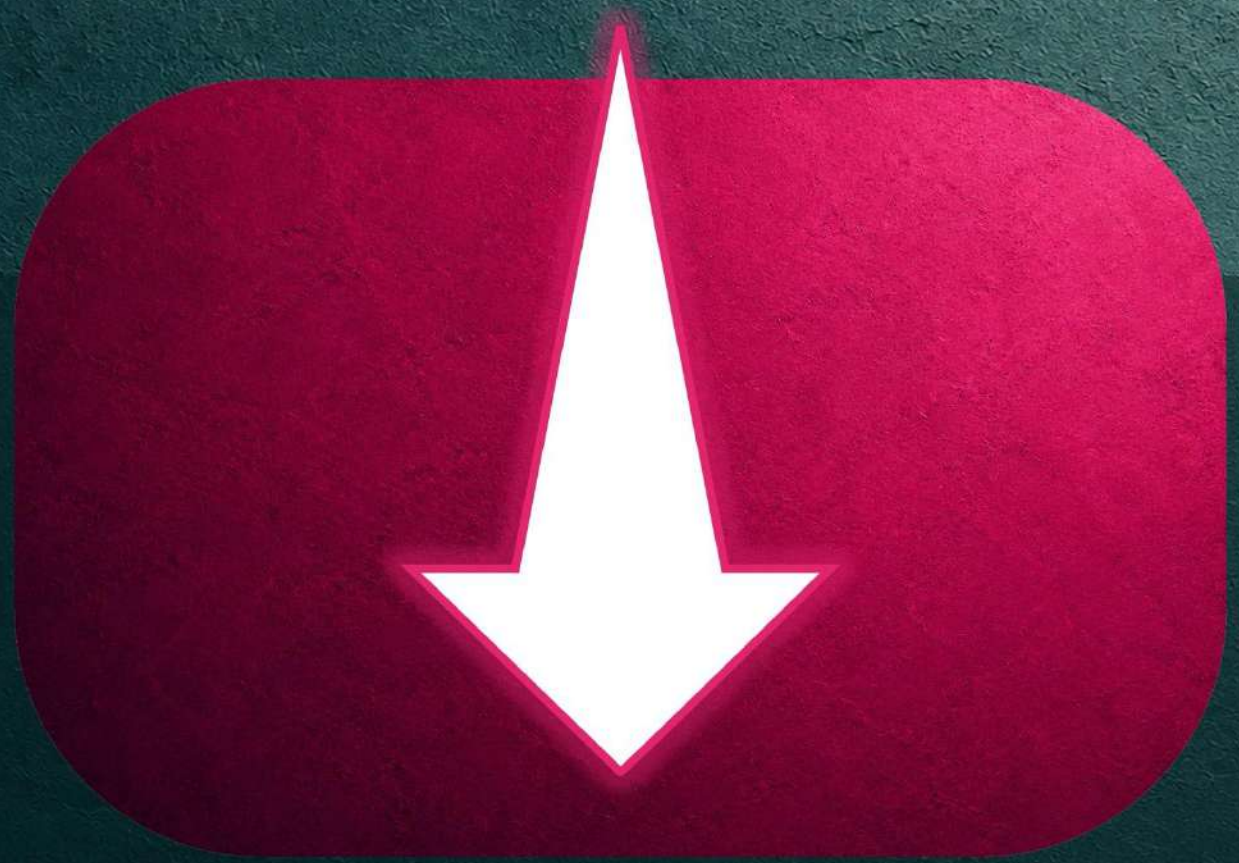
1.

1. is a divinely initiated relational reality



theocentric

KOINONIA



theocentric

KOINONIA

2.

