

**PREACHING AS INTERACTION  
BETWEEN CHURCH AND CULTURE: WITH SPECIFIC  
REFERENCE TO THE KOREAN CHURCH**

By

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## **DECLARATION**

I the undersigned hereby declare that the work contained in this thesis is my own work and has not previously in its entirety or in part been submitted at any university for a degree.

Signature:

Date:

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## ABSTRACT

The Korean church, famous for her rapid growth, has begun to notice a downward trend in her growth rate since the mid-eighties. Although many reputable investigations have recently been carried out with regard to this downward slide, these investigations have overlooked the full meaning of preaching in the interaction between church and culture. In view of this, this study sets the following four aims: (1) to investigate the reasons behind church decline in terms of preaching in the interaction between church and culture in Korea; (2) to interpret preaching in the interaction between church and culture biblically, historically and theologically in order to understand the normative Christian perceptions and practices of preaching; (3) to attempt an integration between the descriptive and the normative; and (4) to propose developmental strategies for the Korean church.

To achieve these purposes, two kinds of methods are employed in this study: (a) an analysis of preaching in the interaction between church and culture both in Korea and in the normative Christian sources, with the model advocated by D Browning (1991); and (b) qualitative interviewing as an empirical interpretation with a model based on the findings of Rubin & Rubin (1995).

Five claims emerge from this study: (1) How do we reset the context of preaching? (2) How do we revise the present preaching theory of the Korean church? (3) How do we define and defend conversion preaching that is seemingly exclusive in contemporary pluralistic Korean society? (4) How do we rethink and re-establish the ecclesiology of the Korean church? (5) How do we formulate the Christian culture against or in the rage of worldly thoughts and cultures in Korea? This thesis concludes by proposing preaching as interaction and the preacher as an inter-actor between church and culture. Practical strategies are developed to answer the claims.

## OPSOMMING

Die Koreaanse kerk, bekend vir haar snelle groei, het sedert die middeltagtigerjare 'n afwaartse neiging in groeikoers begin merk. Verskeie betroubare navorsingsondersoeke is onlangs hieroor uitgevoer, maar hierdie studies neem nie prediking in die interaksie van kerk en kultuur in ag nie.

Met die kennis van hierdie feite, stel hierdie studie die volgende doelstellings: (1) om redes te ondersoek vir die kerk se afname in die lig van prediking in die interaksie van kerk en kultuur in Korea; (2) om prediking in die interaksie van kerk en kultuur in Korea Bybels, histories en teologies te interpreteer om normatiewe Christelike persepsies en praktyke van prediking te verstaan; (3) om die beskrywende en die normatiewe te integreer; en (4) om ontwikkelingstrategieë vir die Koreaanse kerk daar te stel.

Om hierdie doelstellings te bereik, gebruik hierdie studie twee metodes:

- (a) 'n analise van prediking in die interaksie van die kerk en kultuur in Korea; met gebruik van normatiewe Christelike bronne, aan die hand van die model van D Browning (1991); en
- (b) kwalitatiewe onderhoudvoering as empiriese ondersoek aan die hand van 'n model gebaseer op the bevindings van Rubin & Rubin (1995).

Die volgende vyf stellingvrae word gestel: (1) Hoe word 'n konteks vir prediking (her)ingestel? (2) Hoe kan die huidige geskiedenis van predikingsteorie in die Koreaanse kerk hersien word? (3) Hoe kan bekeringsprediking, wat skynbaar eksklusief is, in die kontemporêre pluralistiese Koreaanse samelewing omskryf en verdedig word? (4) Hoe kan die kerkboukuns van die Koreaanse kerk heroorweeg en herstel word? (5) Hoe kan die Christelike kultuur teenoor of te midde van die oproer van wêreldlike denke en kulture in Korea geformuleer word? Hierdie studie word afgesluit deur prediking voor te stel as interaktief en die prediker as interaksie-agent tussen kerk en kultuur. Praktiese strategieë word ten slotte ontwikkel om die stellingvrae te beantwoord.

## **KEY WORDS / PHRASES**

Korean church

Interaction between church and culture

Practical theology

Cultural initiative

Ecclesiology

Preaching in the interaction between church and culture

Preaching context

Conversion preaching

Participation

Christian culture

Preaching as interaction between church and culture

Preacher as an inter-actor

## ABBREVIATIONS

Old Testament	Abbreviation	New Testament	Abbreviation
Genesis	Gen	Matthew	Mt
Exodus	Exo	Mark	Mk
Leviticus	Lev	Luke	Lk
Numbers	Num	John	Jn
Deuteronomy	Deut	Acts	Act
Joshua	Jos	Romans	Rom
Judges	Jud	1 Corinthians	1 Cor
Ruth	Ru	2 Corinthians	2 Cor
1 Samuel	1 Sam	Galatians	Gal
2 Samuel	2 Sam	Ephesians	Eph
1 Kings	1 Ki	Philippians	Php
2 Kings	2 Ki	Colossians	Col
1 Chronicles	1 Chr	1 Thessalonians	1 The
2 Chronicles	2 Chr	2 Thessalonians	2 The
Ezra	Ezr	1 Timothy	1 Tim
Nehemiah	Neh	2 Timothy	2 Tim
Esther	Est	Titus	Tit
Job	Job	Philemon	Phm
Psalms	Ps	Hebrews	Heb
Proverbs	Pro	James	Jam
Ecclesiastes	Ecc	1 Peter	1 Pet
Song of songs	SS	2 Peter	2 Pet
Isaiah	Isa	1 John	1 Jn
Jeremiah	Jer	2 John	2 Jn
Lamentations	Lam	3 John	3 Jn
Ezekiel	Ezk	Jude	Jude
Daniel	Dan	Revelation	Rev
Hosea	Hos		
Joel	Joe		
Amos	Am		
Obadiah	Oba		
Jonah	Jon		
Micah	Mic		
Nahum	Nah		
Habakkuk	Hab		
Zephaniah	Zep		
Haggai	Hag		
Zechariah	Zec		
Malachi	Mal		



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