

Evangelii Gaudium (EG) follows the long tradition of post Vatican II musicological teachings in which inculturation becomes an important theme. Part one of the paper will expose where and how “inculturation” is presented and understood in EG, especially #'s 69, 118, 122, 126, 129, and 233. It will argue, positively, that EG stresses even more strongly than earlier documents that inculturation is constitutive of ecclesial mission. Moreover, it will note that EG strongly distances itself from any forms of “coloniality” and refuses to identify the gospel with and particular culture which might be imposed on other cultures. The paper will also suggest that EG has a truncated view of inculturation argue that EG still has a predominately “one way street” view of inculturation. It overlooks the multivalence and multi directional impact of true inculturation. It does present Christianity as possibly itself being evangelized by non-Christian cultures or religions.

Part two will identify how EG presents globalization and secularity as cultural challenges to evangelization, cf # 64, 68, and 69. However, the term post modernity is never explicitly employed. Consequently, one of the limits in EG's vision may arise from an insufficient grasp of post modernity's cultural impact.

Part three will place EG in dialogue with Moralistic Therapeutic Deism which is very indicative of the religiosity prevalent among young adults in the USA. Part four will suggest some challenges which are faced when the gospel is inculturated into a culture that has Moralistic Therapeutic Deism as part of its youth's “religiosity.”