

Assignment 7

Interact analytically with Tennent's theology of religion framework and identify your position with supporting rationale.

Thoughts to Tennent's Five standards in the formulation of an evangelical theology of religions:

A. Being attentive to our nomenclature

Labels or nomenclature for various positions must be understood both descriptively and performatively. A theology of religions must have an ethical and relational orientation, not merely a descriptive and doctrinal one.

This is very important when we are among non-Christians, they don't want to listen to those descriptive and doctrinal words, or anything about theology, what matters and has impact on them are our actions and lives. In another words, if our lives and actions will not carry what has been taught by Jesus, or not carry the love of God, we have no chance to talk to them about our belief.

B. Maintain Trinitarian frame with Christological focus

A theology of religions must be part of a larger Trinitarian theology. Christology provides the only truly objective basis for evaluating truth claims, whether those claims emerge from within Christianity or in response to normative claims from other religions.

C. Proclaiming biblical truth

An evangelical theology of religions must proclaim biblical truth. Today, the tension is increasingly not between truth and falsehood but between tolerance and intolerance. Evangelicals have not negotiated the transition from the center of culture life to the margins very well. Therefore, while being fully engaged in global realities, we need to reclaim the language of truth, even if from a position of exile.

Today, we are in a context of relativistic culture which is lack of truth, even evangelicals lost their confidence in the exclusivity of the gospel message, it's not time to reclaim the truth for them, but to regain their faith and courage to do so even there will be a cost of it.

D. Placing the discussion within a larger theological setting

An evangelical theology of religions must be placed within a larger biblical and theological context. This also will keep our theology of religions from being either too individualistic or theologically reductionistic.

Only when we put the theology of religions in a larger context, we could know better about ourselves and more about God's plan and purpose.

E. Recognizing the global dimension of religious pluralism

An evangelical theology of religions must be articulated within the context of different understandings and perceptions of religious pluralism that are present in the world today. In the majority world, religious pluralism is more of a descriptive fact. Christians in the Majority World are accustomed to living side by side with actual

practitioners of non-Christian religions in the midst of this pluralistic milieu. Any theology of religions today must be articulated from the perspective of the global church, not the dwindling community of Enlightenment scholarship.