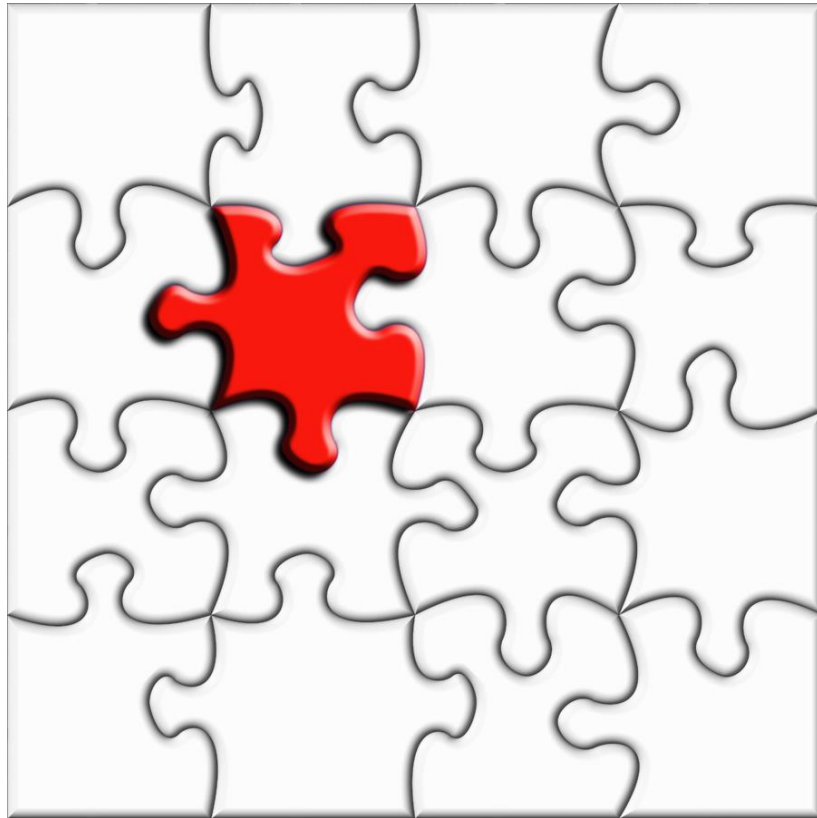


Faith Integration Then and Now



Integrating your faith,
your discipline
and your life



What is faith integration?



The informed reflection on and discovery of Christian faith within the academic disciplines, professional programs and lived practice, resulting in the articulation of Christian perspectives on truth and life in order to advance the work of God in the world. (Faculty Handbook, 2012-2013; Section 13.4, p. 1)

Azusa Pacific University



Why is it important?

The ultimate goal of our efforts are to influence the next generation to put their trust in God, not forget His deeds and keep His commands.

Titus 2:1-6 gives us the following mandate:

