

Tennent Reflection Paper: Chapter 4

Summary of Chapter

After substantiating the roles of both guilt and shame in human identity formation, through both cultural-anthropological observations and scriptural study, Tennent then explores the barriers and facilitators for the gospel to be understood in shame-based cultures primarily in Asian countries.

Key Learning/Questions

Honor and shame are unmissable values to note in cultures where the Majority World Church is, especially in Asian countries. Yet as little as Asian refers to a shared cultural or historical identity, so should cultures be categorized as exclusively guilt-based or shame-based. In the scriptures, shame seems to be as significant a concept, if not more prevalent, as guilt, when sin brought on corruptness in every aspect of life. Since sin is both objective and subjective, it is right to emphasize both the legal ramifications under God's righteous judgment, and the human-levied damage to relations with God and others, defiling the honor due. What could be the wording of an honor-and-shame-informed version of popular Gospel tracks, such as *The Four Spiritual Laws*? Many Asian immigrants in the US came to Christ through accepting the Gospel with a guilt-based narrative; given the new understanding of this topic, it brought me comfort that the Holy Spirit had done its divine work even when the tools were not just right.

Missional implications

To love a people by the sharing of the Gospel, it is instrumental to lend ears to the community and understand the manifestation of sin's consequences therein - fear, shame, and/or guilt. It may well be the way of the Holy Spirit's work in guiding our sensitivity when our hearts learn to empathize with our neighbors' points of impact in regard to sin, and be led to use corresponding narrative to explain the gospel - Christ's ultimate and perfect deliverance of people from guilt and shame, and the gift of a new identity sharing in His righteousness *and* honor.