



# **Increasing Synergy: Cooperation between Theological Education and God's Church in Africa**

2022 Bible College Consultation

Dr. Brian A DeVries

# Introduction

---



How should these two vital ministries relate?

God's Church in Africa

Bible Education in Africa

What single WORD best describes their relationship?

Competition

Compartmentalization

Combination

Correlation

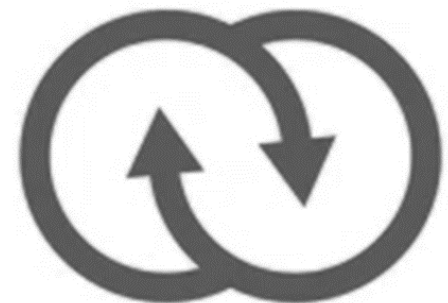
Cooperation



## **Increasing Synergy:**

### **Cooperation between Church and School**

- 1. What is their relationship?**
- 2. Why is synergy often limited?**
- 3. How can we improve together?**

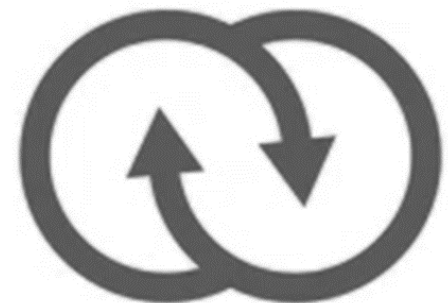




## **Increasing Synergy:**

### **Cooperation between Church and School**

- 1. What is their relationship?**
2. Why is synergy often limited?
3. How can we improve together?