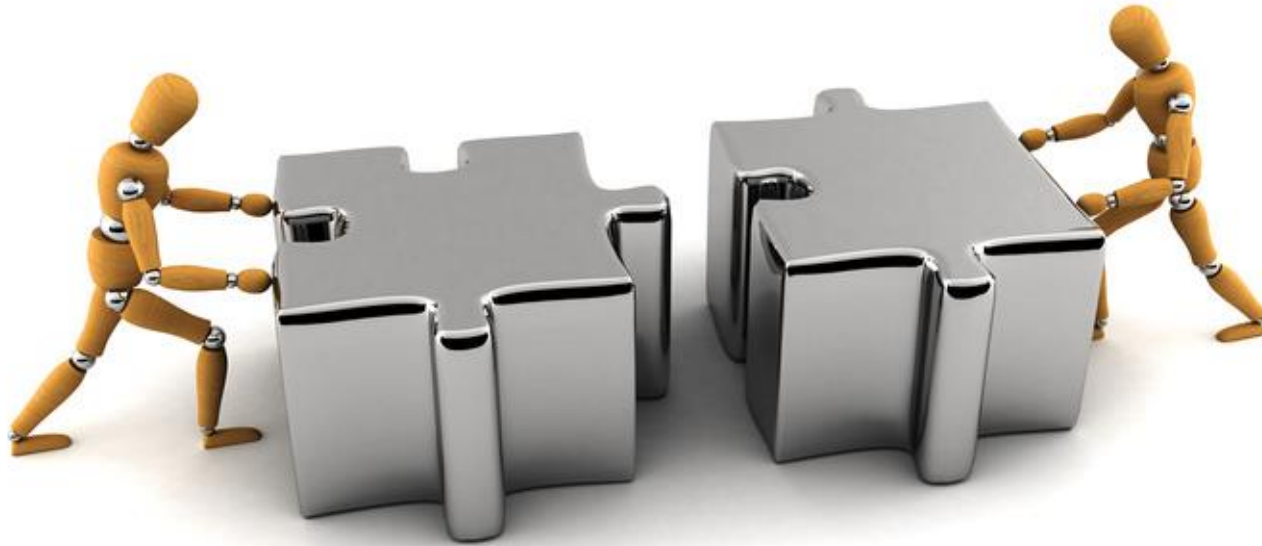
- ✦ Teach
- ✦ Train
- ✦ Encourage



Why in higher education?

- ✦ To drive out fear – *1 Peter 3:15b*
- ✦ To strengthen the mind – *Romans 1:20*
- ✦ To identify the anchor and touchstone of all learning – *John 17:17*

From whence we came...





Biblical Foundation

James 1:22

- ✦ Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (NIV)
- ✦ But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (NASB)



Biblical Foundation

Colossians 1:15-20

Key doctrines

1. the image of the invisible God
2. all things were created by him and for him and through him
3. firstborn from the dead
reconciled to Himself all things, whether on earth or heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross”



Biblical Foundation

Colossians 1:15-20

Kingdom Integration

1. The God of creation is the God of redemption and the incarnate Christ our King.
2. Christ is immediate King over all of the created order.
3. Christ is the only and ultimate Redeemer of all that will be redeemed.



Biblical Foundation

Colossians 1:15-20

as a definition of faith integration:

The task of theological integration is the enthroning of Christ as King in every sphere of human endeavor and every aspect of the created order.



How does faith integration happen?

- # Your experience and knowledge of your faith
- # Your level of training/proficiency in the Bible
- # Your discipline
- # Your experience in putting your faith and discipline together
- # Your willingness to be “real” – relationship is the key



Three essentials for successful faith integration

- ✦ **Consistency** – the new knowledge must be consistent with what we already know.
- ✦ **Coherence** – your entire set of knowledge must fit together into a unified whole and must make sense.
- ✦ **Calling** – your story and your sense of calling.

Calling Exercise



FI is influenced by our worldview

Descriptive lens – our perception of the world

Prescriptive lens – our evaluation of what is true



Possible Approaches to FI

Sole Authority Model

- Faith Against Learning

Separate Authorities Model

- Faith and Learning

Equal Authorities Model

- Faith Plus Learning

Foundational Authority (Worldview Model)

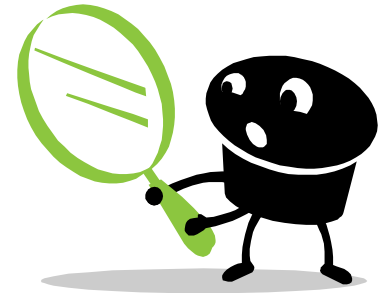
- Faith Supports Learning



FI is influenced by our worldview

How does this work?

- # Integration as a filter
- # Integration as a change agent
- # Integration as a two-way growth process





Some assumptions behind FI

- # All truth is God's truth
- # There is no conflict between God's truth and other truth
- # Secular learning is incomplete and often distorted
- # Christian integration is based on a Biblical framework of reality
- # Truth is the most important goal of learning



What do you see as the biggest challenge to integrating faith and learning?



Common Concerns

1. How do I integrate when the required course content has already been predetermined (without any FI)?
2. There is already too much material to cover in one semester – how will I fit it in?
3. The content I will be using is already condensed. How do I know where to make changes?
4. Many students already see faith and academics as separate. How do show them that connection?
5. The literature offers so few specifics on ways to integrate faith in learning in my field. Where do I start?
6. How do I know what I should integrate?



What do you see as the most exciting opportunity for integrating faith and learning?