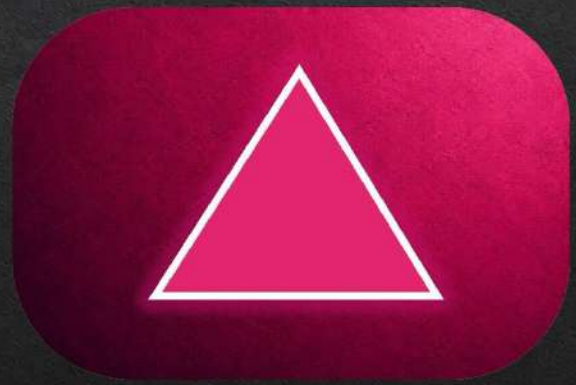
1. is a divinely initiated relational reality
2. manifests through multidirectional divine and human reciprocity

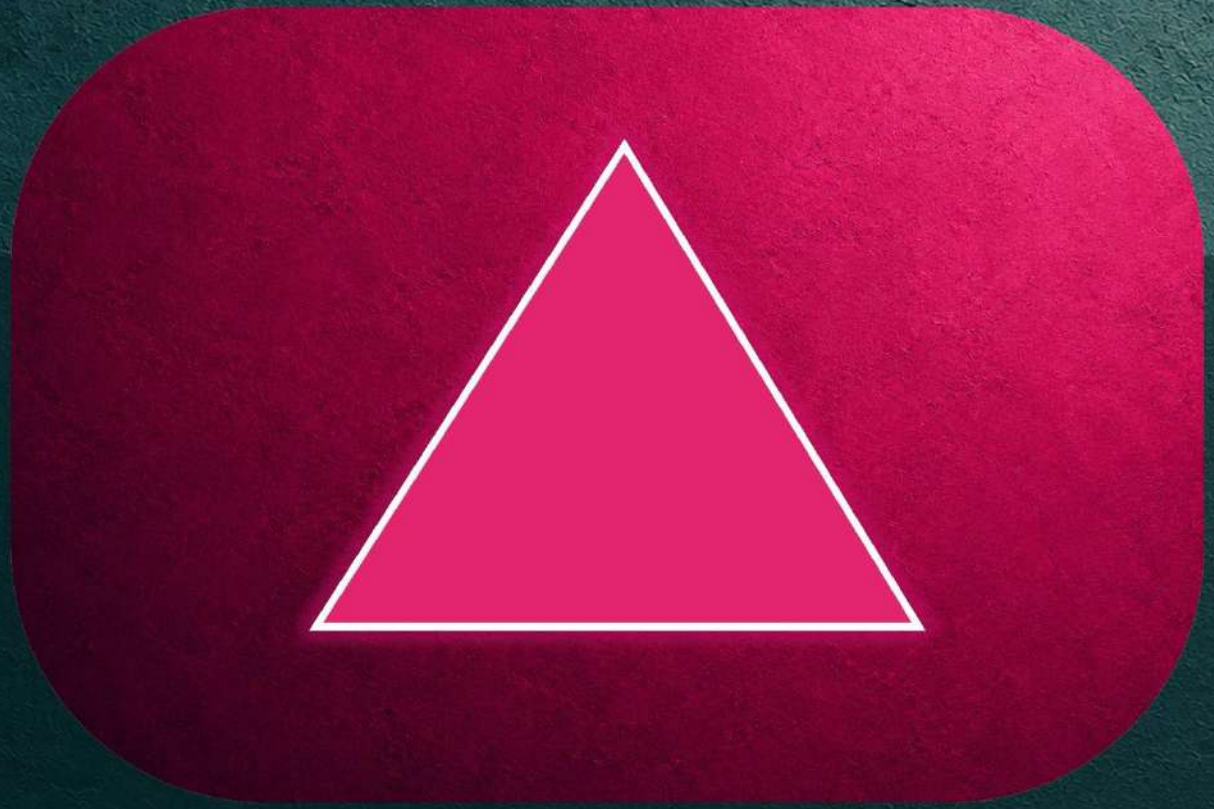


theocentric

KOINONIA

multidirectional



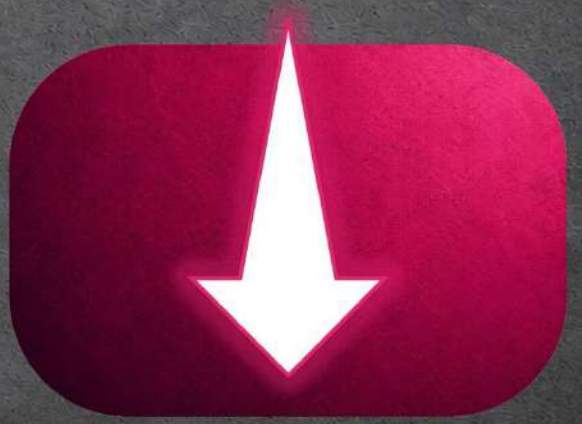


multi-
directional

KOINONIA

3.