# Two Institutions in Africa



- God's Church
- Bible Education



- Purpose:
  - Differences and different foci
  - Commonalities and Similarities



# Various Relations & Structures

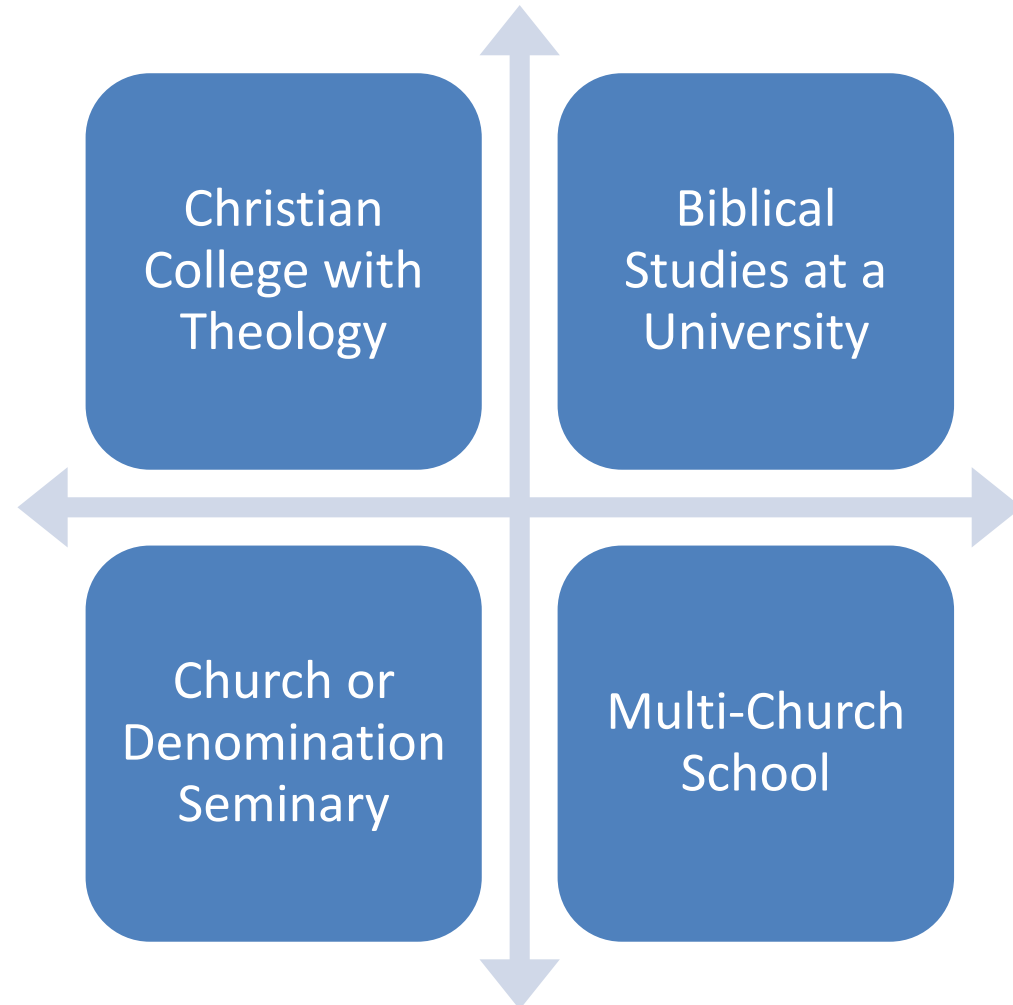


Why does the school exist?  
*mission, values*

Who owns the school vision?  
*spiritual, doctrinal*

How does the school serve?  
*philosophy, policies*

What does the school desire?  
*objectives, outcomes*



# Two Institutions in Africa



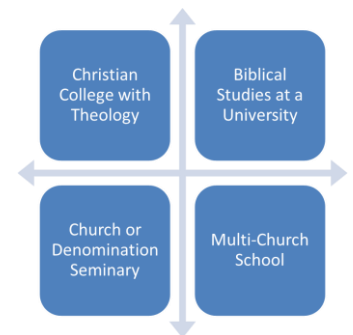
- God's Church
- Bible Education



- Purpose:
  - Differences and different foci
  - Commonalities and Similarities



- Relations:
  - Various structures historically
  - Some more biblical and/or effective

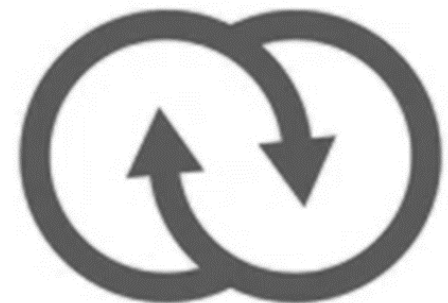




## **Increasing Synergy:**

### **Cooperation between Church and School**

1. What is their relationship?
- 2. Why is synergy often limited?**
3. How can we improve together?





# What Hinders Synergy?



## Why is “more & better” cooperation limited?

- Fault 1: The problem is with the church
  - Bad doctrine
  - Bad leaders
  - Ungodly, compromised
  - Inwardly focused



# What Hinders Synergy?



## Why is “more & better” cooperation limited?

- Fault 2: The problem is with the school
  - Not serving the church
  - False doctrine
  - Distracted mission or focus
  - Short-sighted vision



# What Hinders Synergy?



## Why is “more & better” cooperation limited?

- Fault 3: The problem is unhealthy relations between the church(es) and school(s)
  - Separate silos of ministry
  - Confused roles for each other
  - Competition of resources



# What Hinders Synergy?



## Why is “more & better” cooperation limited?

- Fault 4: The problem is the harsh climate within which both are serving
  - Scarcity of resources
  - Social pressures
  - Increasing opposition



# What Hinders Synergy?



## Why is cooperation limited? *(conceptual categories)*

- Leadership
- Structural
- Social
- Spiritual

## What are the greatest hindrances of synergy in your situation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



# What Hinders Synergy?



## Why is cooperation limited?

- Fault 1: The problem is with the church
- Fault 2: The problem is with the school
- Fault 3: The problem is the unhealthy relations between the church(es) and school(s)
- Fault 4: The problem is the harsh climate in which both are serving

