

Thesis Statement: The paths to the Kingdom of God are through Jesus and His message; not achieved through human wisdom but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Summary: In Chapter 10, Rynkiewich begins to talk about colonialism from the Western context and how anthropology is a completely Western idea. He shifts this whole Western thought process onto Christianity and missionaries who had experienced backlash because of their Western or European background/context. Rynkiewich raises an important point that the message of Christianity doesn't get fully communicated because of the messenger. During the Colonialism period, it was easy for scripture to become misinterpreted in a way that would support one's own agendas. Missions have become more of a "conquest" than it is spreading the message of Jesus. While in the perspective of the colonizer, it may seem that the colonized are receiving life improvements but in reality there is more destruction that occurs. The existing cultural identity begins to be oppressed by the colonizer and eventually converts or assimilates with the cultures of the colonizer. Colonialism has crept its way into Christianity because this is exactly how missionaries spread the message of Jesus. We send missionaries into other countries to show them a "better way of life" which often is the Western way of living. Jesus never asked us to spread colonialism and convert people to Westerners.

Personal Reflection: Back in undergrad, I went on a summer mission trip to Hawaii with Cru. One noticeable thing is how a lot of the local Hawaiians despise tourists or anyone not from Hawaii. This hatred originated from the colonization that occurred between England, Japan, and the U.S. All these countries were trying to take Hawaii for itself and didn't consider the damage that was being caused to the local Hawaiians. The U.S. in the end did assume control of Hawaii which now 60% of the population is considered Christian in Hawaii.

Thoughts/Implications: Does the end really justify the means? Is it considered alright to create division among people if the end result yields people coming to know Christ? Jesus' mission on earth never involved violence and His demonstrations of power always involved healing and restoration. When missionaries go and preach the gospel, is the goal to bring people to Christ or is it to change people to be more like people in their own context? I believe most would choose both but the reality is that the Kingdom of God is on the opposite spectrum of the kingdom of humanity. Our Western theology and discernment isn't the key to bringing more people to follow Jesus. All we really have to do is show them who Jesus is, he'll handle the rest. For missional implications, I believe that the church has to train people to realize that different cultural contextualization of the gospel is a beautiful thing. There is so much more to Jesus than our own cultural understanding of His message and we need to train our people to have humility and a heart to seek deeper intimacy with Jesus.