

Article Review

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What is one concept that stood out to you in this article?

“The Chosen People do not have to make propaganda in order to win mankind for its God. It is enough that, by its very existence, it should testify to the greatness of Yahweh.” (Kaiser, 1996). This quote in particular stood out to me in this article because as discussed in our last week’s class, the church has created a series of ministries and “means” to either maintain the believer entertained or engaged in church, more than in pursuit of those outside the church. The term ‘propaganda’ reminds me of the political campaign a candidate usually does before an election, thus it stings when this term is compared or used in reference to the church. For the church has unfortunately become more focused on being sort of an entertainment center, having all the right ministries, strategies, budgets, etc., for the believer, than the believer actually being *the church*. This quote perfectly exemplifies how when we choose to be the church, embodying the call/commission of Christ – in complete alignment with the Holy Spirit, no additional embellishment is necessary to draw others to Christ.

What implications does this concept have for Missions?

I believe this concept goes hand in hand with Tennent’s definition of the terms missions and mission. This concept confirms that missions – our role as the church in proclaiming the gospel – is a byproduct of the *missio dei* or mission – the mission of God. When we are in one accord with God, and who He is, who He is thus, exemplified in who we are. Out of a solidified identity in and intimacy with the Triune God, us – *the church* – are able to impact anybody, environment and/or atmosphere.

What needs to change in your life as a result?

This concept is sobering to say the least because it has made me reflect of any time I have focused on making “propaganda” in order to “win mankind” with the intention of reaching the lost, but in the process, have lost sight of just *being* with Christ – *being the church*. This class has prompted me to do some soul-searching and sort of inventory of my walk, the moments where I have been focused on myself and what I can do in the church – and shifting that focus to be the church.

References:

Kaiser, Jr., W. (1996, Jan.-Mar.) The Great Commission in the Old Testament. *International Journal of Frontier Missions*. Vol. 13:1.

Tennent, Timothy. *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century (Invitation to Theological Studies Series)* Kregel Academic & Professional, 2010. **ISBN-13:** 978-0825438837