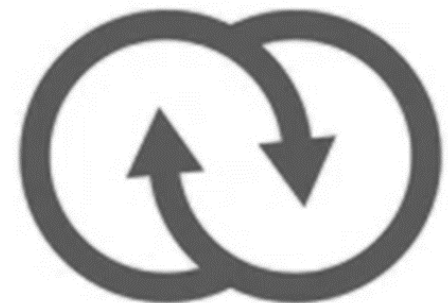




## **Increasing Synergy:**

### **Cooperation between Church and School**

1. What is their relationship?
2. Why is synergy often limited?
- 3. How can we improve together?**



# Improving Together

---



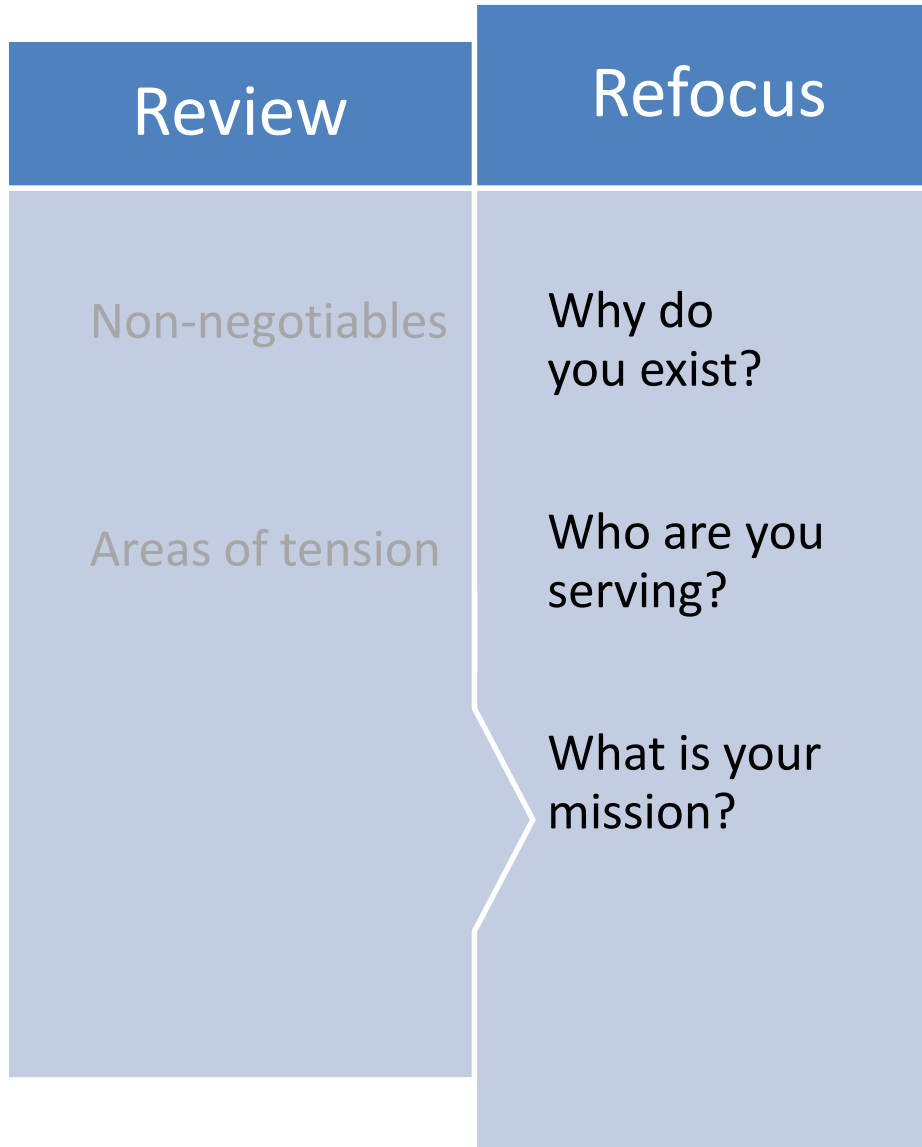
## Review

Non-negotiables

Areas of tension



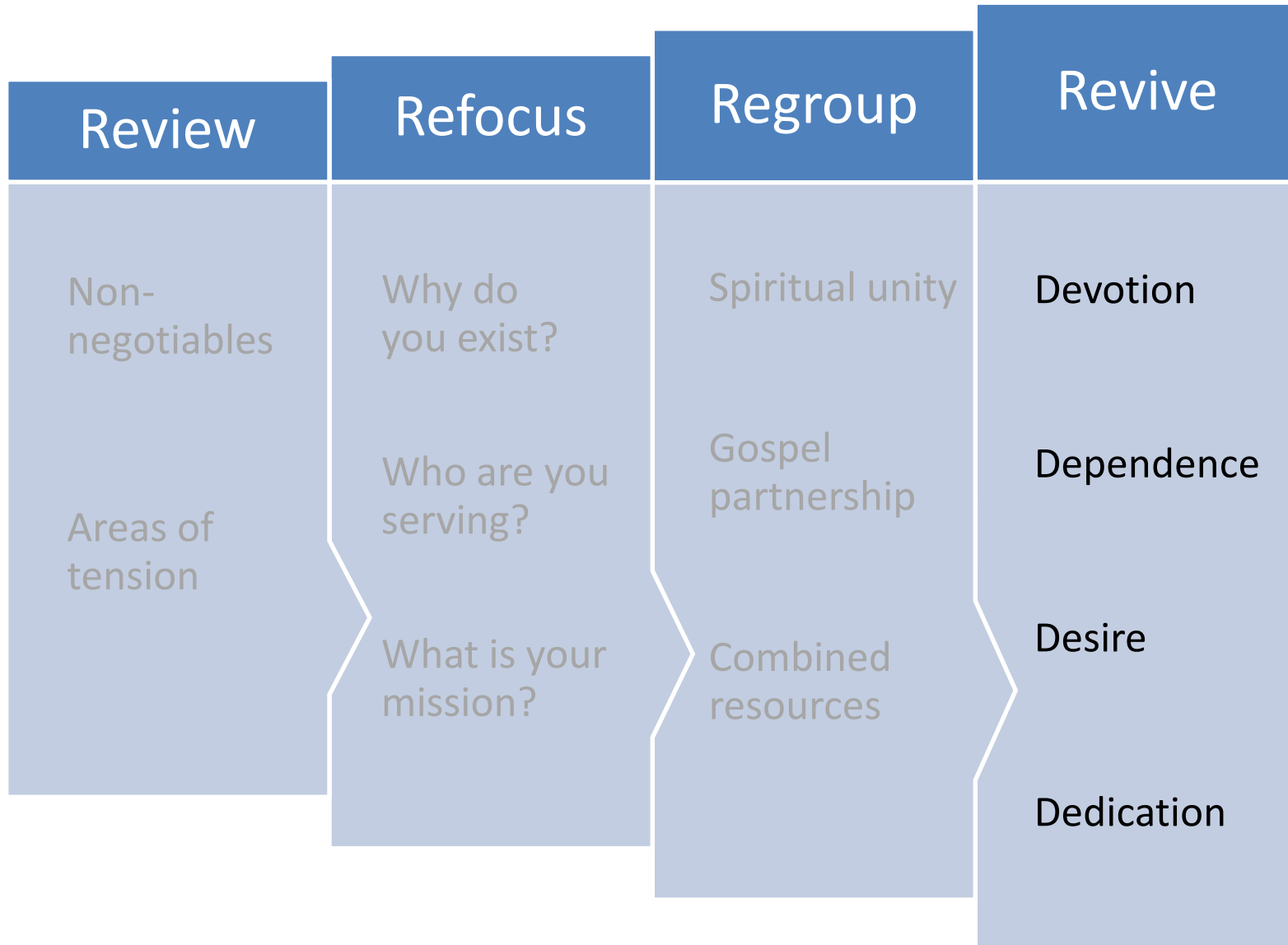
