

Tennent Reflection Paper: Chapter 2

Summary of Chapter

In this Chapter of interreligious theological reflection, Tennent seeks to answer “Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad” from etymological, ontological, and pastoral/evangelistic perspectives. The conclusion is negative because of central doctrinal differences.

Key Learning/Questions

While there are common linguistic roots and ontological similarities between the two terms of Allah and God, there are aspects of unmistakable differences between the two faiths that negate the idea that we worship the same God. I learned that Muslims consider some Christian doctrines as corrupted baggage - the Triune God, the deity of Christ, the doctrine of incarnation, the redemptive power of the cross, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. My question is, now with this knowledge of what makes us different, how do Christians go about helping our Muslim neighbors come to Christ?

Missional implications

It is eye opening to see the huge and urgent need for us future global witnesses of Christian Gospel to understand more about how our Muslim neighbors see God, than focusing heavily on traditional systematic theological studies. Yes, the reality is that there is a vast group of people calling on God’s name but remaining alienated from God because they do not have Jesus Christ and the reconciliation freely offered through Him. But, how to win them over takes more than what we have now. Gaining insight and knowledge into their theology, and daily faith related practices and decision making, would help us avoid entering conversations with our neighbors with assumptions and arrogance. May the Lord’s gentle spirit be with us and lead us to effectively minister to the Muslim community, and those who are influenced by Islamic religion.