

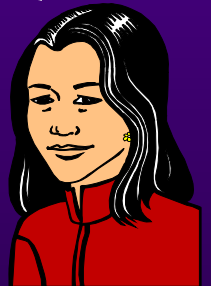
# *Bridging Languages*

How does God  
bridge languages?

**For Lansdale Presbyterian Church**

**Vern Sheridan Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.**

**Westminster Theological Seminary**





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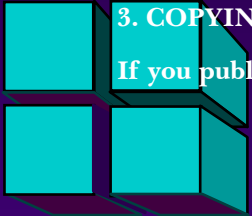
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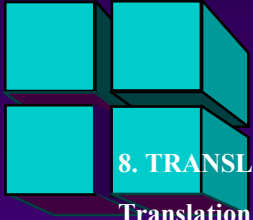
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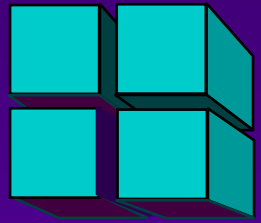
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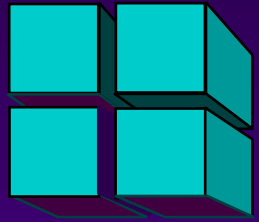
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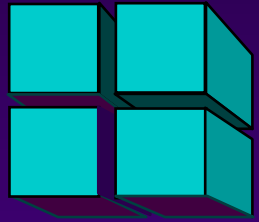


## *A. Foundations for Peace*



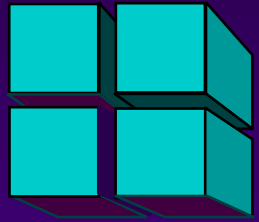
## *Gentile and Jew*

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. -- Eph. 2:13-16



## *Unity in Christ*

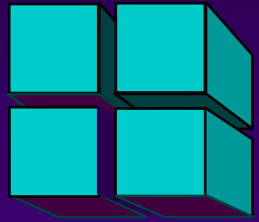
I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. -- Eph. 4:1-3



## *Unity in Christ (2)*

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

-- Eph. 4:4-6



## *Diversity in Christ*

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

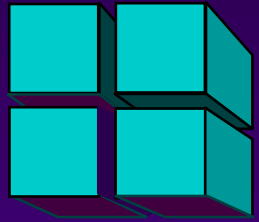
-- Eph. 4:7

There are many parts, yet one body.

-- 1 Cor. 12:20

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

-- 1 Cor. 12:27



# *Unity in Diversity*

Jews and  
Gentile:

ethnic  
groups:

one body

one faith

caring

sharing

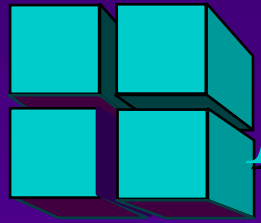
because of  
Christ

distinct customs

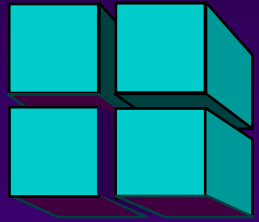
distinct cultures

distinct languages

because of  
Christ



## *B. Challenges with Languages*



# *Difficulties with Language*

English

"light"

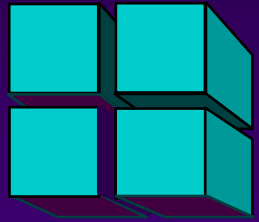
"or"

Hebrew

"or"

"o"





# *Difficulties with Language (2)*

English

"she"

"he"

"who"

"me"

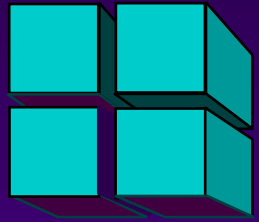
Hebrew

"he"

"who"

"me"

"anee"



# *Difficulties with Language (3)*

English

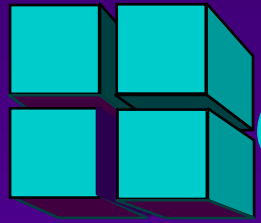
"The LORD  
is great."

