

where do we go from here?

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“when I came to you, brothers and sisters,
proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with
sublimity of words or of wisdom... for I resolved to
know nothing while I was with you except Jesus
Christ and him crucified.”

1 cor 2:1-6

“but we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

2 cor 4:7-15

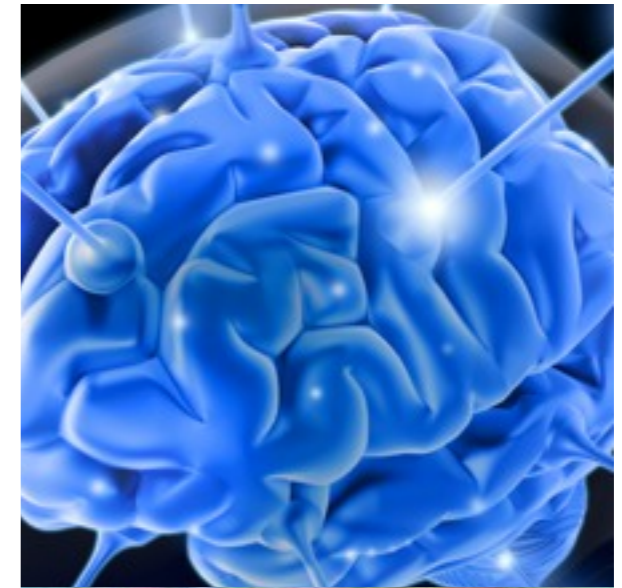
our epistemologies are shifting

relationality is at the heart of the shift

all we need to know — Jesus Christ, and him
crucified

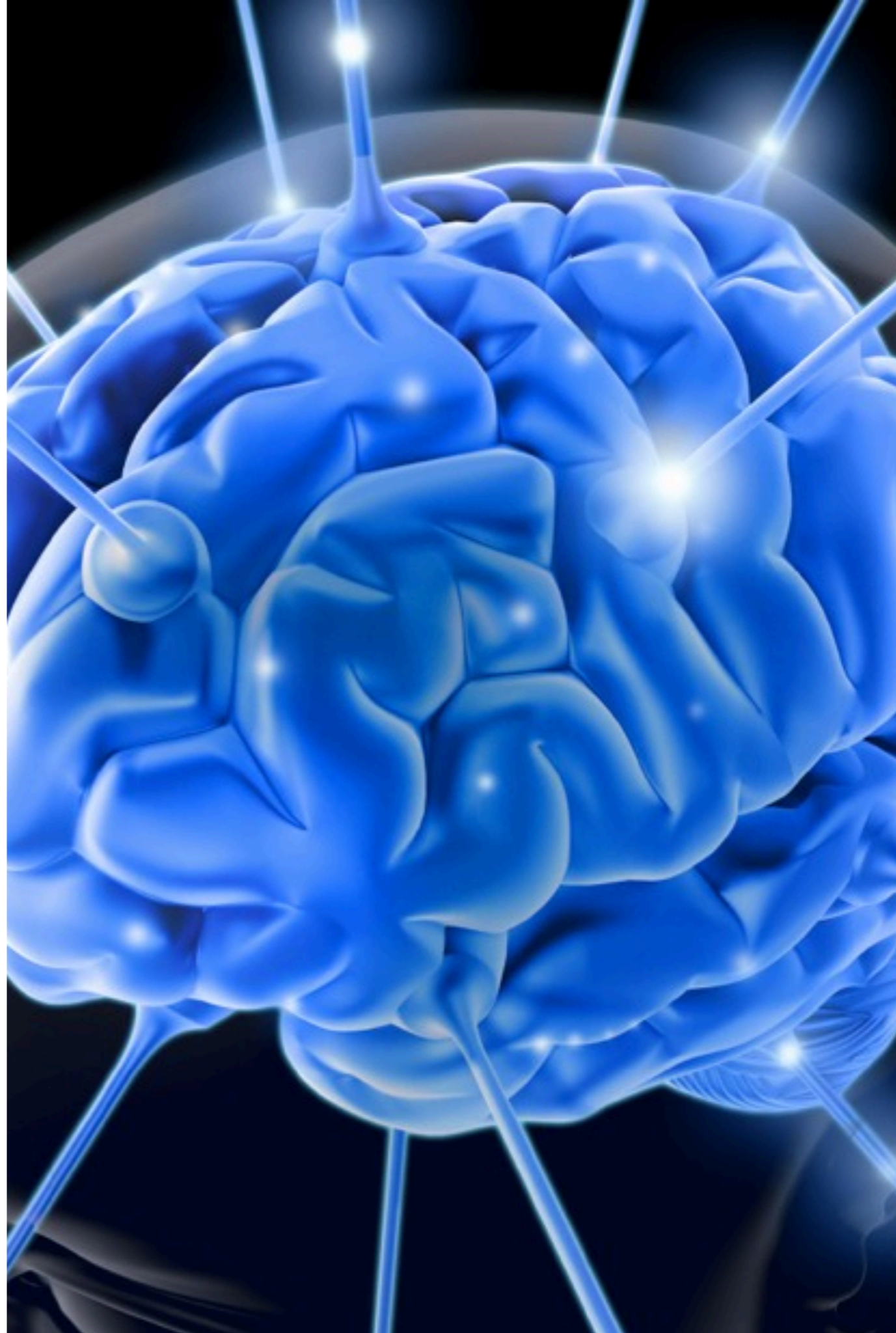
issue is not about content but about practices

