



Christian Schwarz's Questions

“What church growth principles are true, regardless of culture and theological persuasion?”

“What is the difference between growing and declining churches?”

“What causes a church to grow?”

Three ways to pursue the answer...

1. Studying Scripture
2. Observing Nature
3. Empirical Research





1. Studying Scripture



And he was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the ground; and goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows – how, he himself does not know.

The earth produces crops all by itself; first the blade, then the head, and then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:26-29

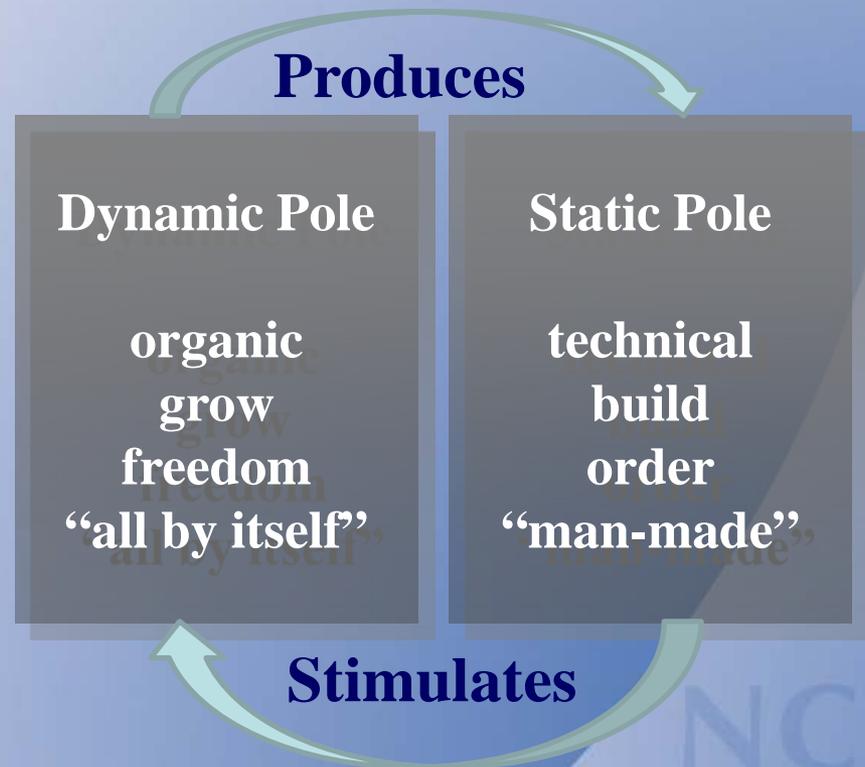


Studying Scripture Conclusions

That we have a role to play is clearly demonstrated by the farmer's work at seed time and harvest.

God has a role to play as seen in the seemingly "all-by-itself" growth.

The creative relationship between the two poles is the secret of Natural Church Development; ensuring that the institutional side of church life (static pole) is in harmony with God's principles so that the dynamic pole can develop unhindered and healthy.





2. Observing Nature

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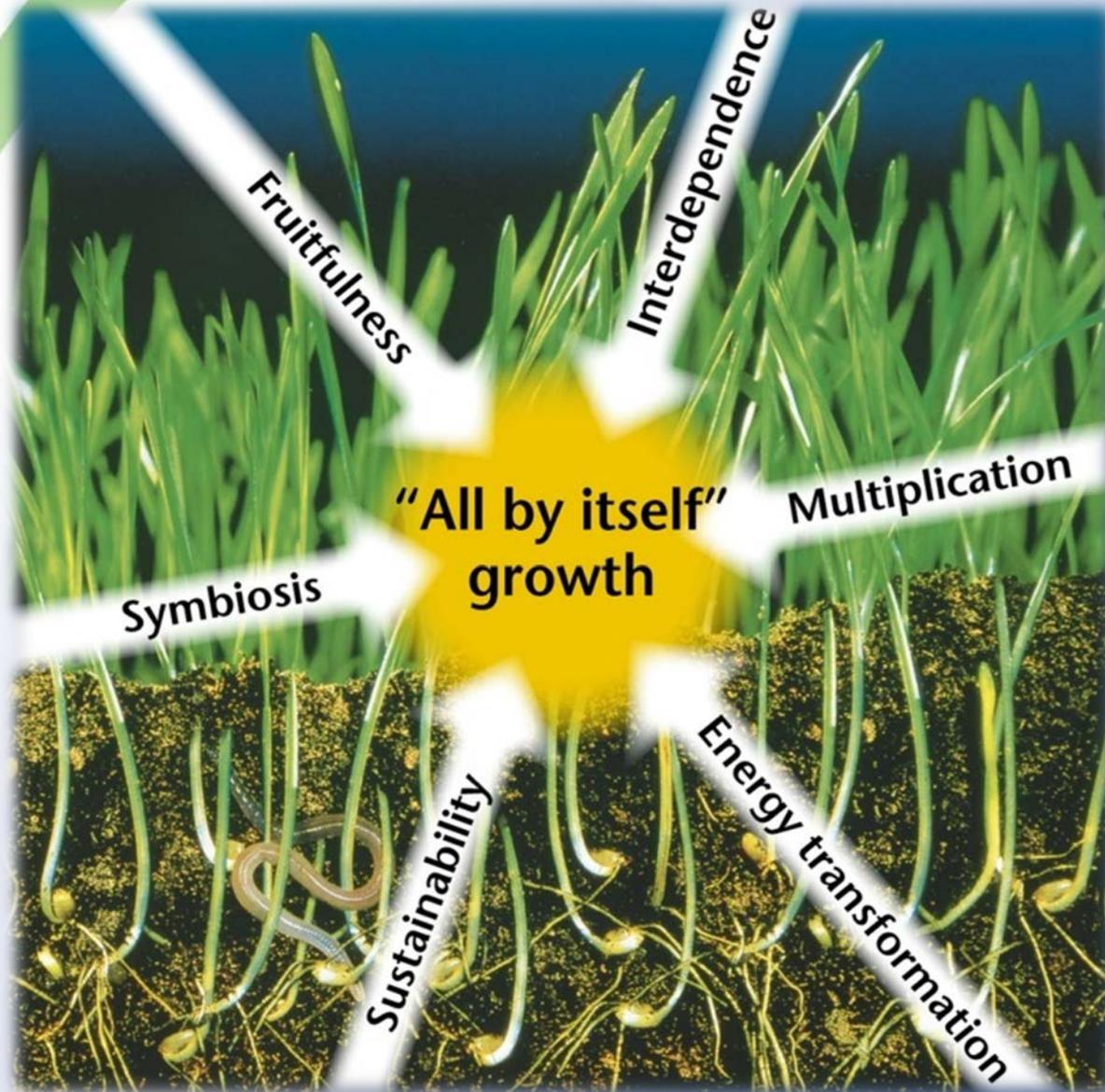
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Conclusion: Every organism in the universe has all-by-itself growth potential. They will grow, thrive and multiply when the environmental factors are suitable.



Growth Principles





Biotic Principles



- Interdependence = connecting
- Multiplication = reproducing
- Energy Transformation = harnessing
- Multi-usage = sustaining
- Symbiosis = cooperating
- Functionality = evaluating