Hebrew

יְהוָה גָּדוֹל

"The LORD"

"great"

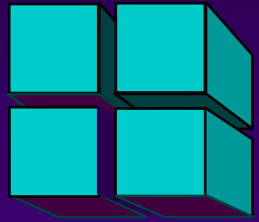


## *C. Bridging Languages*



## *Christ's Reconciliation*

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. -- 2 Cor. 5:19



# *Kinds of Bridges*

God

Latin

English

Christ

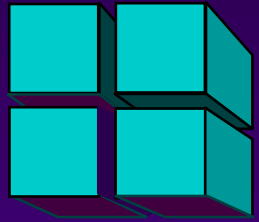
John  
Wycliffe

man

English

Mixtec

Quechua



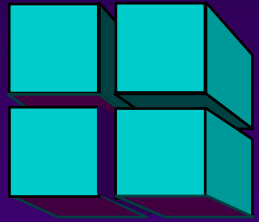
# *Kinds of Exchange*

Christ

you

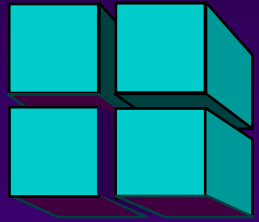
sin

righteousness



## *Christ's Exchange*

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. -- 2 Cor. 5:21



# *Kinds of Exchange (2)*

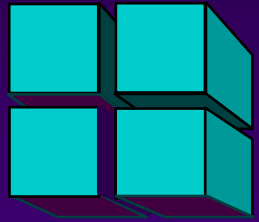
translator

recipient

ignorance

knowledge





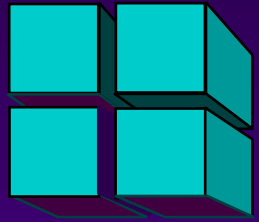
# *Kinds of Exchange (3)*

translator

recipient

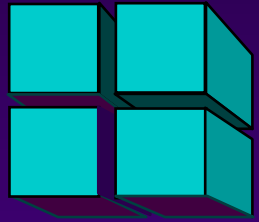
pain

blessing



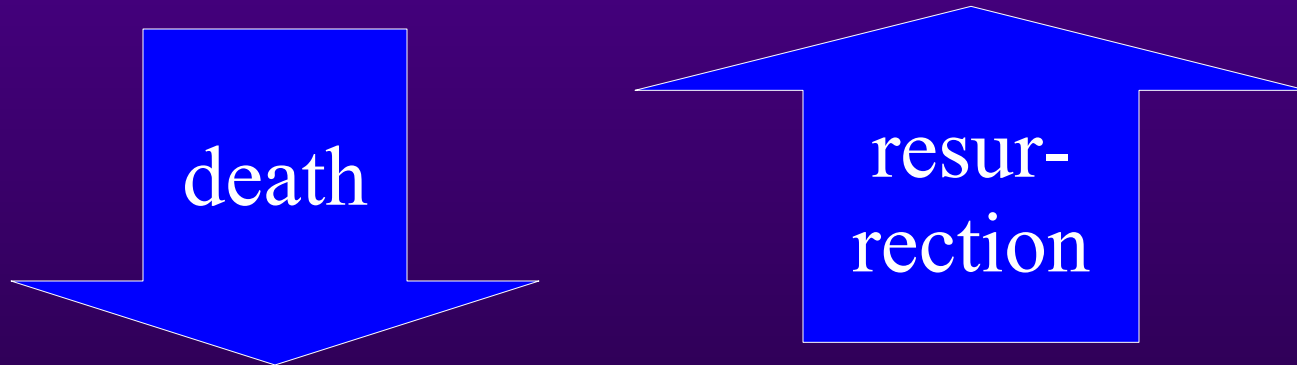
## *Kinds of Exchange (4)*

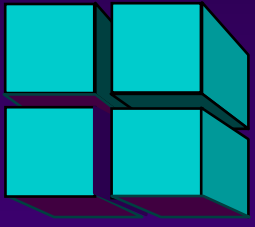
For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. -- 2 Cor. 1:5-6



# *Death and Resurrection*

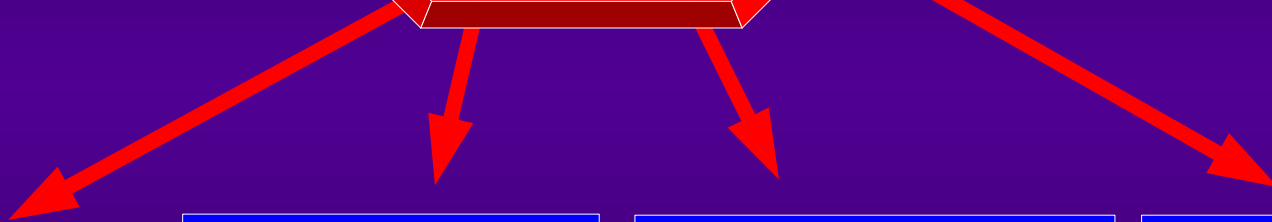
We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. -- Rom. 6:4





