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John H. Yoder 가  
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John H. Yoder's Understanding of the Church and  
its Significance to Korean Church  
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## Abstract

John H. Yoder's Understanding of the Church and its  
Significance to Korean Church

Bueng-Guan Kim

How is society changed? What is the proper biblical relationship between evangelism and social concern? In relation to this question there are two dominant attitudes among Korean churches; the attitude of Individualistic Evangelical and the attitude of Secular Christian. The first argues for that converting individuals through evangelism is of primary importance. The other regards restructuring society as more important than the salvation of individual souls. This essay contends that the two attitudes neglect the socio-political significance of being church. As the result Korean church is at a crisis to become salt that loses its saltiness.

The failure of mainline Korean church has not only been her willingness to support the status quo, but her inability to stand as an alternative to the current forms of Korean social context. The primary intention of this essay is to help Korean church like that to be true church. In order to do this, this essay introduces John Howard Yoder's thought, focusing on his idea on the socio-political significance of being church. Church in the world has its socio-political significance as a distinct society with an integrity peculiar to itself. According to Yoder, church, before the watching world, is "foretaste, model, herald of the Kingdom." It might be called 'the original revolution' to create church "as a distinct community with its own deviant set of values and its coherent way of incarnating them." Based on this conviction Yoder contends that the church's responsibility to and for the world is first and always to be the church. Being convinced that Yoder's idea like this is helpful to Korean church which tries to become a true church, this essay has some suggestions on the way how Korean church applies Yoder's idea.

Key Words: The identity of church. The socio-political significance of being church. Social Change. John Howard Yoder. The Kingdom of God. Nonviolent Resistance. The Jubilee.







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