

Colt Emswiler

5-3-1 Chapter 9 - Gonzalez

QUESTIONS

1. What led to the process of decolonization?
2. How did the Russian Church and other Eastern churches survive the pressure from communist governments?
3. What were the goals of the popes during the 20th century?
4. What was Karl Barth's important theological contribution in the 20th century?
5. What happened theologically to the churches that emerged from the missionary enterprise?

ANSWERS

1. The end of modernity resulted in the decolonization as individuals began to distrust the political and intellectual promises of modernity which had undergirded the justification of colonization.
2. Much of their ability to remain strong and outlast the communists was due to their liturgical and catechetical traditions of orthodoxy.
3. The popes tended to only seek protection for the church and its priorities. This led to the church overlooking social ills such as fascism, but coming strong against those with opposing theological positions. However, this changed with John XXIII.
4. Barth was instrumental in turning theology back towards the word of God. He provided a response to liberal theology of his day and had a strong Christology which was extremely important given the rise of liberalism. His stance against Nazi Germany was admirable.
5. The churches began to interpret the gospel based on their own culture which resulted ideas such as liberation theology, feminist theology, and black theology. There also was substantial growth in the Pentecostal movement in those locations.

TERMS

Modernity – The mood and philosophy that developed in the 1700's and marked the 19th century. It was the belief that man could use science and reason to build a better world. Modernity ended with the start of World War I.

Barmen Declaration – An anti-Nazi document which spoke out against the Nazi's. The primary author was Karl Barth who was expelled from Nazi Germany and whose theology sparked Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Contextual Theology – Doing theology while holding two realities together, the traditions of the church of the past with the current cultural context of the present.

SUMMARY

In the chapter 9 Gonzalez describes the ending of modernity which led to a 20th century where decolonization began to happen across the world. Ideological battles took place in Europe where the church had to deal with the rise of communism, fascism, and Marxist ideologies which took up much of the theological debate. Younger churches began to rise from the missionary with different theological perspectives based on their cultural context. The 20th century saw the expansion of the Pentecostal movement and increases in unity and collaboration across the churches of the world.