Christianity in China:
Challenge Vs Opportunity

Liu Peng

June 3, 2014
1. Outstanding achievement
(1) Great mass
(2) Broad distribution
(3) Younger age
(4) Better education
(5) Big social capital & moral resource
(6) Unprecedented & improved positive impact
2. Serious problems:

External
Internal
Special
External:

(1) Disharmonious & strained church-state relations
(2) Unclear and uncertain social status
(3) Lack of rule of law to protect “Religion freedom”
(4) Widely political & social discrimination
(5) Traditional cultural conflict
(6) Unequal access to public square
Internal:

（1）Shortage of qualified pastors
（2）Rapid growth & Superficial theological foundation
（3）Nonstandard church governance
Special:

(1) Old image as “Foreign religion”

(2) Two systems: Split churches (Three-self church & House church)

(3) Negative impact of Fundamentalism & Charismatic

(4) Disturbance of heresy and cults
(5) No social responsibility of citizen, nor concept of civil society, political and legal rights as constituency in a modern country with democracy and constitutionalism.

(6) Corrupted by secularism, consumerism and post-modernism before getting full sanctification
3. The factors to the development of Christianity in China today
（1）Political trance since 18th CPC Congress: Patriotism + nationalism + Maoism + populism + totalitarianism

（2）The change of religious policy

（3）The Legislation and legal construction on religion

（4）Religious competition: Confucianism, Buddhism, folk beliefs & New religions

（5）Philanthropy service: huge new approach

（6）Social infrastructure: Growth of civil society

（7）Globalization and informatization
4、Conclusion:

More challenges with opportunities; key is in Christianity itself
Thank you !