



Reconciliation within a Transformed Self

Rev. Dr. Gerard I. Bolling

#miLCMSpastors



Michigan District
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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RECONCILIATION FROM THE INSIDE OUT (SELF, OTHERS, COMMUNITY)

MICHIGAN DISTRICT—LCMS
REV. DR. GERARD BOLLING-Presenter





Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling

- BA Theatre-Concordia Chicago
- MDiv—Concordia Seminary
- Doctorate in Leadership, Innovation, Continuous Improvement—Concordia University Wisconsin (Human Resource Development in Urban Ministry LCMS Structures)
- Certification in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Cornell University.
- Dual-Called
 - *Lead Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church*
 - *Assistant Professor of Theology/Leadership at Concordia Texas*
 - Serve as Teaching and Learning Equity Officer on the University Equity Team
- Concordia Wisconsin Adjunct—Business and Education
- Concordia Seminary/Concordia University Irvine CMC Adjunct
- Speaker, Preacher, Writer, Consultant.

Bethlehem Lutheran church

Urban Church

Community Engagement Center

Multi-Organization

Young Church

Primarily African-American Church

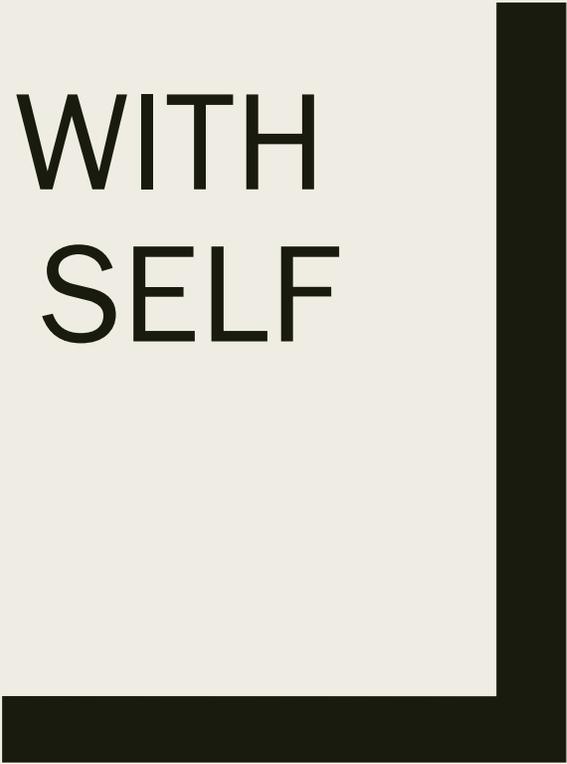
Reaching Church

Explosive Ministries

We are a Family



**SESSION 1:
RECONCILIATION WITH
A TRANSFORMED SELF**



ACTS 1:6-8

⁶ So, when they had come together, they *began* asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ But He said to them, “It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”

The Ascension

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, ¹¹ and they said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Three spheres of CONGREGATIONAL&ORGANIZATIONAL Ministry LEADERSHIP

STAFF MEMBERS

LAY LEADERS

CONGREGATION



ROOTED IN
VULNERABLE STORIES

I remember
the first time I
felt black...

