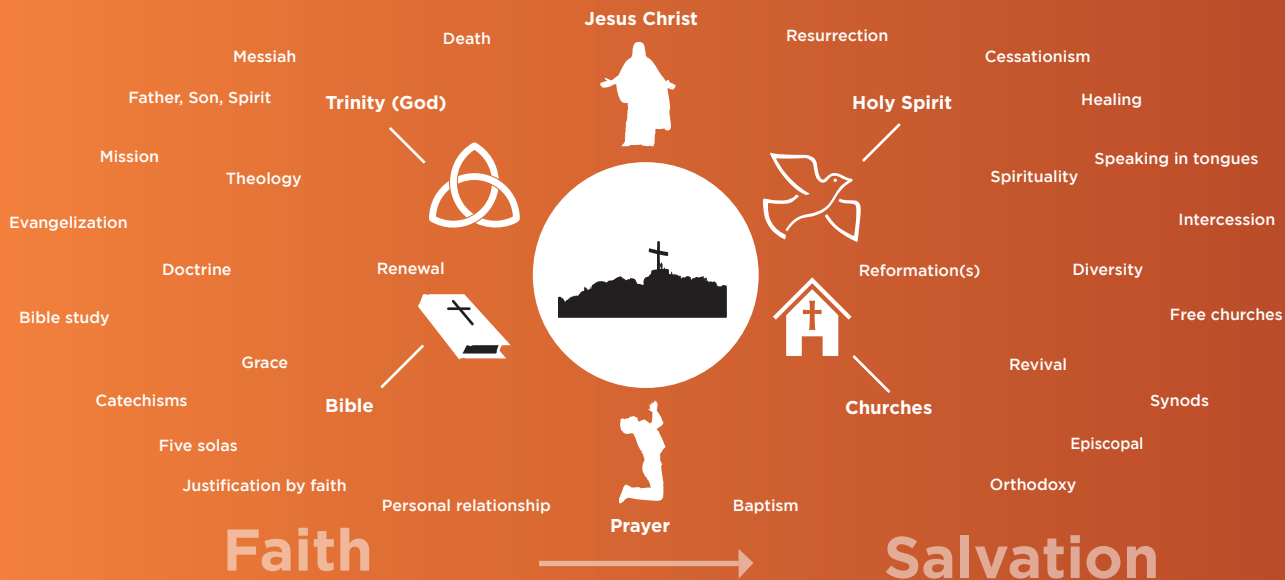


PROTESTANTISM



TRADITIONS

Protestantism is a branch of Christianity that since the sixteenth century exists in **different subbranches**, such as:

- Episcopal
- Reformed
- Methodism
- Lutheranism
- (Ana)baptism

In the 500 years since the reformation, a lot of traditions and movements have developed that often **transcend these boundaries**, such as:

- Adventism
- Evangelicalism
- Pentecostalism and charismatics
- Liberalism
- Progressive Christianity
- Contextual theologies

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES



Protestants are very diverse and also **respond** to challenges in **diverse ways**. Some interact positively with different challenges, while others outright reject any changes of and influences on the protestant tradition(s). Protestantism **cannot remain silent** on discussion of *radicalization* and *extremism*, since protestant movements have fueled and still fuel these two processes.

Interfaith dialogue and religious freedom



Dialogue is **essential** to look for solutions in these matters. Dialogue with each other can help understand the own *beliefs*, *identity* and the *world around*. In doing so, it is important that everyone is free to live out their own faith and express their beliefs in society and in dialogue with others.

EDUC8



Projects such as EDUC8 can help to foster dialogue and openness to others. EDUC8 consists of religious education within the **own tradition** and in **dialogue with other traditions** by focusing on the issues of *violence*, *diversity*, *war*, and *environmental and social issues* in society. From a protestant perspective, attention is given to reading and interpreting the bible and connecting bible texts with the own particular life.

CHALLENGES

Secularization and a multireligious context



European societies have changed through a process by which people migrate from a close identification with religious institutions to a more differentiated relationship. [...] **Secularization** and **pluralism** continue to provide significant numbers of the citizens of Europe with a framework for shaping ethical decisions, priorities, actions, worldviews, beliefs, and their attitudes towards other individuals, social groups, and institutions, including the churches.

Social-ethical contributions = Protestant in Europe. Leuenberger Texte 15. P. 211-212

Demographic changes and the future of the church



Ethnocentrism, in its most common expression, is this general attitude by which we determine who is below us, who deserves to be treated completely as an equal human being and who doesn't. This is so much a part of us that we do not notice it. Through these invisible lenses we classify large groups of people and large sections of the world's geography. [...] Ethnocentrism can be one of the greatest obstacles to Christian mission.

Acosta B, Milton. 2009. 'Ethnicity and the People of God', p. 307

Environmental issues and sustainable development



The **social effects** of environmental problems, e. g. climate change and rising energy prices, should not be underestimated. The interrelationship between environment and poverty is a key issue. The World Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development as development which meets basic human needs.

Social-ethical contributions = Protestant in Europe. Leuenberger Texte 15. P. 207

Internal divisions, dialogue and collaboration



[Leaders that are part of the Lausanne movement] express lower – but still substantial – levels of concern about threats from **internal divisions and shortcomings within evangelicalism**. Theological divisions among evangelicals are considered a major threat by three-in-ten and a minor threat by an additional 54% of the leaders surveyed.

"Global Survey of Evangelical Protestant Leaders." 2011. Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. p. 56