

# How Can the Community Mechanism Work among People with Different Religions and Worldviews?

*Masao Ogaki*

*Special Visiting Professor, Faculty of Economics, Doshisha University*

## **Abstract**

We experience many severe conflicts among people with different religions and worldviews such as values and ethical views. How can we make the community mechanism (a mechanism in which at least one person voluntarily offers cooperation and is not rejected) work better in these cases?

This paper argues that an important method is for each person not to take her/his conviction as absolute and respect other people's religions and worldviews. As examples in which this method is used, evangelical approaches of the insider movements and adaptationism are discussed.

This evangelical approach of insider movements to respect other religions is controversial and the Cape Town Commitment in 2010 (the Third Lausanne Congress 2021, p.80) recommends the following:

In the spirit of Barnabas who, on arrival in Antioch, 'saw the evidence of the grace of God' and 'was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord,' we would appeal to all those who are concerned with this issue to:

1. Take as their primary guiding principle the apostolic decision and practice: 'We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.'
2. Exercise humility, patience and graciousness in recognizing the diversity of viewpoints, and conduct conversations without stridency and mutual condemnation

Another example is the mission strategy of adaptationism taken by Alessandro Valignano who was a Jesuit missionary responsible for the mission structure and methods in India, China, and Japan. Valignano established small theology schools in Japan and Zen Buddhism was taught as part of the education there (Wakakuwa 2003).

When we adopt the worldview that the Bible expressed the truth, whether or not we can accept insider movements and adaptationism seem to depend on how we interpret Jesus Christ's teaching in John 14:6. Abraham was justified by faith in Galatians 3:1-14 and Chapter 4 of Romans. Jesus Christ teaches that "no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." in John 3.5 and "when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God." Combining these

passages with Matthews 25:37-40 cited above, it seems that some people who are justified by faith by believing in the Word of God and are purified by Jesus' blood to enter the Kingdom of God may not know doctrines of the professed religion of Christianity. Interpretations of John 14:6 that are consistent with salvation of Abraham seem useful to understand insider movements and adaptaionism.

Given these considerations, a community with diverse worldviews can make a progress by aiming for understanding and respecting different worldviews rather than aiming for converting all members into one worldview.

Ogaki, Masao. 2022. "Economics of the Community Mechanism." *Japanese Economic Review* 73, no.3 (July): 433-457.

Third Lausanne Congress. 2021. "The Cape Town Commitment," <https://lausanne.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-Cape-Town-Commitment-%E2%80%93-Pages-20-09-2021.pdf>. (viewed January 30, 2025).

Wakakuwa, Midori. 2003. *Kuatoro Ragattsi: Tensho Shonen Shisetsu to Sekai Teikoku*. Tokyo: Shueisha.