authority, authenticity, agency
are shifting rapidly
amidst media cultures



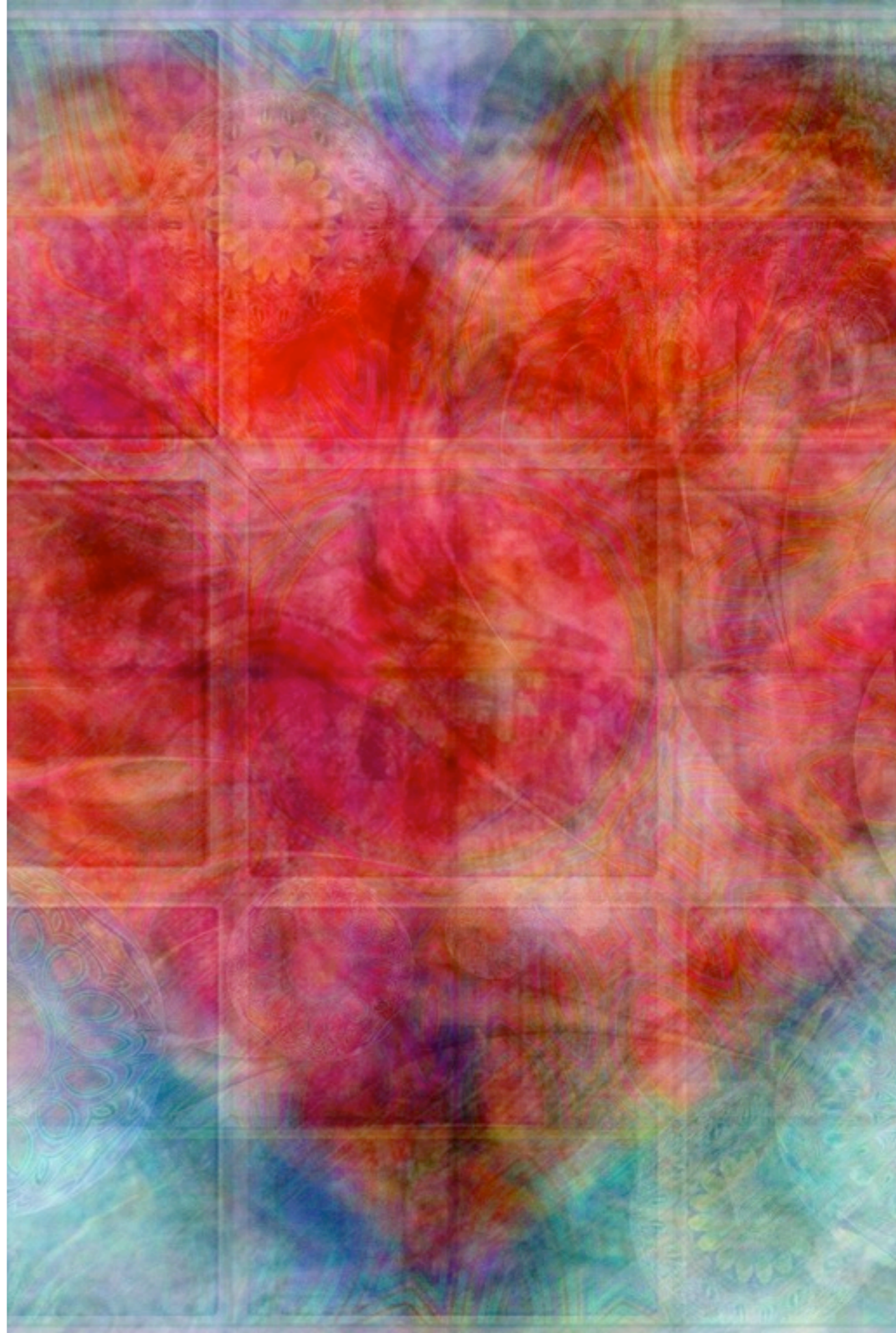
authority

- shifting away from experts
- shifting through relationships
- vertical through magisterium
- horizontal through *sensus fidelium*
- intersection is Jesus Christ on the cross



authenticity

- contributes to building authority
- developed experientially
- developed relationally
- “were not our hearts burning within us?”



agency

- how do I make a difference?
- what can I do with these resources?
- our culture tends to think in terms of individual agency
- our church understands primary agent is God
- how to make sense of this apparent conflict?



