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TH502: Theology in a Global Context
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Chapter 1

Christianity is the only religion that primary text documents are different from the language it was founded in. In this chapter Tennet seeks to make the argument that there isn't really a specific Christian culture, such as other religions have their culture that somewhat relate to their geographical location and the language founded. Because of the lack of specific culture he makes the argument that Christianity is something that in a way evolves and adapts to its environment. As it pertains to the environment of Christianity it is something that is also on the move. Christianity continues to steadily branch out to new areas of the world and new Christians are made from this. Tennet argues something called theological translatability, which makes the argument that of the essentials of the gospel and its need for a rediscovery and repurpose to be effective to a new context, a global context. He seeks to bring an understanding of theology as it pertains to a global context because of the rapid and widespread growth of christianity. His goal is to be an effective vessel of the gospel and christianity. The goal of theological translatability is to allow other cultures to embrace christianity, understand it and effectively translate into their native languages and cultures. Tennet seeks to find a middle ground amongst christians conversations and cultures, as it relates to cultures of the world that differ from the beliefs of christianity. However, the goal isn't necessarily to force our beliefs or thought process on other cultures but rather to find a way to integrate our faith in a place and culture that differs from our usual respective.

What aspects of Christianity should we be sharing and omitting in order for it to be culturally translatable?

After reading this chapter I now challenge my perspective on missions and evangelism as a whole. Tennet uses the word arrogance as a characteristic of western Christianity, and that made me self-reflect on the attitude, goal and our heart posture as it pertains to missions. We must be willing to meet the people where they are, how they are without the mindset that we are better than them or what they believe is wrong. The heart posture for missions needs to be empathy over arrogance.