FEELING BLACK

**DIFFERENT
FROM**

REALIZING I am
BLACK

You do NOT know how it feels to be me

Assimilative Tactics

Microaggressions

Macroaggressions

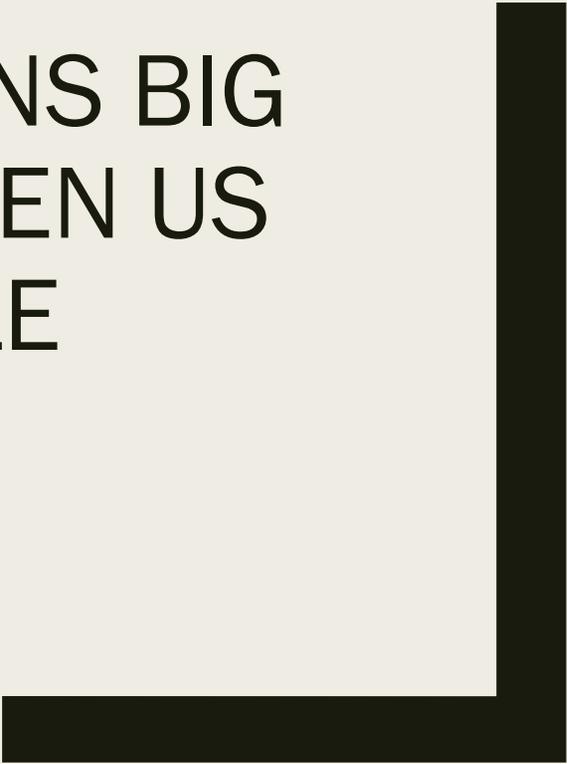
Exclusive Language

Privilege (PAFD)



TURN AND TALK
(TELL YOUR NEIGHBOR
A VULNERABLE STORY)





RECONCILIATION MEANS BIG
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US
ARE MADE WHOLE

Diversity is key

REVELATION 7

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

GALATIANS 3:26-28

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Breakdown—key to historical context of scripture

***Baruch a Cha Adonai....*

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Breakdown—key to historical context of scripture

“O God, for not making me a Gentile, slave, or woman”

What is Paul doing?

Paul is breaking down walls by encouraging Jewish people to see the people of God as God Himself sees them—created equally. Different, but magnificent.

OTHER SCRIPTURAL STORIES

Samaritan Woman

Healing of the Blind Man

Nicodemus (Nick at Night)

Great Commission

Pentecost

Book of Acts

All situations where Jesus calls us out on our dashboard

We interact as a people of God—as one. But we are different as well.

- Language
- Gender
- Race
- Culture
- Ability

QUOTE TO FRAME OUR TIME TODAY AGAIN

Henri Nouwen--Community.

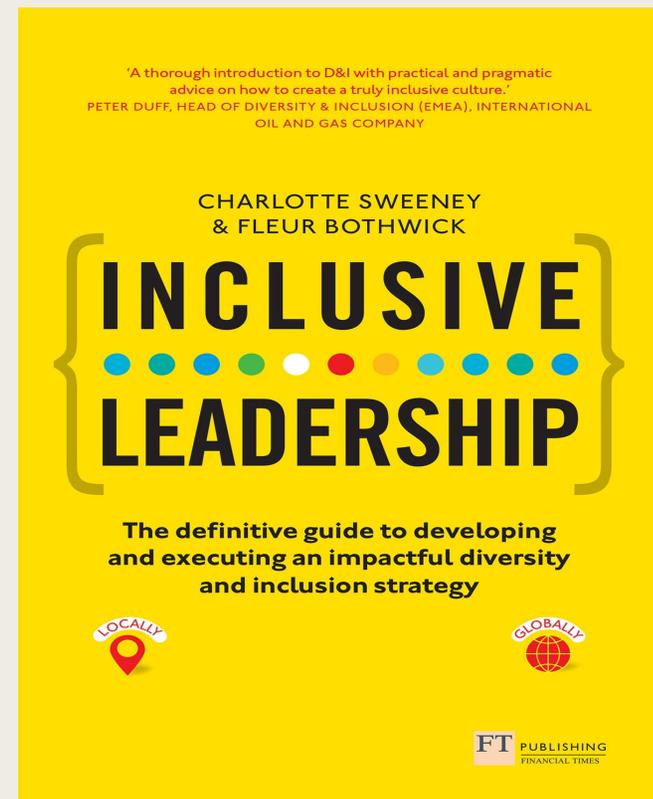
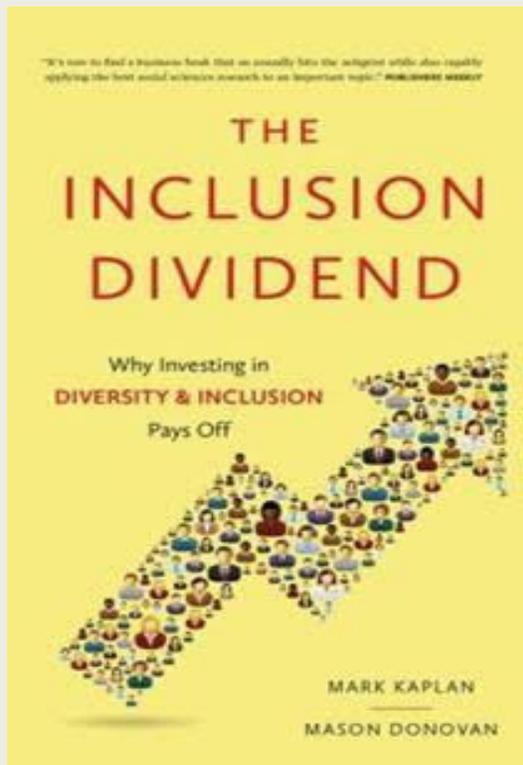
- “Gradually I am discovering that community is the place of intimacy, because it’s the place where we have to continue to confess to each other that we aren’t able to live up to all our ideals. In community, we have to FORGIVE each other continuously. But the beauty of community, of friendship, of marriage, the beauty of living together is that every time we say ‘I’m sorry, brother, I’m sorry, sister. I’m sorry that I am not the way that you want me to be’ we can hear the other person say ‘that’s all right, I love you,’ and then the intimacy grows deeper and stronger. So I’m learning that community is the place of ongoing confession and ongoing forgiveness.”



DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY



Conceptual Origin



What are our differences?

Thousands of differences

- Height
- Weight
- Hair Color
- Origin Story
- Emotional Upbringing
- Emotional Maturity
- Etc.

5 Thought categories

Physical

Mental

Emotional

Spiritual

Social

*We will get to these later!

GOES TO THE DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY

Thousands of Dimensions of Diversity—6 main attributive

- Religion
- Race
- Class
- Gender
- Cultural Identity
- Disability

Each dimension of Diversity gives more information regarding who someone is

GOES TO THE DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY

With the meat of these dimensions, it is important for framework to speak around dimensions that are variables and dimensions that are non-variables.

COMPARISONS/CONTRASTS WITHIN DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY MUST BE CONGRUENT

DIMENSIONS THAT CHANGE

- Class
- Religion

DIMENSIONS THAT CAN BE ABSCONDED

- Cultural Identity

DIMENSIONS THAT ARE STATIC

- Gender
- Race
- Disability

BIAS TESTING

Great way to unpack our Bias is through Affinity Bias testing

Teaches us Affinity from original perspective

AFFINITY BIAS TESTING

Great way to unpack our Bias is through Affinity Bias testing

Teaches us Affinity from original perspective

STEP 1: List 6 people you consider friends

- 3 from work, 3 from your personal life. If you desire, all can be from your personal life as well

STEP 3: USE 6 DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY IN THE ROWS AND INCLUDE TWO MORE—AGE AND OCCUPATION

