



# RE-IMAGINING PROTESTANTISMS

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Some reflections

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**REFLECTIONS OF A SOJOURNER**  
**(IN THE MIDST OF OTHER SOJOURNERS)**

# REFLECTIONS OF A SOJOURNER

- From now on the plural of protestantism (protestantisms) is also linguistically correct
- We hardly talked about protestantism as such, it was the mental and/or organisational framework we share.
- Protestantism is more than pioneering and fresh expressions

# REFLECTIONS OF A SOJOURNER

- Protestantism is more than the traditional established church
  - Renewal comes from the margins
  - We are not the first ones...
- Protestantism is mainly the traditional (de-)established church
  - 'Ein Pfarrer, der nicht glauben würde, dass in *dieser* seiner Gemeinde mit *diesen* Männern und Frauen, alten Weiblein und Kindern die Gemeinde Christi existiert, der glaubt überhaupt nicht an die Existenz der Kirche'
  - (Karl Barth)

# REFLECTIONS OF A SOJOURNER

- Do protestants need a 180 degree rotation to turn from thinking to worship and spirituality?
- “The crucial question of renewal is that of spirituality. The future of Protestantism begins with the question why we think that the Gospel is good news for our nations. If that vision is absent, all talk about renewal is nothing but institutional reflex.”
  - **What about me?**

## JOHN 6: 60-66 (NIV)

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

**“You do not want to leave too, do you?”** Jesus asked the Twelve **(and me...)**

# REFLECTIONS OF A SOJOURNER

**“And surely I am with you always,  
to the very end of the age.”**

If I believe in that promise:

- how do I live it?
- (How) does it colour my work for the church?



# REFLECTIONS OF SOJOURNERS

“Tradition is passing on the fire, not worshipping the ashes”  
(Thomas Moore, Gustav Mahler)

**The church will survive 2017...**