Working in your discipline

- # What kinds of faith issues could be raised in this course?
- # Is this course an appropriate context for taking time with some or all of these issues?
- # Do any of these faith issues warrant being turned into course outcomes?
- # Are there important faith-based materials that speak to both the course description and FI outcomes?
- # Is there one or more class sessions where the integration of faith and course content should be the focus?
- # Are there assignments which help the FI outcome?
- # How is this course different at my university?



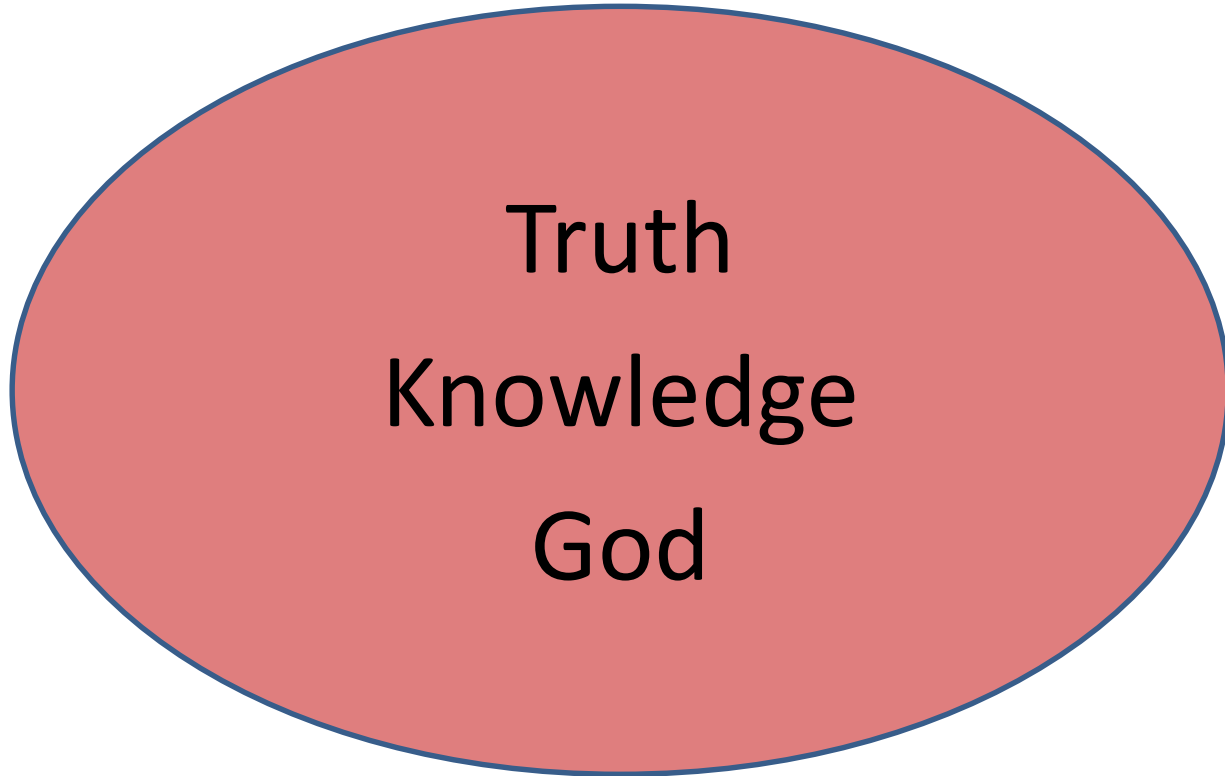
Topics in faith integration

[The Conversational Model of Integration: Topics](#)

