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Summary

In Chapter 1, Tennent shows us clearly that gospel is culturally, linguistically, geographically, and theologically translatable. He makes it clear for readers that “There is no such thing as a particular Christian Culture or Christian civilization” (2). Someone doesn’t have to leave their culture, country, or personality to be Christian. All culture is beautiful and unique but it is not perfect. However, no culture is superior than another. God is powerful and personal. He is working in every culture to advance his kingdom. Tennent shows the reader that “the lifeblood of Christianity is found in its ability to translate itself across new cultural and geographic barriers and to recognize that areas that once were the mission field can, over time, become the very heart of Christian vitality, while those areas that were once at the heart can lose the faith they once espoused”(6). Tennent’s experience or exposure with western cultures and first generation Hindu background believers gives us insight about that.

Key Learning

I was amazed to read that most Christianity is located outside the western world (8) because I grow up hearing that all white people are Christian, and since West is the Christian Country. It is so cool to read God working to spread the gospel in non-Christian countries. I love it when Tennent wrote that “Non-Western theology is more localized, ad hoc, and contextual” (11).... It is time that we enter into a more mutual exchange of ideas” (15).

The three practical implication theological translatability in the New Global Content given was Tennent was key learning for me. He writes:

1. Become more informed and conversant with the growing theology from the Majority World church.
2. Realize that, while we may live and work within certain well-defined theological systems such as the Reformed or dispensationalist traditions, none of these systems is universal, even though the kerygmatic truths they seek to organize and reflect are.
3. Be willing and be honest exchange will help us to recognize some of our own, less obvious, heresies and blind spots. (16-18).

Implication

I enjoyed reading this chapter. Reading the chapter, I was reminded not to feel inferior because I am a minority Christian living in the States. My race, color, language, culture, background, and experience are beautiful. Tennent encouraged me to be proud of my culture. He also challenged me to learn other culture because it can serve as a positive influence to reach more people with gospel.