# Improving Together



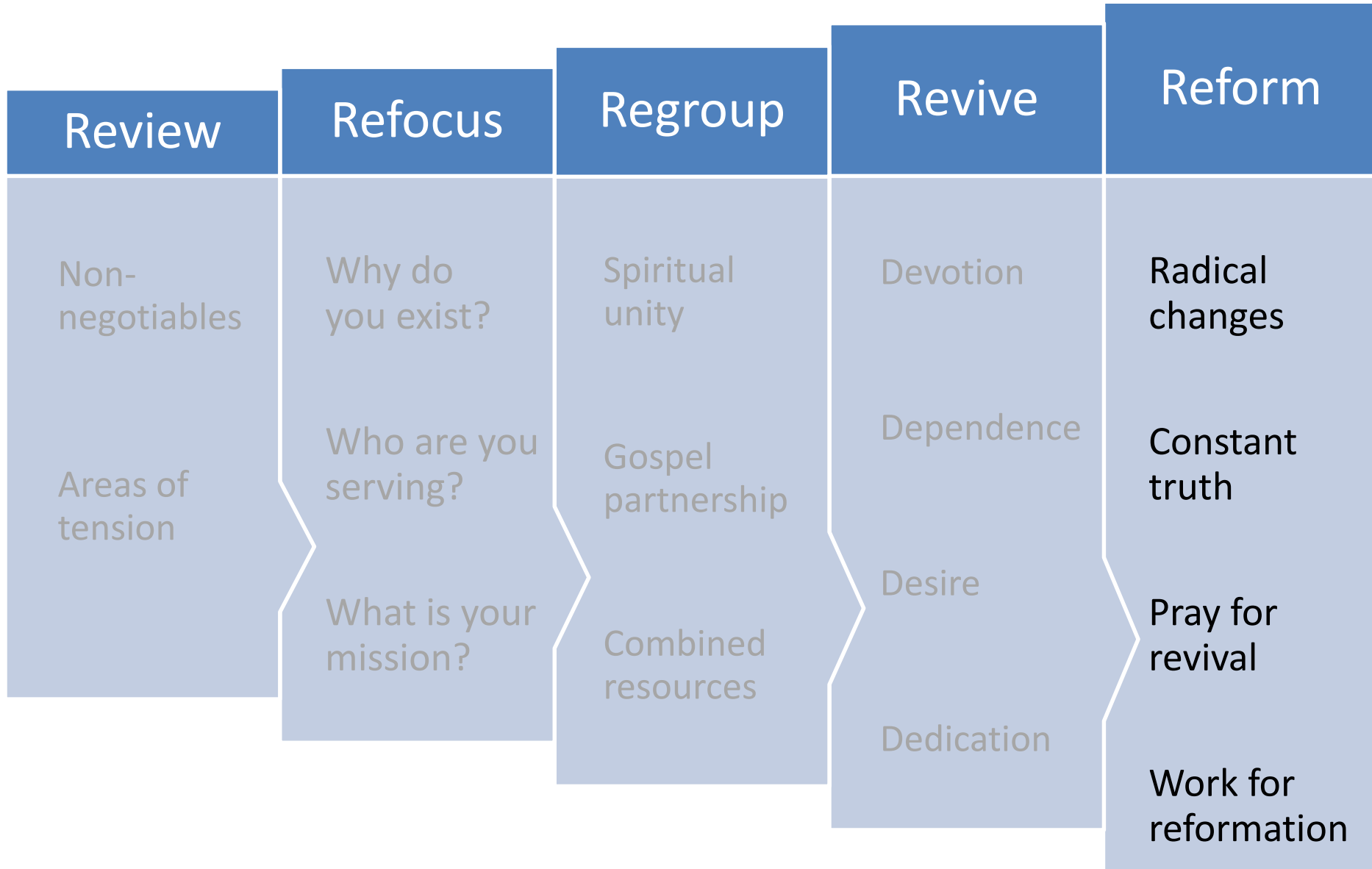
# Improving Together



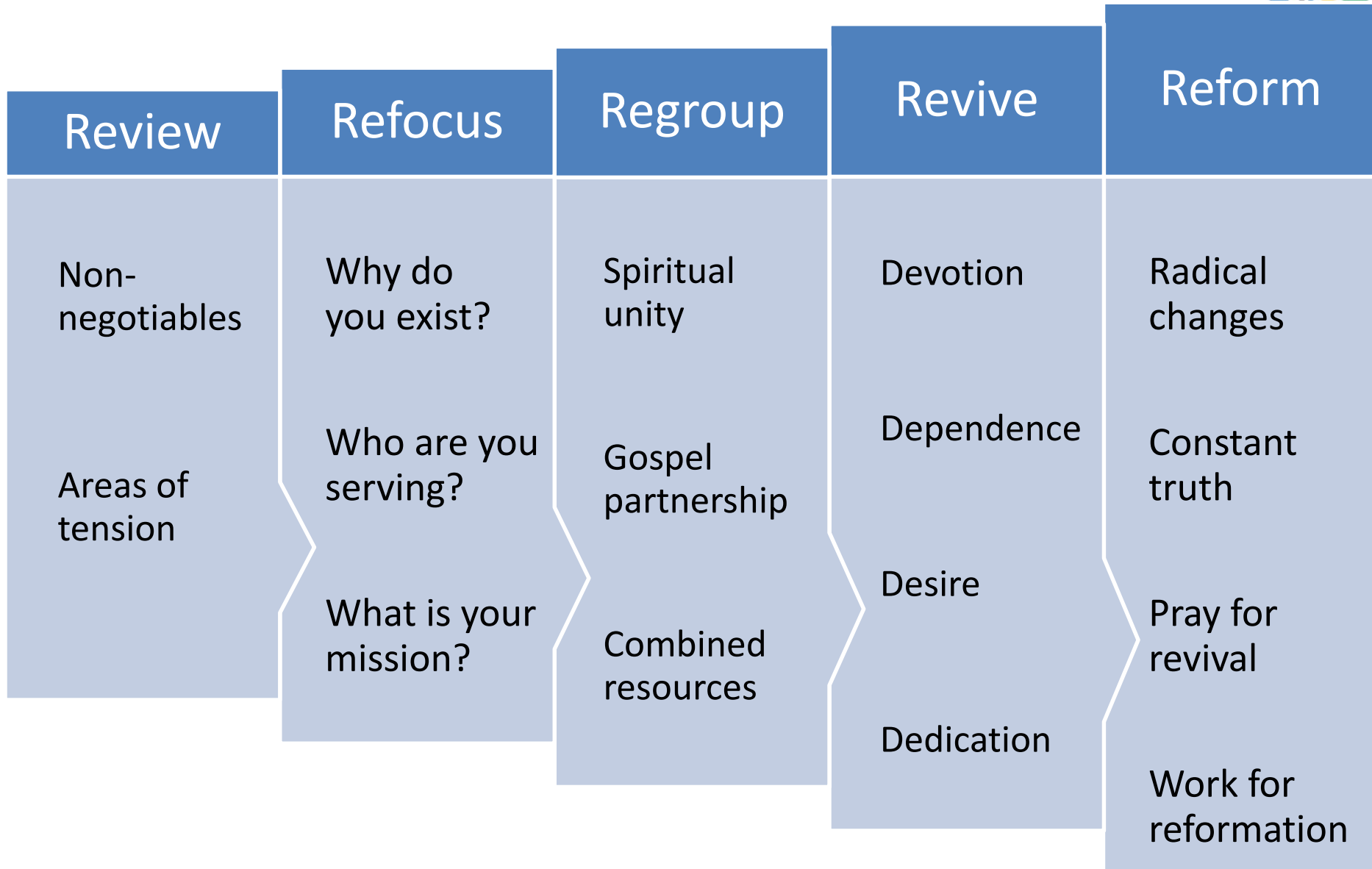
# Improving Together



# Improving Together



# Improving Together





## **Increasing Synergy:**

### **Cooperation between Church and School**

- 1. What is their relationship?**
- 2. Why is synergy often limited?**
- 3. How can we improve together?**

**What will you do now to  
implement these ideas?**