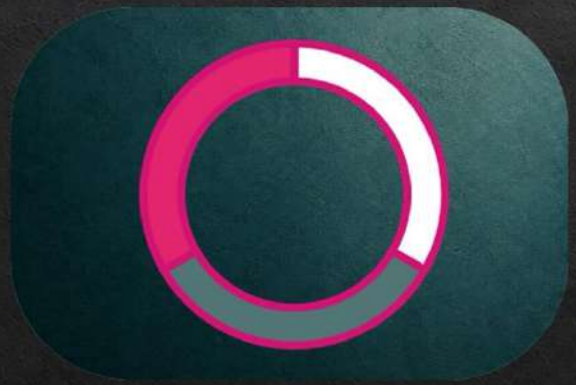
1. is a divinely initiated relational reality
2. manifests through multidirectional divine and human reciprocity
3. involves whole-life participation



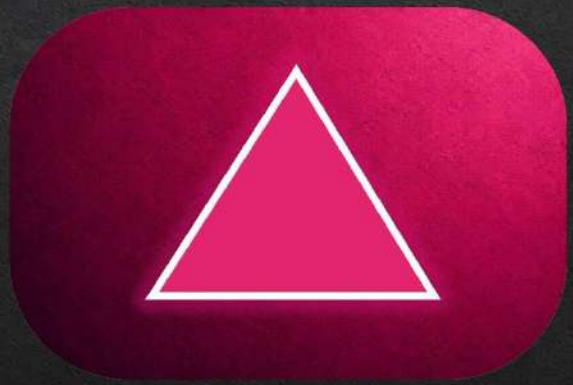
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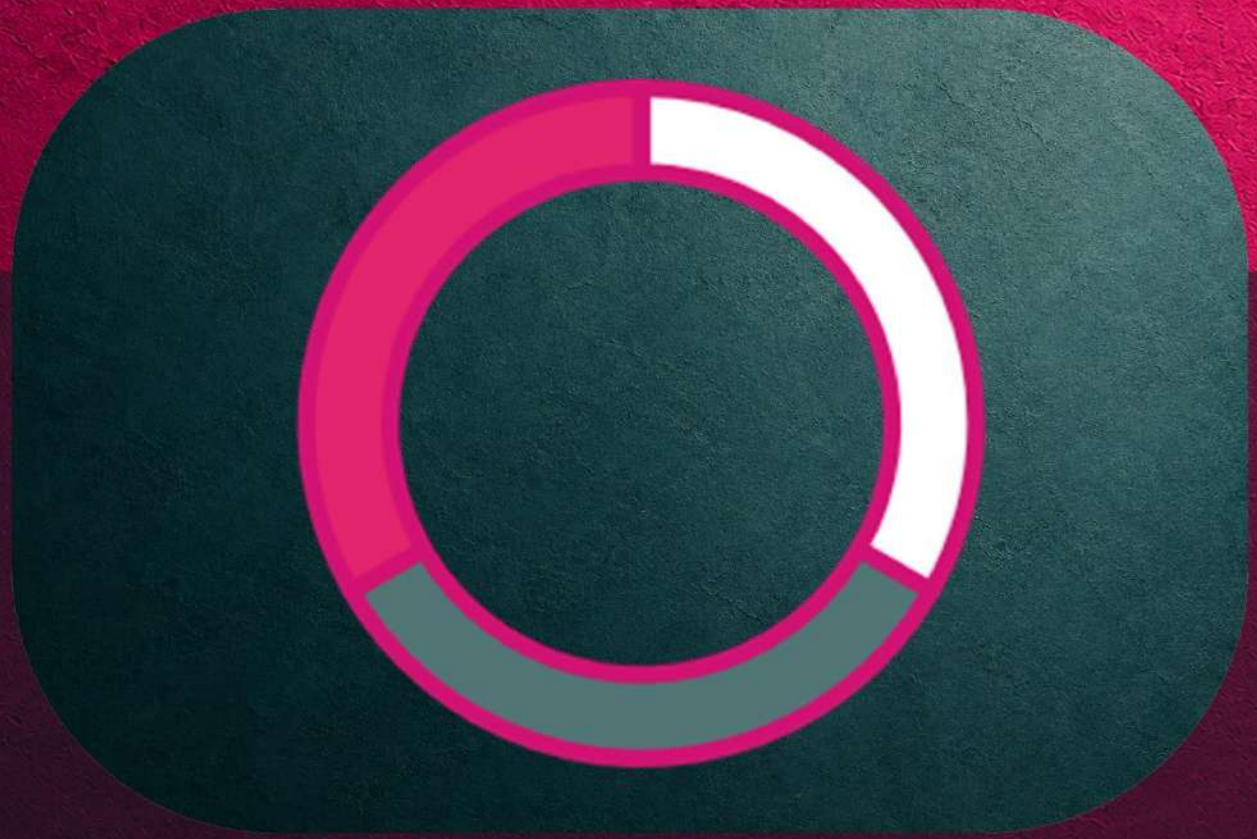
KOINONIA