# *Theme of Death and Resurrection*

death  
resurrection



your  
conversion

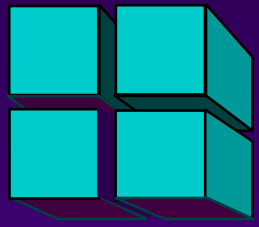
your  
sanctification

resurrection  
of the body



FOUNDATION

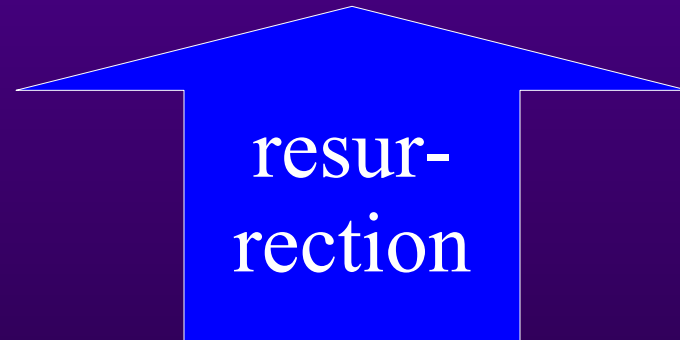


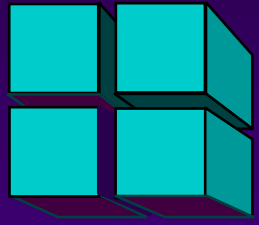


# *Death and Resurrection in You*

... always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.. -- 2 Cor.

4:10-11





# *Death and Resurrection in Translation*

death

humbled by new  
culture

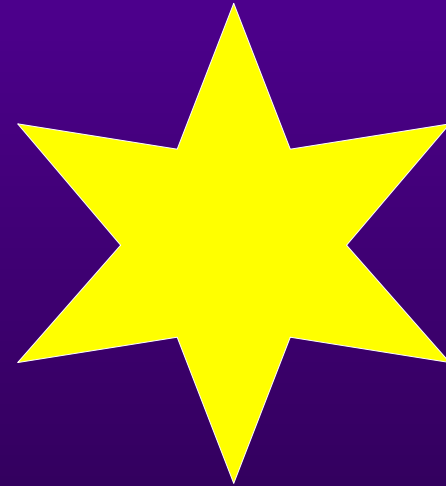
resur-  
rection

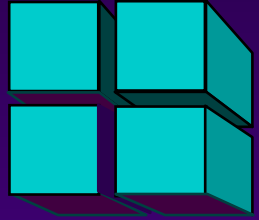
new life to those  
in a culture



# *Victory over Satan*

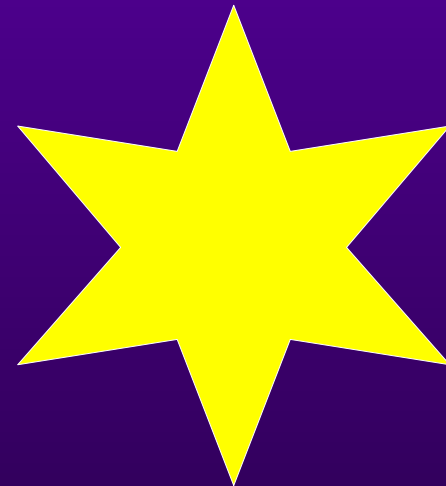
Now is the judgment of this world;  
now will the ruler of this world be  
cast out. -- John 12:31