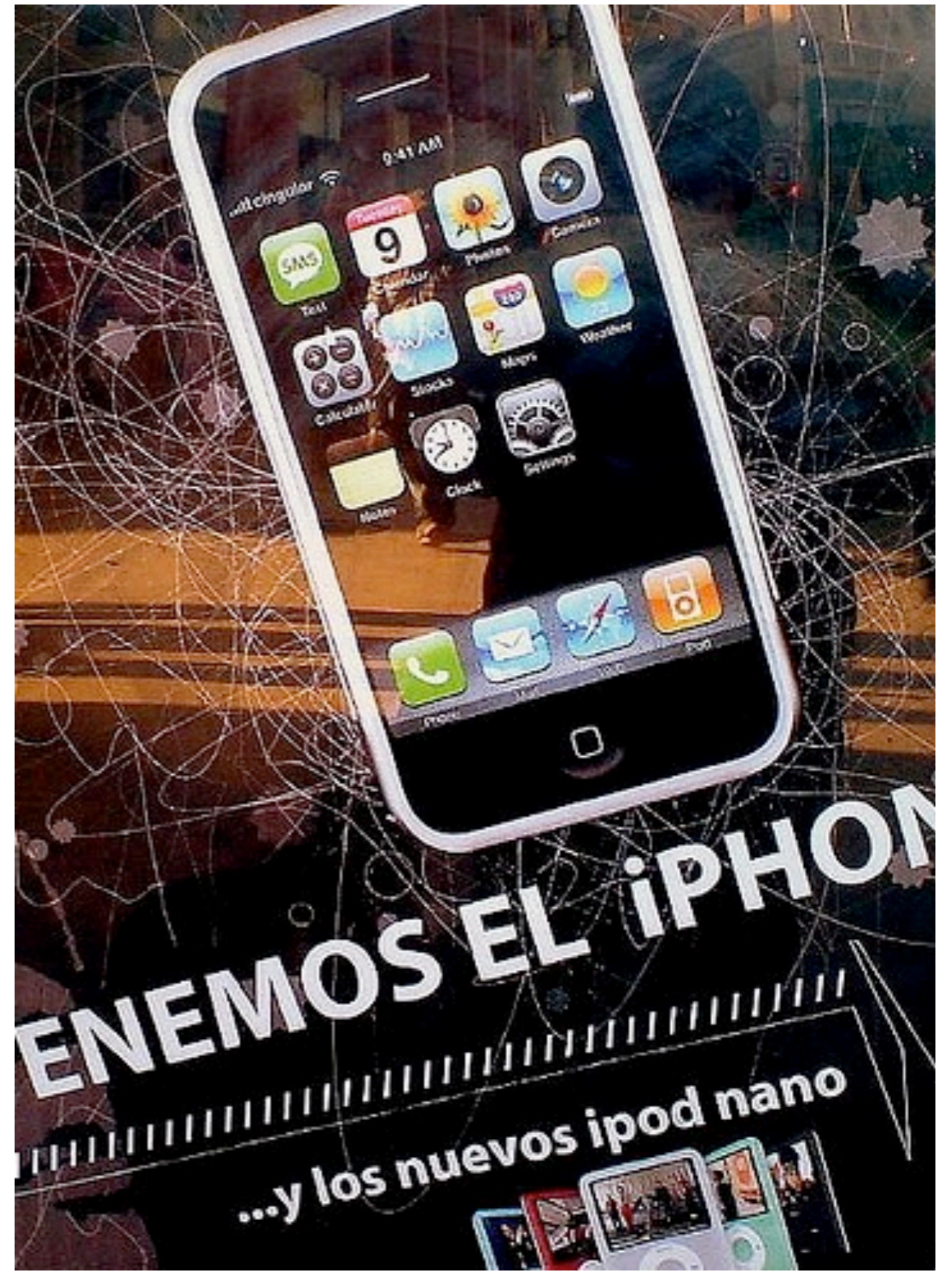


practices of agency, “practicing our faith”



missio dei

individual agency? God's agency?



Protestant reformation, Digital reformation



in a world of content, we long for practices and interpretation

Roberto argues we need to become curators

curation of experience



tradition-ing, not traditionalism

so what can we do? who are we?

“All formation is ultimately self-formation, and lay ecclesial ministers themselves are the pivotal agents of their own formation. We call them to nurture in themselves a deep and powerful hunger for formation, willingness to learn and grow, and desire to serve the Lord with excellence and generosity.” (See CL, no. 63; PDV, no. 69.)

“...a deep and powerful hunger for formation,
willingness to learn and grow, and desire to serve
the Lord”

how does this integrate with “know, make, play”?

four pillars of formation

- human
- spiritual
- intellectual
- pastoral

show and tell, a catalyst for imagination

human formation: challenges/opportunities

- C: time famine
- C: closed-in circles
- O: faith practices shared at home
- O: social media as a place to share stories of hope
- O: invite a healthier news diet
- O: invite a broader engagement with dismantling racism

spiritual formation: challenges/opportunities

- C: widespread “spiritual but not religious”
- C: widespread misunderstanding of *obedience*
- O: Parker Palmer’s work
- O: desire to live more simply
- O: desire to understand spirituality
- O: “finding God in the dark” (and Sr. Rose’s blog)

intellectual formation: challenges/opportunities

- C: “too big to know”
- C: resistance to didactic or instrumental modes of learning
- O: Enter the Bible
- O: Into the New Testament
- O: Catholic intellectual tradition
- O: University link lists (eg. Creighton, Boston College, Pluralism Project)

pastoral formation: challenges/opportunities

- C: widespread resistance to anything other than individual agency
- C: increasing alienation from ritual practices
- O: power of intentional Christian community
- O: learning from “greenhouses of hope”
- O: engaging with difference
- O: taize, iona, wild goose festival, jonny baker, rob bell

more information:

www2.luthersem.edu/mhess

John Roberto and the Faith 2020 project

Driving Forces

8 Key Driving Forces



1. Declining number of Christians and growing number of people with no religious affiliation.
2. Increasing number of people becoming more “spiritual” and less “religious”
3. Declining participation in Christian churches
4. Increasing diversity and pluralism in U.S. society