holistic



multidirectional





holistic

KOINONIA

4.

1. is a divinely initiated relational reality
2. manifests through multidirectional divine and human reciprocity
3. involves whole-life participation
4. thrives in an interdependent relational structure



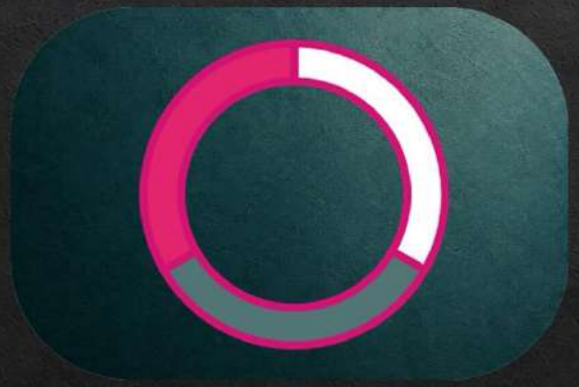
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KOINONIA

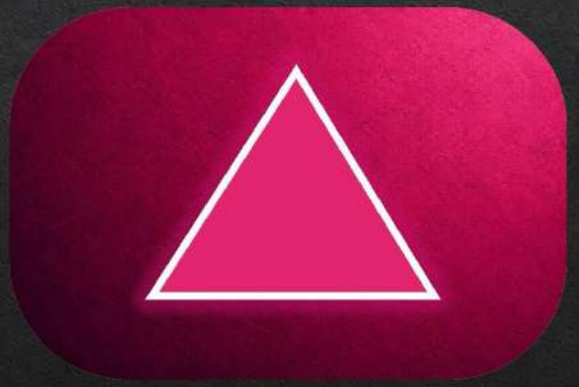
interdependent

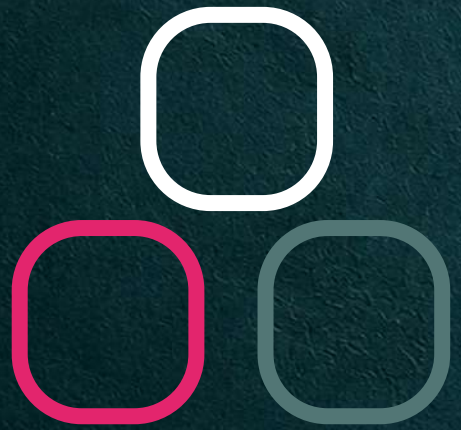


holistic

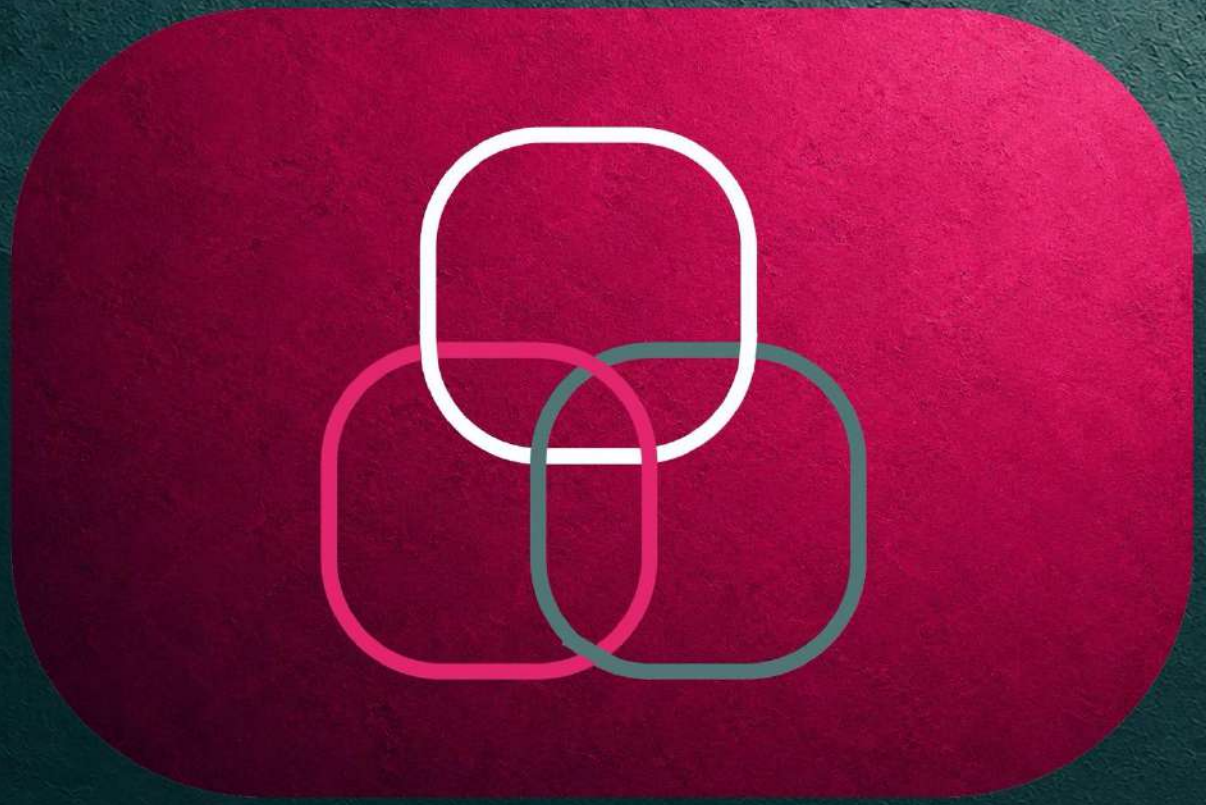


multidirectional





independent



inter-
dependent

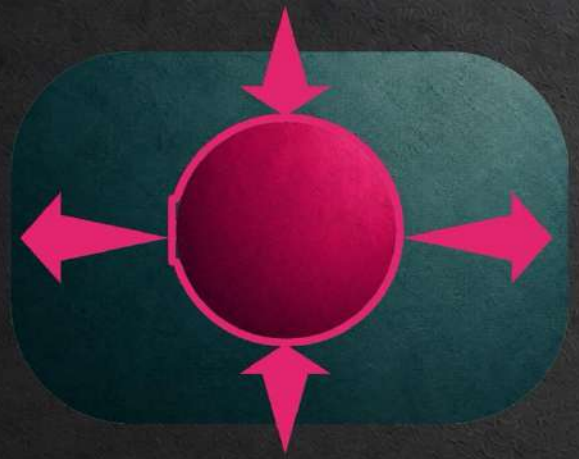


dependent

KOINONIA

5.

