

Title: Theming Your Church Website

Subtitle: Themes and Templates

Second Subtitle: #0 There's More Than Meets The Eye

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Date: 2009/6/2

URL: <https://www.christianwebresources.net/modules/article/view.article.>

Keywords: themes, design, validation, ImpressCMS, XOOPS,

Summary: How much of an impact does the look of your site have on the it? Do you think it matters?

It certainly does! Here's a little example of how the media shapes the message. You take a message, hand it to someone - you have just delivered your message to the person. They take the same note, wrap it around a rock and throw it through the same medium. The message hasn't changed, the sender hasn't changed, the recipient hasn't changed, but the delivery (or, the 'media') has changed. Do you think the recipient would understand it in both instances?

Now - let's talk about your church website design and learn the right questions to ask. Buy, or hire a designer to design a custom theme for your church web site.

There are entire books about how media and content merge and the 'media' is changing. I won't go into a lot of that in this article, but I'm sure there will be more to come. Now, we will concern ourselves with the image we portray on our website. We have well-designed sites and the flexibility you have with ImpressCMS and XOOPS. I have said before that "Content is King", but there are some important considerations for site looks. The web has moved from a literal, sequential media (as print was) to a visual media. This gets more complicated by the fact that the web is not just visual, but also on cell phones and by other web sites. Learning about the media is important to understand the non-verbal aspect of web technologies.

The goal is not a site that is the visual equivalent of being hit in the head with a message. The goal is to understand how the visual presentation of your site affects your message. Your theme should complement your content, effectively highlight it and not be a distraction. For a short video about how redesigning newspapers affected the message, [visit TED.com](#)

Next, we'll examine the fundamental building blocks for any web site and how they affect the message.