Driving Forces

8 Key Driving Forces



5. Increasing influence of individualism on Christian identity and community life
6. Changing patterns of marriage and family life
7. Declining family religious socialization
8. Increasing use of digital age & web technologies

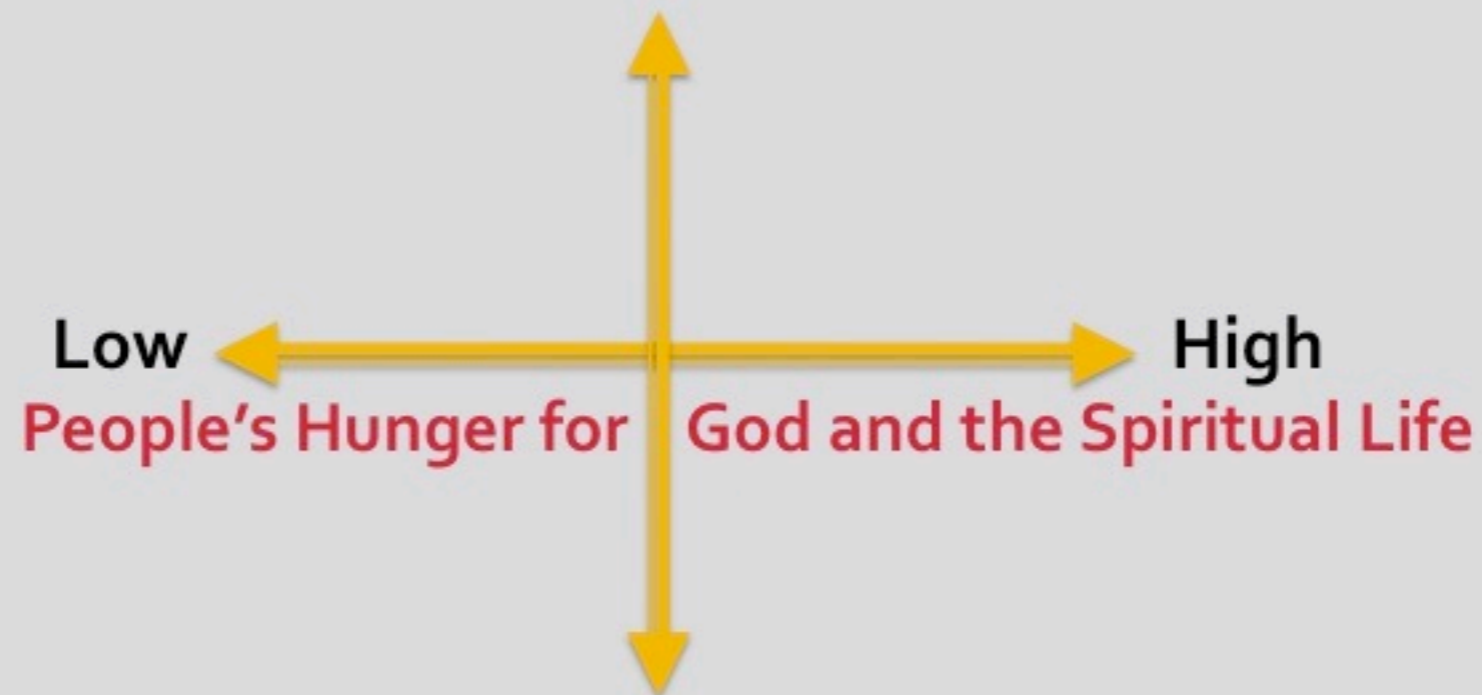
Faith Formation 2020 Matrix

Dominant Cultural Attitude toward Organized Religion

Receptive

Low ← People's Hunger for God and the Spiritual Life → High

Resistant



4 Scenarios for the Future



Scenario 4
Uncommitted
&
Participating

Scenario 1
Vibrant Faith
& Active
Engagement

Scenario 3
Unaffiliated &
Uninterested

Scenario 2
Spiritual but
Not Religious

where would you put yourself? your church? the churches with which you work? your neighbors?

Is Social Media a Fad?
Or the biggest shift since the Industrial Revolution?