

# Shaped by the Gospel: Theological Vision Part 2

Looking at the chart to the right, which of these three levels have you given the most time and attention?

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Why do you think this level has been your focus?

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Which of these three levels have you given the least time and attention?

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Why hasn't this level been more prominent in your ministry planning?

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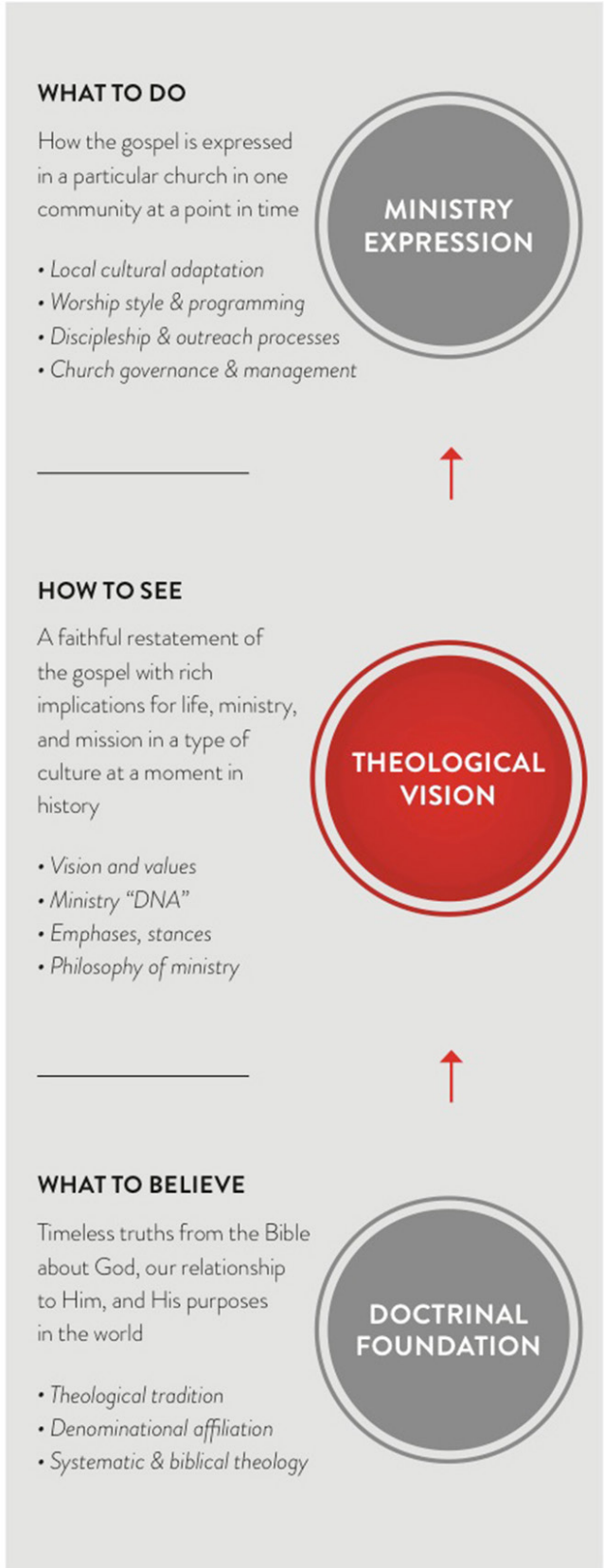
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# Shaped by the Gospel: Theological Vision Part 2

## Watch Video on Theological Vision (10 minutes)

Notes:

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Tim Keller believes every leader ought to ask the following questions:

***1. What are good things in the culture of our community?***

***2. What are the bad things?***

***3. What could be repurposed?***

Why does being “gospel-centered” require that we ask these questions?

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These questions take serious thought to answer, but take a moment to discuss and jot down some of your initial responses:

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# Shaped by the Gospel: Theological Vision Part 2

## How the Gospel Shapes Your Church

Consider the ways the gospel could challenge your church to become “a church for others.”

Watch Video (14 minutes)

### Romans 15:1-3

1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”

Notes:

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### Break into groups:

Timothy Keller lists a few ways in which a church can serve the “weak” over the “strong.” What would this look like in your own church?

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Discuss your experience with tradition in church, both negative and positive. Where have you come from? How has it shaped you? *(For example, did the worship services that shaped you follow a liturgy? Did the minister wear robes or stand on a podium? What was the music like, and how did you respond to it?)*

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# Shaped by the Gospel: Theological Vision Part 2

What are the strengths of our church's reformed presbyterian tradition in communicating the gospel? What are the weaknesses?*(For example, a high church liturgy can take a congregation through communion, confession of sin, repentance and celebration in every service; on the other hand, some find that robes and rituals reinforce the idea that God is distant.)*

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## Homework

Read: The Gospel Is Not a Simple Thing  
(pages 47-59 in Shaped by the Gospel)

The Gospel Affects Everything  
(pages 61-74 in Shaped by the Gospel)  
27 pages or 3.8 pages a day!

Pray: Sit silently for 2 minutes each day and focus on his presence in your life and this community. Take time this week to praise and thank God for the traditions that have shaped you. Ask God to show us any barriers to the gospel that exist in our church.