1. is a divinely initiated relational reality
2. manifests through multidirectional divine and human reciprocity
3. involves whole-life participation
4. thrives in an interdependent relational structure
5. is marked by inward and outward growth



expanding



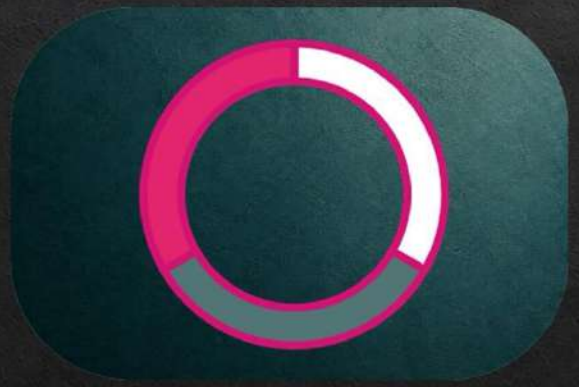
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KOINONIA

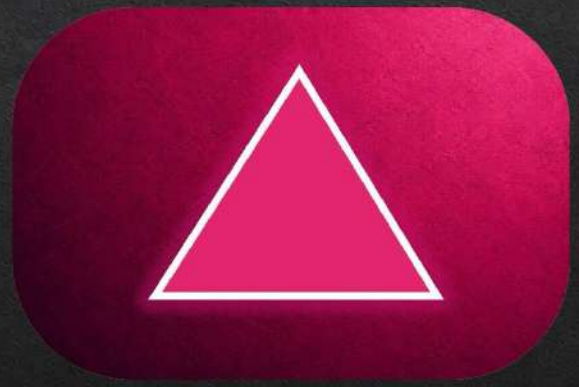
interdependent

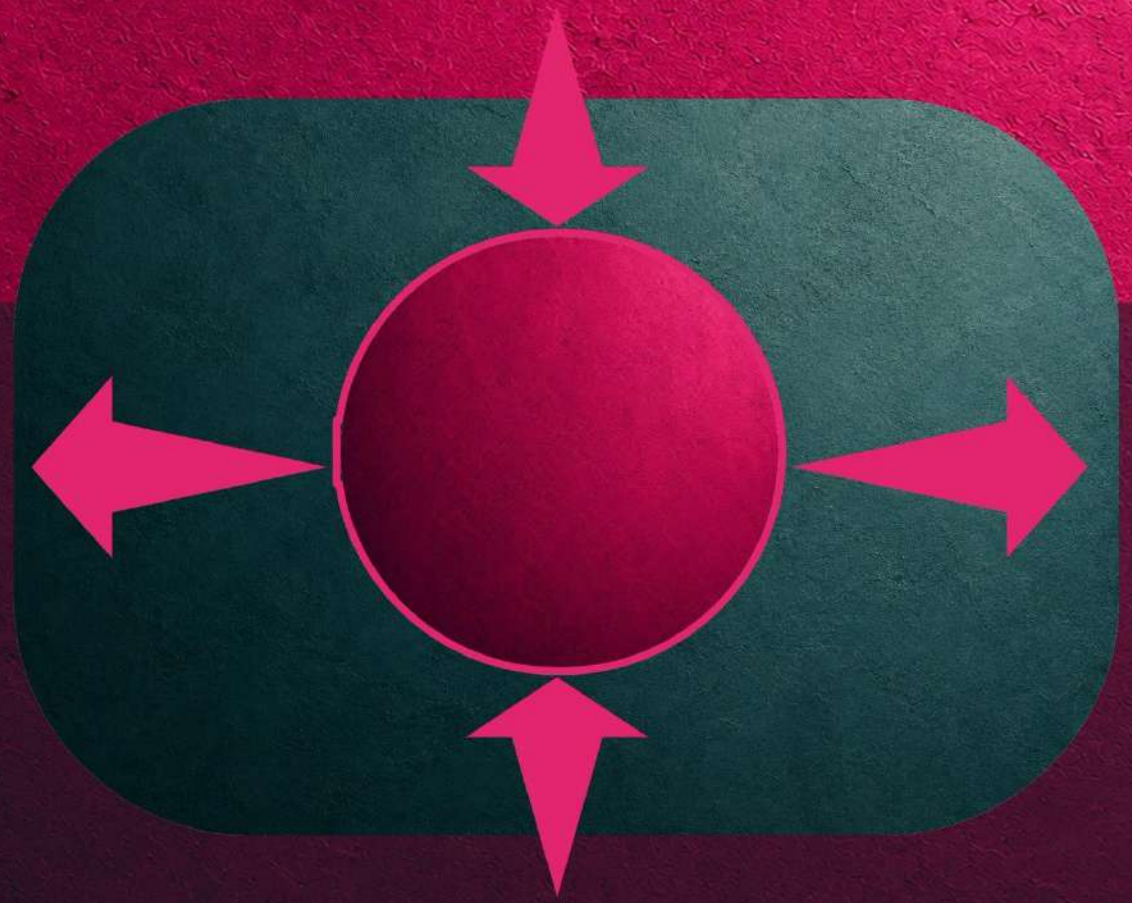


holistic



multidirectional



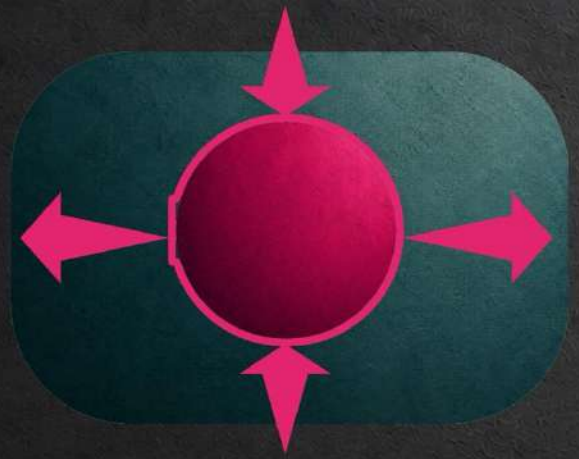


expanding

KOINONIA

6.

1. is a divinely initiated relational reality
