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Related Group: Interreligious Issues

Title:

Worldview Transformation: a Constructive Response to the Contemporary Decline of the Korean Protestant Church

Abstract

This paper explores the worldview of the Korean Protestant church to draw on a deeper and wider transformation of its Christian faith and practice. The church regrettably has experienced decline for the last ten years after decades of extraordinary growth. Many predict further decline in years ahead.

One of the major reasons for such a waning of the church lies in its loss of reputation. I assume worldview as a significant element for explaining the Korean Protestant church's fall in reputation. In this regard, I note that the church has succeeded only in a partial worldview transformation.

In other words, untransformed cultural beliefs and values still operate in the life and practice of the church. These beliefs and values debilitate the church's external image as well as internal vigor. David Bosch's remark sheds light on the importance of transformation in every realm of the church: "It [Conversion] is, rather, a change in allegiance in which Christ is accepted as Lord and center of one's life" (1991:488). This study also uses Paul Hiebert's three dimensional worldview model (2008:236) to analyze and critique the worldview of the Korean Protestant church.