	BOB	AMY	STACY	TOM	HARRY	ROE
RACE						
CLASS						
GENDER						
RELIGION						
CULTURAL IDENTITY						
AGE						
JOB						

STEP 4: PUT AN “X” IF YOU LACK A COMMONALITY WITH THIS PERSON IN THIS CATEGORY

	BOB	AMY	STACY	TOM	HARRY	ROE
RACE	X					
CLASS		X				
GENDER						
RELIGION	X					
CULTURAL IDENTITY						
AGE						
JOB						

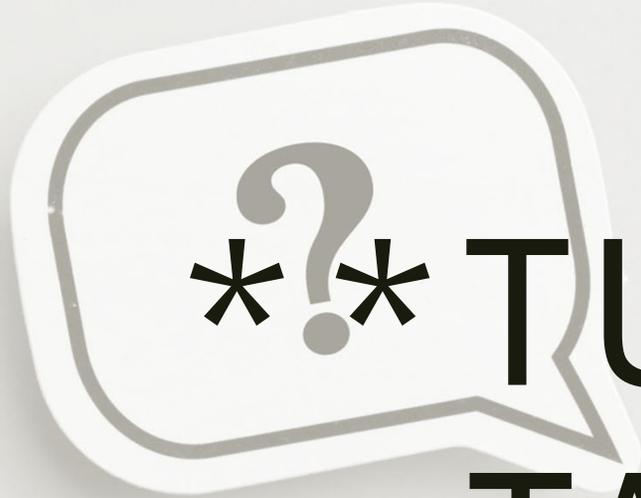
STEP 5: PUT A “Y” IF YOU SHARE A COMMONALITY WITH THIS PERSON IN THIS CATEGORY

	BOB	AMY	STACY	TOM	HARRY	ROE
RACE	X	Y				
CLASS		X				
GENDER						
RELIGION	X		Y			
CULTURAL IDENTITY				Y		
AGE						
JOB						

WHAT DOES YOUR “X” “Y” RATIO LOOK LIKE?

■ TURN AND TALK

- *WHAT DOES YOUR X AND Y RATIO LOOK LIKE?*
- *MORE Y MEANS YOU HAVE SIMILARITY IN FRIENDSHIPS, MORE X MEANS YOU HAVE DIFFERENCES*
- **WHERE ARE YOUR HOLES IN UNDERSTANDING? WHICH CATEGORIES?**

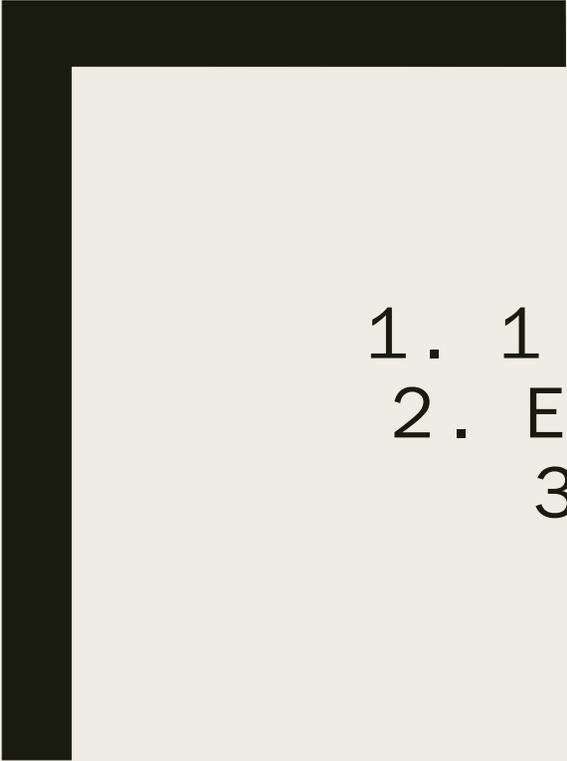


***?* TURN AND
TALK * ***

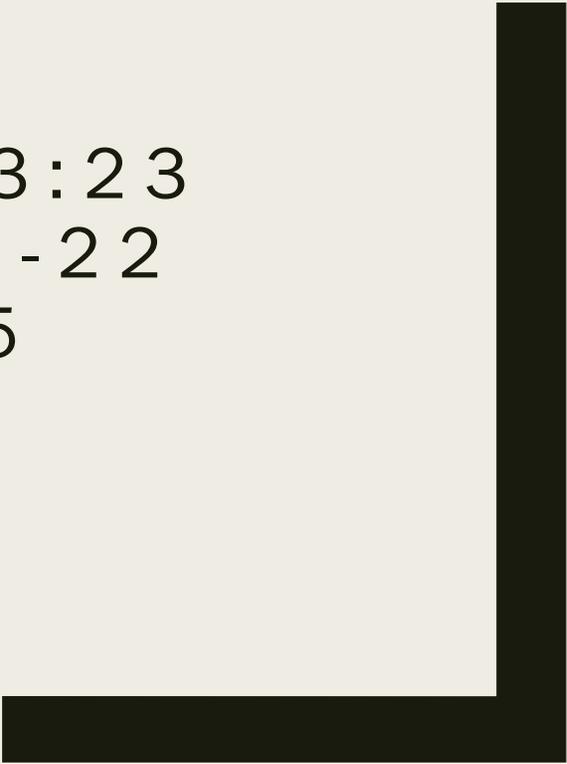




WHERE DOES
RECONCILIATION COME
IN?