2. manifests through multidirectional divine and human reciprocity
3. involves whole-life participation
4. thrives in an interdependent relational structure
5. is marked by inward and outward growth
6. plays an essential cosmic role



expanding



cosmic



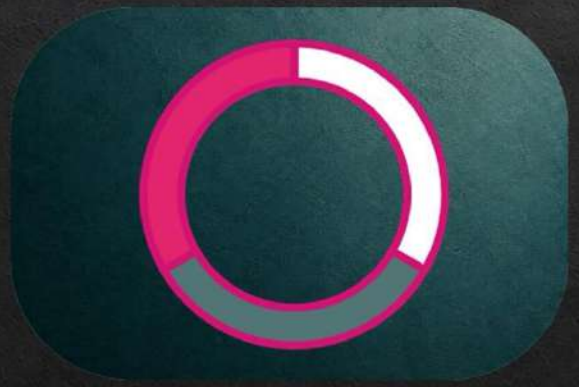
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KOINONIA

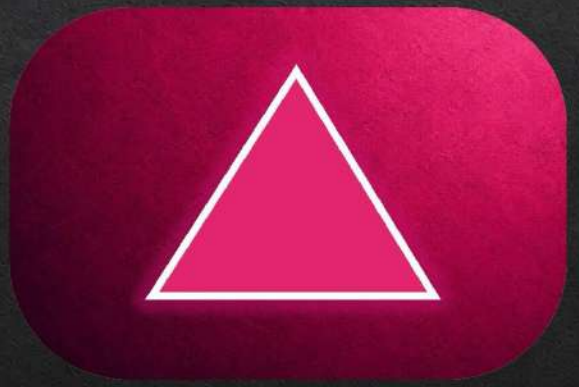
interdependent



holistic



multidirectional





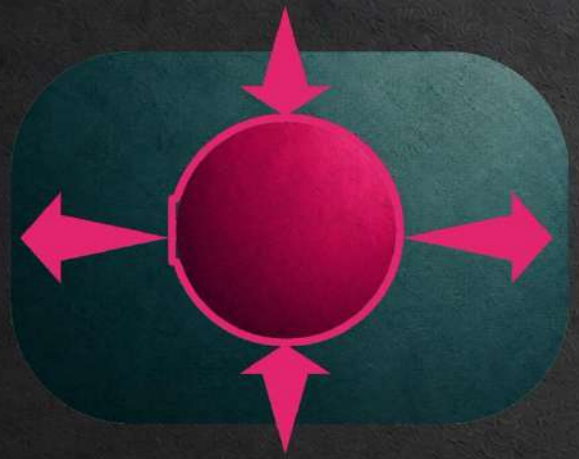
cosmic

"God's purpose in all this was to use the church
to display his wisdom in its rich variety
to all the unseen rulers and authorities
in the heavenly places."

