

*Abstract*

By calling on the Bible as the decisive and paradigmatic reference text (the «parent text»), Christian liturgies are connected to one another, which also distinguishes them from other liturgies and cultic rituals. Yet as a pluralistic library, the bible not only constitutes a means for unity but also makes possible different uses of Scripture. This helps account for the differences between the many liturgical families. In light of the biblical references used by various liturgies, we can describe the seemingly overwhelming diversity of liturgies as a «unity of unity and difference» and thus as a pluralistic interrelationship of forms.

Since the canon is rich in biblical traditions making possible an abundance of diverse formats for shaping and ordering Christian worship services, the church was able to meet different time-specific challenges within its history. On the other side the biblically shaped profiles of the different liturgical traditions have themselves influenced regional developments in other social fields.

What is more the pluralistic interrelationship of the Christian liturgical families allows for reciprocal learning processes and contributes thereby to a closer connection between the different Christian denominations. By imposing limits on possible forms and at the same time being open for new forms, the pluralism of the Christian liturgical families could be understood as a model of a felicitous globalization.

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