SCRIPTURES

1. 1 CORINTHIANS 3:23
 2. EPHESIANS 2:17-22
 3. ROMANS 12:5
- 



WE ARE RECONCILED TO SELF
THROUGH OUR BELONGING IN
CHRIST JESUS



DIMENSIONS OF BELONGING





Dimensions expanded

- **Choosing**
People make a choice to be in relationship with each other. A relationship is mutual; both people must choose to engage. Both must be Present and feel Invited. The key indicator of this step is mutuality.
- **Investing**
Once two people have chosen relationship, investing helps the sense of belonging grow. Typically, this means each person is intentionally Welcomed and Cared For in a way that honors their dignity and value. The key indicator of this step is engagement.
- **Yielding**
Growing a relationship often requires sensitivity around the unique needs of an individual, especially a person with a disability. This yielding results in a deepening relationship, leading each person to feel Supported and Accepted. The key indicator of this step is relational depth.
- **Committing**
As the relationship deepens, each person becomes more fully Known. When the relationship progresses to each person being Befriended, they feel a sense of safety that can foster appropriate relational intimacy. The key indicator of this step is safety.
- **Flourishing**
One goal of a deep relationship is transformation, growth, peace, and wholeness. This type of flourishing only comes when each person feels Needed and ultimately Loved. This is true belonging and the key indicator of this step is transformation.

GROUP CHAT (Turn and talk)

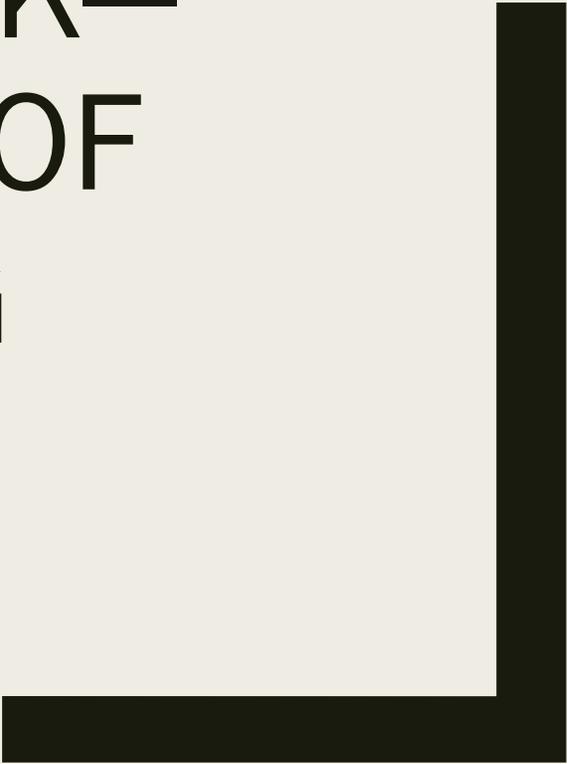
- Where do you think people in YOUR Ministry are at on the wheel of Belonging?

Audio tool: Podcast—the impartial church

- Led by Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling and his sister, Deaconess Janine Bolling
- Racial Diversity in The Church
- <https://www.lhm.org/theimpartialchurch/>



TURN AND TALK—
DIMENSIONS OF
BELONGING



How do I break out in RECONCILIATION OF SELF?

1. Demographic Study
2. Asset Mapping
3. Community Mapping
 1. *Development*
 2. *Engagement*

CHRIST'S "I AM" STATEMENTS ARE PROMISES TO US. WE ARE IN LIGHT OF HIS "I AM."

