

Living Out God's Word: A Hebraic—Hellenistic Comparison

Hebraic Active—Appeals to the heart

Motive

- Love of God and others
- Life viewed as a pilgrimage leading to ultimate culmination
- Suffering seen as necessary for development of Christ-like character

Process Oriented

- Stresses direct participation
- Emphasizes age and wisdom
- Role modeling, mentoring, and discipleship indispensable
- Leadership by personal example
- Character of leader essential
- Personal relationships imperative

Biblical Application

- Doers of the Word
- Bible—reality that must be confronted
- Goal—to develop Christlikeness
- Emphasizes doctrine-demonstrated in a way of life

Ministry Activity

- Small intimate groups
- Leader as facilitator
- Cooperative, participatory planning
- Spiritual gifts shared
- Frequent scheduled and unscheduled gatherings

Fruit

- Love, acceptance, forgiveness
- Transparency encouraged
- Active participation
- “How you serve” vital
- Each believer trained to serve
- Produces mature believers

Hellenist Cognitive—appeals to the intellect

Motive

- Pursuit of self-interest and knowledge
- Life viewed in circular terms, to some day achieve a higher spiritual state
- Suffering to be avoided; people and activities weighed for self-gratification: “How does this person/event benefit me?”

Process Oriented

- Heavy program prominence
- Emphasizes education and knowledge
- Relies on speaking skills, oratory, programmed materials, information conveyance
- Leader's personal life immaterial
- Leader's true character often unknown
- Personal relationships optional

Biblical Application

- Belief without personal cost
- Bible—data that must be taught
- Focus on rules—do's and don'ts
- Emphasizes knowledge-based creeds

Ministry Activity

- Large impersonal groups
- Leader-directed and controlled
- Organizational roles important
- Acquisition of knowledge
- Reliance on scheduled gatherings

Fruit

- Mutual toleration
- Transparency discouraged
- Passivity and lethargy
- “What you know” vital
- Trained professionals utilized
- Produces spectators