

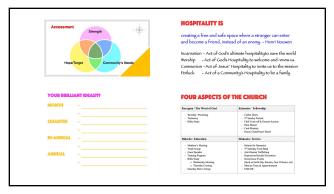
Two Essential Theological Concepts:

Imago Dei = Image of God
Missio Dei = Mission of God

• Like a road map and GPS for our Christian journey.
• Without them = aimless driving, wasting gas, missing the views!

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# **Strategic Visioning Action**

- 1. Post-Analysis and Strategy Assessment
- 2. Collective Ideation and Prioritization
- 3. Leadership Consultation and Priority **Tanking**
- 4. Formulating a Comprehensive Action with Timeframes

Traditional Theological Views:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Free will

#### John Wesley's Three Dimensions:

- Natural Image: Rational and Spiritual capacity
- Political Image: Responsibility in Stewardship
- Moral Image: Capacity to Love God and Others

# Expanded View - Soong-Chan Rah

- No group has a monopoly on the divine image
- Every person (regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, status) carries God's image
- Diversity = a feature of God's creativity, not a flaw

Simple But Powerful Truth

The image of God stands against all forms of:

- - isms (racism, sexism, nationalism, homophobia, etc)
- Violence
- Discrimination

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#### God on a Mission

- · Not our mission for God; God's mission
- <mark>God has been on</mark> mission since day one
- Mission = restoring broken relationships and communities

Imago Dei + Missio Dei

- Like peanut butter and jelly
  - Distinct, but belong together
- Imago Dei: every person reflects God's image
- Missio Dei: restore and reconcile the world

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### **Question to Ponder**

- As pastors and leaders, how does recognizing the Imago Dei and Missio Dei challenge and reshape the way you lead, shepherd, and serve your community?

### **Questions about Your Community**

- How do you see God moving in the life of your church now?
- What ministries or milestones have you witnessed God's hand in and how do they continue to inspire you?
- How would you describe the way God is at work in your church?
- What signs of God's grace and love do you see reflected in the work of your church?
- How is God inviting you and your church to be part of God's work in your community and beyond?

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#### The Heartbeat of Mission

- Recognizing Imago Dei leads us to:
  - Act justly

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- Love mercy
- Walk humbly (Micah 6:8\_)
- No supremacy of race, gender, nationality, or group

Hospitality is an act of "creating a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy."

- Henri Nouwen

### What's Hospitality?

- Henri Nouwen: a free space for strangers to become friends
- Goeff Boyce: opportunity for the guest's self-discovery
- Soon-Chan Rah: safe, dignified space, celebrating diversity.



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### **Question to Ponder**

- In what ways might your church practices unintentionally limit the transformative power of hospitality? And how can we, as pastors, reimagine our communities as mutual transformation through divine friendship?

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# Four Types of Ministry by Sam Wells

- Working For
- Working With
- Being For
- Being with

## **Working For**

- Acting on behalf of others
- Solving problems for them
- Food pantry, mission trip, Thanksgiving Basket, etc
- Risk: Dependency, not relationship

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## Working With

- Collaborative efforts
- Partnering solve problem
- Habitat for Humanity, community garden, training programs, etc
- Better, but not yet fully relational

### **Being For**

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- Advocating, supporting emotionally or morally
- May not require physical presence
- Public advocacy, the Sanctuary movement for undocumented individuals, etc
- Shows concern, but lacks shared life

# Being With (Well's Priority)

- Presence over performance
- Sharing life, consistency over time
- No hidden agenda, mutual giving and receiving
- Requires vulnerability
- Transformation through friendship, not solutions

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Question to Ponder

- How might shifting from "Working For" to "Being With" reshape your ministry into a deeper practice of radical hospitality and divine friendship?





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