

# CHURCH BIAS BREAKER TOOL V.1.2

Sacralism\*,  
Aristotelian,  
Monism\* -  
**EXTERIORITY  
HERESIES**

←--West-- **OUTWARDLY STRUCTURED LIFE**-----**INWARDLY STRUCTURED LIFE**--East--→

Incarnational	Social Justice	Charismatic	Evangelical	Holiness	Contemplative
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Gnosticism,  
Platonism,  
Dualism –  
**INTERIORITY  
HERESIES**

STREAMS	Incarnational - The Revolutionist	Social Justice - The Activist	Charismatic – The Revivalist	Evangelical – The Reformist	Holiness – The Pietist	Contemplative – The Passivist
JESUS THE ...	... Man	... the Good Samaritan	... Baptiser with Fire	... Teacher	... Priest	... Prayerful Intercessor
CHURCH	Some emergent, some ecumenical, Jesuit Catholics, generally Roman Catholic/ Anglican	Liberal, progressive, politically active churches	Independent, various	Reformed Churches, John McArthur, Southern Baptists, DL Moody	Plymouth Brethren, Pentecostal Holiness Church	Quakers, Anabaptists, {Orthodox Church?}
VALUES = EMPHASIS = BIAS = FILTER	Sacramental life	Compassionate life	Spirit empowered life	Word based life	Virtuous life	Devotional life
AUTHORITY BASE	Word & Church Traditions	Word & human sciences	Word & Spirit	Sola Scriptura	Word & Conduct	“Inner light’ of George Fox > canon of scripture
SOUL EMPHASIS (SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY)	Body – incarnational – beauty and benefit of physical creation - corporeal life.	Practical, action orientated. Needs of the body – food, drink, shelter.	Spiritual-emotional	Soul-intellectual. Mindy.	Heightened awareness of the weakness of the flesh, need for piety. Soul-Spirit.	inward spirit orientated, self-emptying ‘kenosis’, ‘gnosis’ focus etc

<b>STREAMS</b>	<b>Incarnational - The Revolutionist</b>	<b>Social Justice - The Activist</b>	<b>Charismatic – The Revivalist</b>	<b>Evangelical – The Reformist</b>	<b>Holiness – The Pietist</b>	<b>Contemplative – The Passivist</b>
<b>VIEW ON POOR</b>	Primary role of the church to bring practical economic and political equality	Primary role of church to bring economic equality	Secondary to spiritual-emotional experience	Secondary to expositional preaching of Gospel of Salvation	Arm's length	Arm's length
<b>MISSION – Great Command - Mt 22 &amp; Great Commission – Mt 28</b>	Changing the socio-political and enviro landscape of the world through the agency of the church. Mt 28	Growing the impact of the church on the poor. Mt 28	Growing the church in spiritual power. Mt 22 & Mt 28	Growing the church numerically – getting as many tickets to Heaven. Mt 28	Growing the church in character and holiness. Mt 22	Growing the devotional depth of the believer. Mt 22
<b>CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION</b>	Sacral. Incarnational i.e., church adopts, incarnates itself in local culture. Outward utopian.	Tends to sacralism, theonomy	Various positions including dominionistic, separatist	Various positions, magisterial reformation is foundation	Heightened awareness of otherness	100% separate – 'splendid isolation'. Inward utopian.
<b>CHURCH GOV</b>	Clear clergy-laity split	Democratic	Charismatic Leader driven, various	Hierarchal, patriarchal	Flat- Congregational	Flat - Congregational
<b>WORSHIP</b>	Ritualistic, highly liturgical	Action, service based	Loud, expressive, chaotic at times	Organised, formal, restrained	Reserved, awe of God	Default is silence
<b>COMMUNION (View of bread &amp; wine)</b>	Transubstantiation of eucharist	Visible sacraments	Visible sacraments	Visible sacraments	Visible sacraments	Sacraments are taken inwardly and immaterial
<b>BAPTISM</b>	Sprinkling of infants, ritualistic	Various	Adult baptism by immersion	Various	Adult baptism by immersion	No physical water baptism
<b>CHURCH GATHERING PLACES</b>	Cathedrals, high adornment of outward art	Dual purpose – secular-sacred	Various, audience focussed facilities such as theatres	Purpose built church structures	Homes, Meeting Halls, School Halls etc	Homes, Meeting Halls, School Halls etc

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<b>CLARIFYING DISTINCTIONS</b>	Transcendence (God is outside of us)					Immanence (God is inside of us)
	Exteriority strong					Interiority strong
	<b>IN</b> the world not of the world					In the world <b>NOT OF</b> the world
	Open					Cloistered
	Object based – mindful of the creature ... 'in-carnational' 😊					Subjective, experience/ encounter based
	Body					Spirit
	Literal interpretation of scripture					Symbolic interpretation of scripture
	Practical, visible, material					Mystical, invisible, spirit, immaterial
	Iconic, physical visible images, relics etc					Iconoclastic, imagination, highly subjective

## NOTES

\* Sacralism – “*Cuius regio, eius religio*” or “who has region, decides religion.”

\* Monism – a theory or doctrine that denies the existence of a distinction or duality in a particular sphere, such as that between matter and mind, or God and the world.

\* Traditions colour: red colour of rainbow is the long wave ‘outside arc’, purple is the short ‘inside arc’ ... hence the contemplative tradition is Inward and the incarnational tradition has been coloured red as red is on the outward band of the colour spectrum, it’s a coherent fit.

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.” Ps 46:4

Cross section of streams of Christianity past, present and future. Historically, most of these streams always existed in some form or other.

Great saints often start one end of spectrum and move across to the other and vice versa (Bonhoeffer eg)

Maturity comes when the rich nutrients in the six streams of God amalgamate and form the River of God. May we allow the flow from all streams to strengthen us in the inward man so that we may be light, salt and balm to the body of Christ and a broken world. Amen.

## EXTRA RESOURCES

Catholic as incarnational

<https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/toward-incarnational-culture/>

## AUTHOR

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