The Integrative Conversation Worksheet



Thinking Biblically



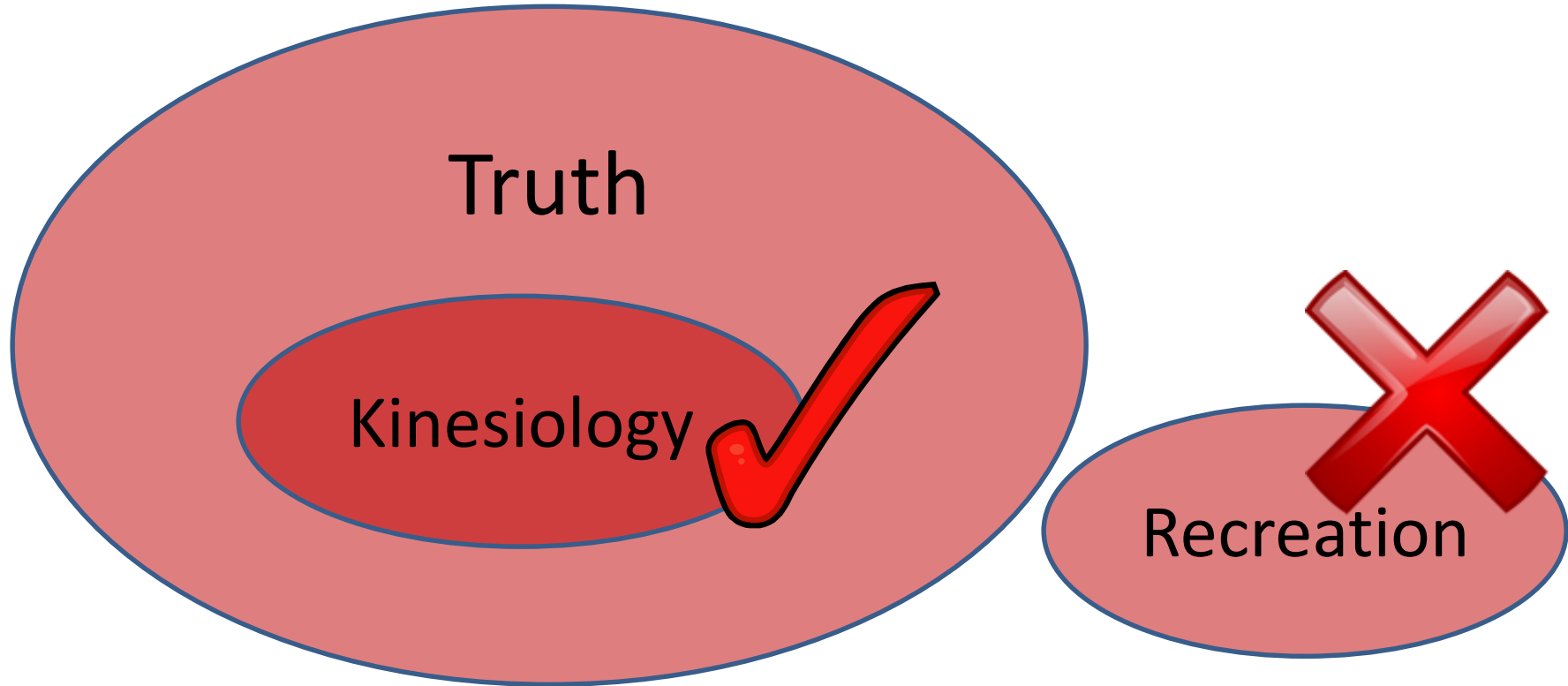
Truth

Knowledge

God

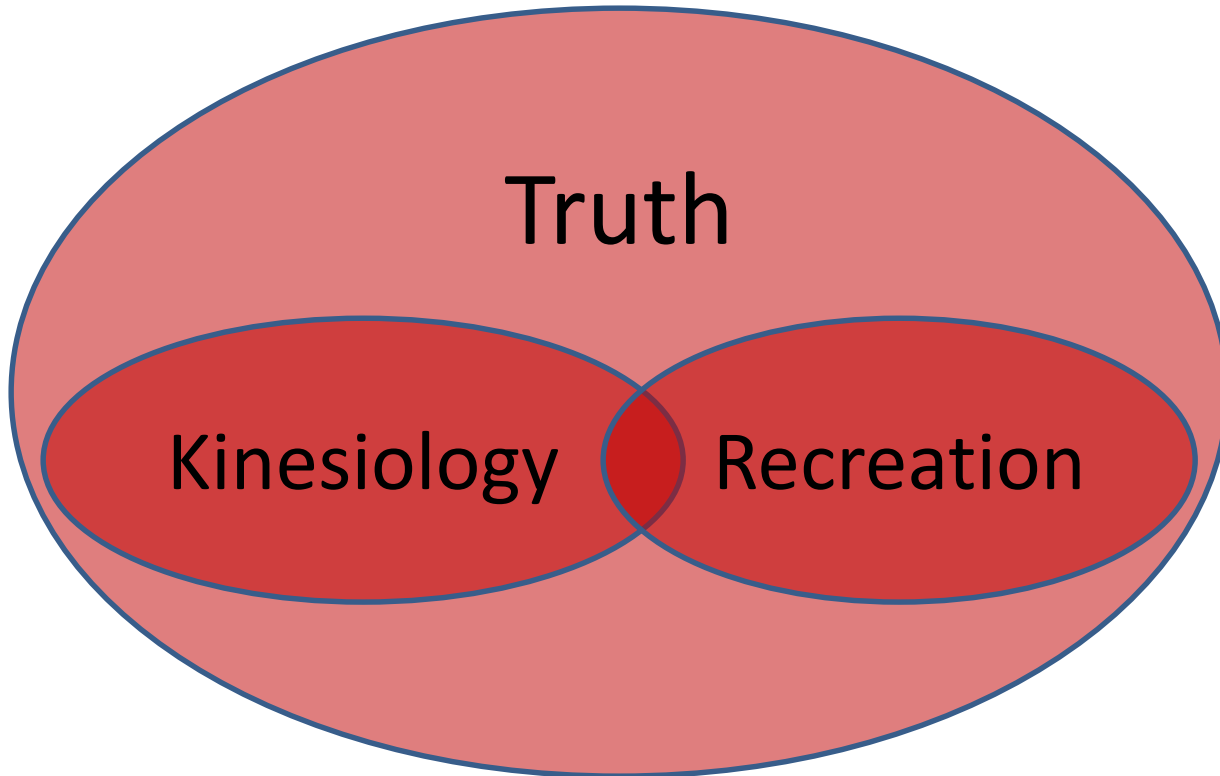


Thinking Biblically



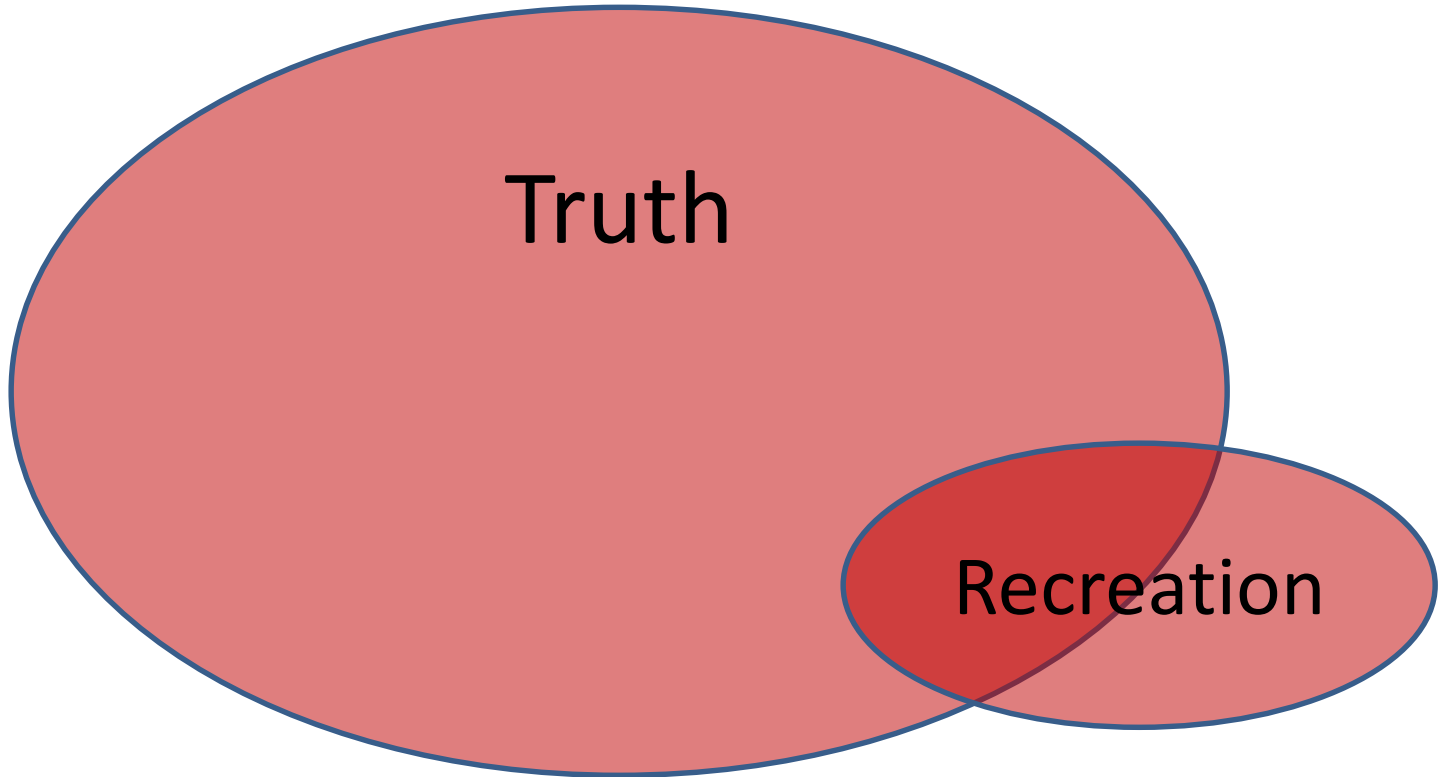


Thinking Biblically





Thinking Biblically





Biblical Brainstorming

1. Seek ways to integrate the Bible into course content.
2. Using case studies is a practical application of Bible knowledge and Christian living in real-life situations.
3. Using illustrations to compare or contrast Biblical principles with the subject matter.
4. Ask a lot of questions.

Brainstorming Worksheet



Integrative Questions

Group Activity



How can I become better?

- # Interact with others in your discipline
- # Identify faith-infused student outcomes
- # Determine when/where faith topics should occur in your classes and across your discipline
- # See the big picture on how topics/themes connect over many classes within a discipline
- # Share resources and ideas
- # [Making your spiritual life noticed in the classroom](#)



Think of one area in which you can use one of these faith integration strategies in the fall semester.



Is the scholarship I am doing faith integration?

- # Could a non-Christian or someone who knows little about faith have crafted this work?
- # Does this work employ a critical or normative analysis rooted in the content of Christian faith?