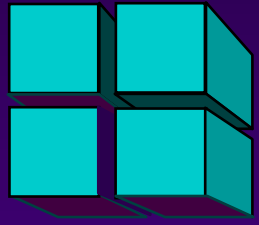


## *Victory over Satan in You*

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. -- Col. 1:13



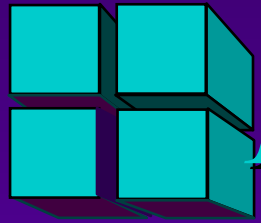




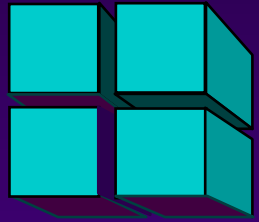
## *Victory over Satan in Translation*



the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. -- Acts 26:17-18

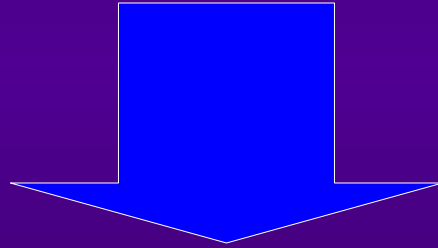


## *D. Counterfeit Reconciliation*



# *Rationalism*

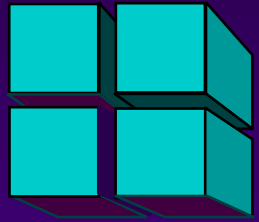
Reason as god



American

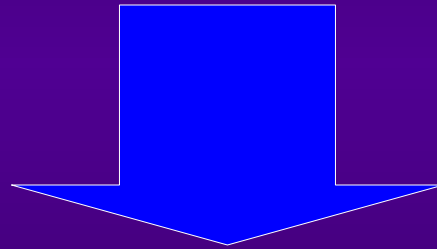
Mexican

Chinese



# *Postmodernism*

Tolerance as god

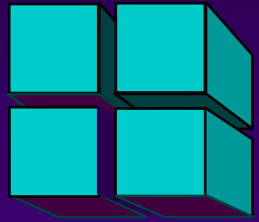


no one  
knows God

American

Mexican

Chinese



# *God's Reconciliation*

God in Christ

exchange

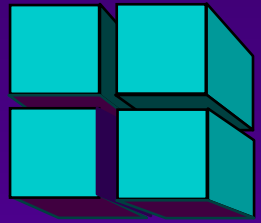
death  
resur-  
rection

victory  
over  
Satan

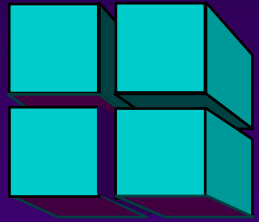
American

Mexican

Chinese



## *E. Listening*



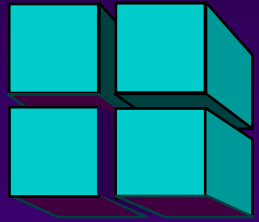
# *Exchange in Listening*

listener

friend

ignorance

knowledge



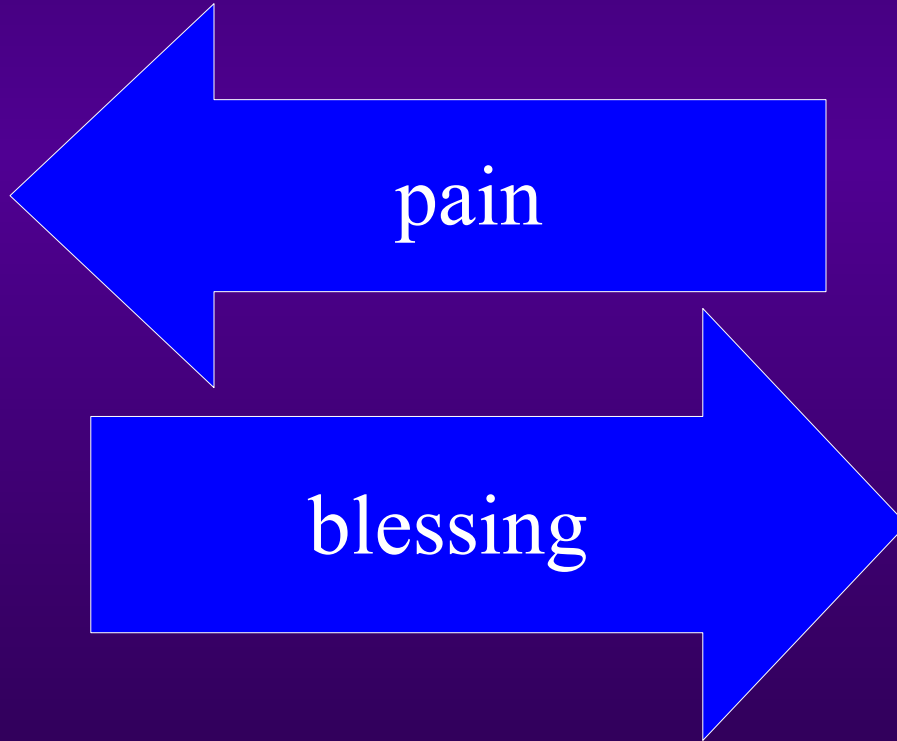
# *Exchange in Listening (2)*

listener

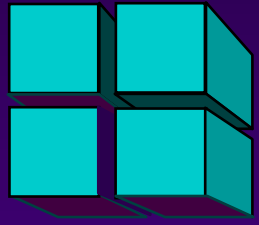
friend

pain

blessing







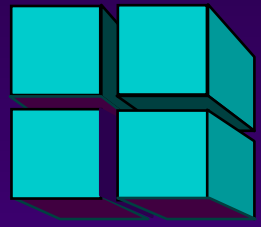
# *Death and Resurrection in Translation*

death

humbled by  
differences in life

resur-  
rection

new life to your  
friend



# *Victory over Satan in Doing Good*

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. -- Rom. 12:20-21

