

Missional Theology - Epilogue

A phrase that occurs several times throughout the book is “a world where everyone has enough and no one needs to be afraid.” This is a brief summary statement for the kingdom of God intended from the beginning, initiated in the covenant with Abraham, and inaugurated in Jesus Christ.

The end of missional theology is participation in the calling to turn this divine intention into a lived reality for the people of the world. A reality in which the will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Missional theology must be lived in the life of a community for the sake of the world. It has to do with formation and engagement; with the practices of hospitality, care, forgiveness, advocacy, justice, and worship. In this way, missional theology is always be both practical and public: practical in the sense that it must be acted upon and lived; public in the sense that it is for the common good of all and not simply a matter of private concern among those who share its convictions.

This means that while missional theology is practiced and embodied in the life of the church, its intent is always beyond the horizons of the Christian community. It calls the church to look beyond itself to the common good of the larger society in which it is situated. In the pluralist and interconnected world we share with others the only way to ultimately establish the peace and tranquility envisioned by God in creation is to enable the flourishing of all people. Working toward the fullness of that vision is the heartbeat of missional theology.

With that end in view, the book explores five elements or questions that are of particular significance in the work of establishing this missional approach to theology.

What is the mission of God?

How does the church participate in the mission of God?

How do we reimagine theology for the mission of God?

How do we account for the multiplicity that arises from this approach?

Where do diverse communities find solidarity in this missional multiplicity?