- # Does this work contribute something distinctly from the Christian faith and not otherwise found in traditionally understood aspects of my discipline?
- # Does the work expand, analyze, constrain, challenge, or critique an aspect of disciplinary discourse from a demonstrably Christian perspective?



What kind of FI scholarship should I pursue?

- ✦ What Christian concepts intersect with my discipline?
- ✦ What statements or policies of social concern have emerged from the church that intersect within my discipline that can provide a material to draw upon?
- ✦ Have there been writings or practices within the Christian tradition that address any concepts or have been pivotal to my discipline?
- ✦ Are there theological virtues that bring a new dimension to the practice of my discipline?
- ✦ Are there recent advances/changes/findings in my discipline that might stimulate Christian thinking?



What does the future hold?



A persistent faith-work gap

- # A lack of visibility of Christianity
- # How many companies use faith-based theories in leadership or ethics training?
- # Only 15 % of churches have any type of marketplace ministry
- # One study found 0 % of churches had an intentional strategy for workplace ministry
- # 74 % in one study saw no connection between their faith and their job
- # Most parishioners have never heard a sermon relating faith to employment



The coming revolution

- ✦ Christians have no use for churches that play religious games
- ✦ Today's "born again" Americans rarely rely upon their theological perspectives to make daily decisions
- ✦ 70% still attend a local church congregation, but projections are for that to decline substantially.
- ✦ Barna predicts an opportunity for "faith to become more real and personal" and for the Bible to become a "true book of life-giving wisdom"
- ✦ Tent-making goes from a "quirky, first century idea to a defining, personal lifestyle".



What must we do?

- ✦ Institutions and individuals need a way to reach students where they are.
- ✦ We need to be the same people on Monday that we are on Sunday.
- ✦ We need to develop empowering frameworks that help people see the integration of faith with their jobs
- ✦ “Religious specialists” will be replaced with “marketplace leaders” – new understanding of religious leadership



Making FI a “passion”

- ✦ Be alive spiritually – no doubt of your faith to your students
- ✦ Develop a deep understanding of Scripture and “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”
- ✦ Be a student of your students
- ✦ Become culturally aware
- ✦ Be a master of your discipline



Contact information

WayneJacobs@letu.edu

KarenJacobs@letu.edu