Ephesians 3:10

KOINONIA

1. is a divinely initiated relational reality
2. manifests through multidirectional divine and human reciprocity
3. involves whole-life participation
4. thrives in an interdependent relational structure
5. is marked by inward and outward growth
6. plays an essential cosmic role
7. is at the heart of the apostolic message and mission



expanding



cosmic



essential



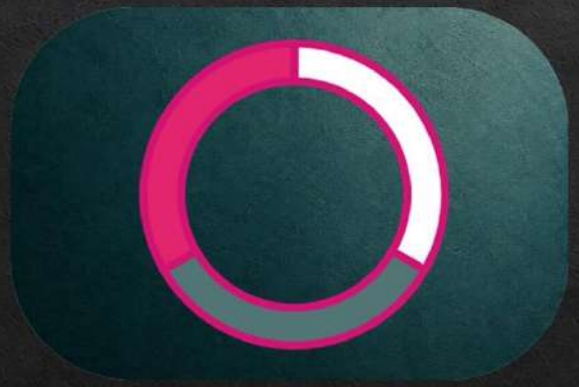
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KOINONIA

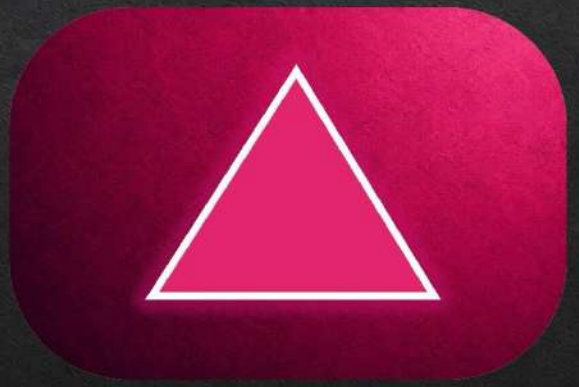
interdependent

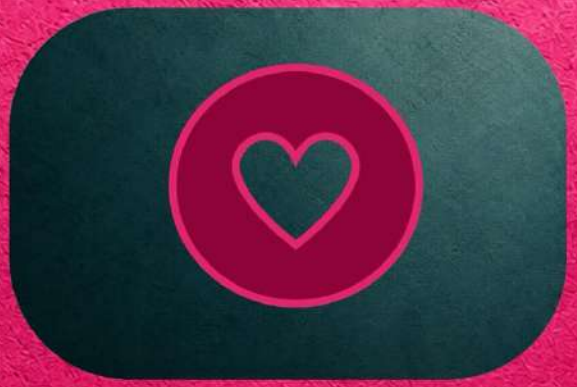


holistic



multidirectional





essential

That which was from the beginning,
which we have heard, seen and touched
we proclaim to you so that you also
may have ***koinonia*** with us and with God.
These things we proclaim to you
so that your joy may be complete.

1 John 1:1-4.

1. LOGOS

2. KOINONIA

3. PLEROMA







The Promise of

PLEROMA

FULNESS
ABUNDANCE
RICHNESS



WHY KOINONIA MATTERS



1. **It's what we are made for (PURPOSE)**
   We are created for communion with God and one another

2. **It gives us a spiritual home (ROOTS)**
   Anchoring our identity, belonging, and resilience in a shifting world

3. **It's the optimal space for human growth (GROWTH)**
   We are formed, stretched, and strengthened through shared life.

4. **It leads to fullness of joy (FULLNESS)**
   Joy is not complete until it's shared in a loving community.



YOU ARE MADE FOR KOINONIA

"The gospel is like a caged lion; it does not need to be defended—only released."

- Martin Luther

“KOINONIA is like a caged lion;
it does not need to be
defended—only released.”

START HERE AND NOW

Wherever two or three
are gathered in Christ's name,
KOINONIA begins.

Matt. 18:20.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE RELATIONAL REVOLUTION

God is faithful,
by whom you were called
into the koinonia
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Cor 1:9

NB!

JOIN CHRIST'S RELATIONAL REVOLUTION

MADE FOR COMMUNION

Why Community Matters

Tihomir Lazic