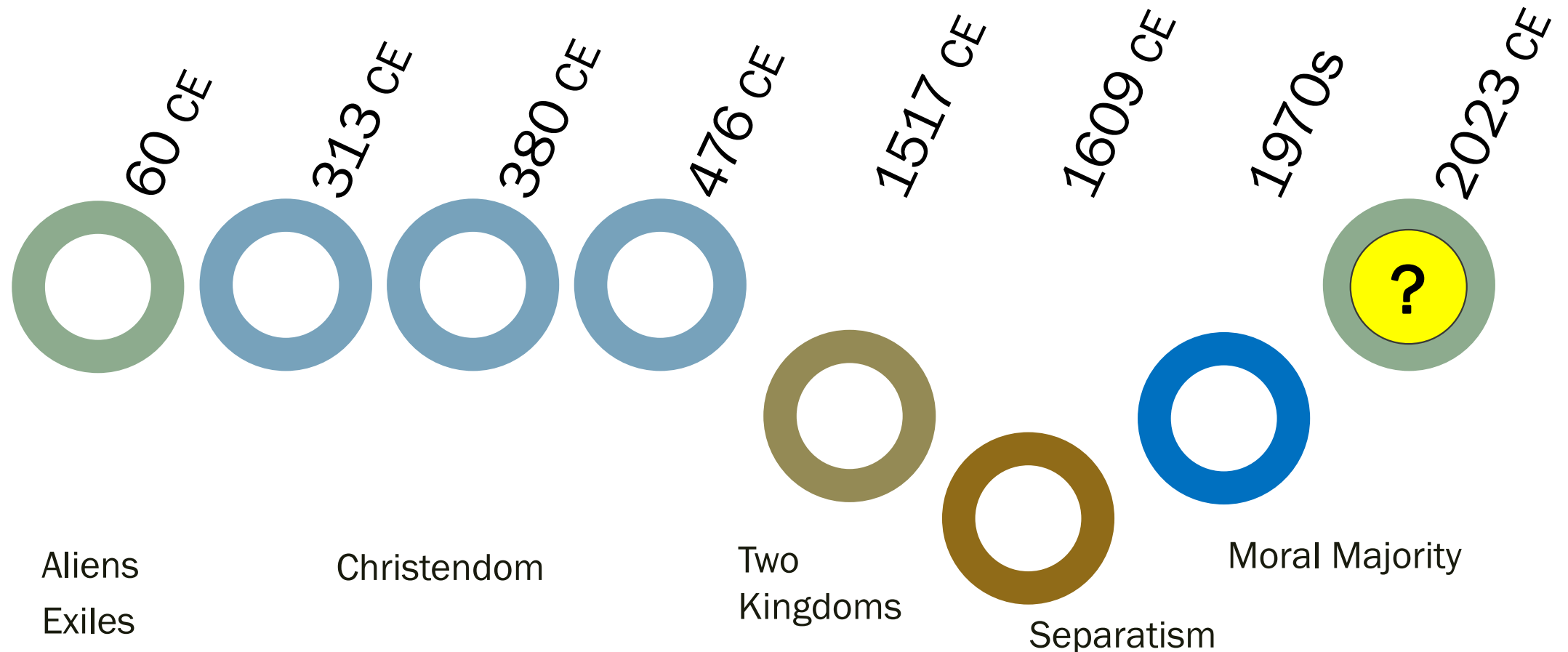


RE-IMAGINING THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN SOCIETY

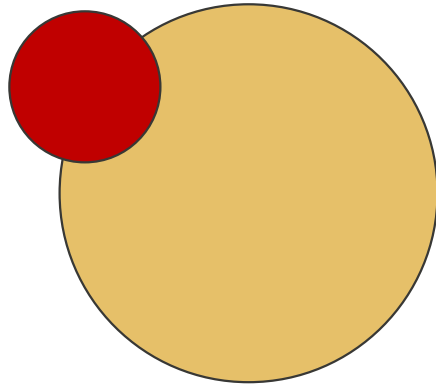
1 Peter 2:9

August 27, 2023

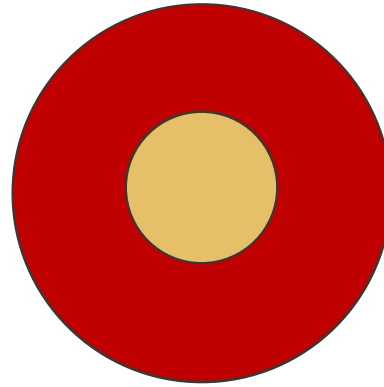
A Delema 1,710 years in the making: How does the Church relate to the State



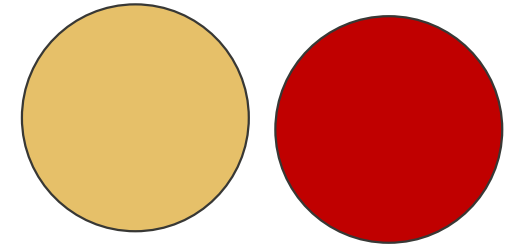
The Church's Role in Society



[1]



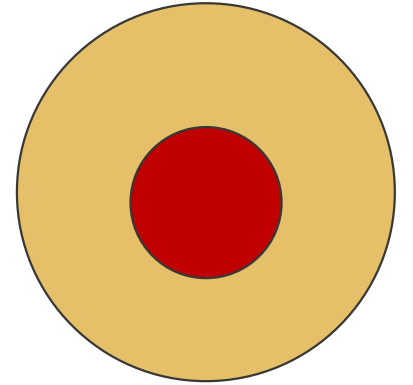
[2]



[3A/3B]

Engaged in power conflicts with society,
the Church has had **a failure of holy imagination.**

Shaped by a Holy Imagination



[4]

- Genesis 12:2 a blessing to the nations
- Jeremiah 29:7 [in exile] pray for the welfare of the city
- Exodus 19:6, a kingdom of priests
- 1 Peter 2:9 a royal priesthood

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work... (*The Message*)

Two Key Roles of a Priest: Facing God + Facing the People



Behind the altar (facing the people)

Maintaining Temple and Holiness
becomes Living Temple (presence and witness) and positive, lived Holiness

This is how the priests of Israel shall bless the Israelites: “The LORD bless you and keep you...”
Numbers 6:23-27

Before the altar (back to the people)

Prayers of Intercession for the people [all nations]

Sacrifices for forgiveness and healing, of thanksgiving and worship
becomes sharing and embodying Jesus [the High Priest and the Lamb]

We are Individually and Collectively A Kingdom of Priests

**not just enjoying the perks of priesthood
but doing the work of priests**


- **The priesthood of all believers (a privilege)**

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. Ephesians 3:12 (and Hebrews 10:19-22)

- **The priesthood of all believers (a responsibility)**

We are chosen to be servants of God, living stones in the Temple of God, and representatives of the people

Narratives and Images Encourage A Holy Imagination



Let me tell
you a story...

Jesus said...

What does it mean for Christies Beach Baptist Church **to function as** God's chosen people, a royal priesthood?

- A church without walls.
- A church that follows Jesus into the neighbourhood.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. . . . Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:4–5, 7)

CBBC as a Kingdom of Priests: Presence, Intercession, Advocacy

- Being the Presence of God
 - *grace and peace*
 - *restoration and reconciliation*
 - *doing godliness*
- Intercession
- Advocacy – seeking justice and healing
 - *Community Involvement (as a Church)*



Individually we are priests

Collectively we are a kingdom of priests

As individuals

In families and friendships, at work
or school or home, within our networks

As a church and as a SAFE.Centre

