

Outline of the topic: *Living as people of God in Europe, which is being reshaped by Islam*

Timo Keskitalo - Presented during EEA General Assembly 2016

Islam reshaping Europe growing number of Europeans

Conversion: Small number

Tide has turned

100 pa - 1000 pa

Migration: Iraq, Syria, Afgh

Crisis of isis

Family demographics: bigger families and faster generations

Islam shaping Europe

forcing to react

politic & relig agenda together

We: long history of separate

Secular-sacred

Private-public

They: holistic & communal

Forced to respond together

- confused

not how we operate

Aware: should be more holistic

& communal as well

Yet: taken by surprise

Now we have to

We are seeing the **freedom of speech** redefined

Are we defending right to insult & blaspheme?

Jesus mocked on the cross

We lost our pride there

- But expressing our faith

We demand the same rights

Muslims fight a space in public realm

Religious education

RE is confessional for Muslim

Family decides religion

Baptising babies of Pentecost

Theological changes

Individual – communal

Islamic law: children to father

Other issues:

-Nation state

-Positive nominalism:

Freedom of religion

-Trinity and Christology

-Shame and covering

as a paradigm equal to

Guilt and forgiveness

Wider understanding of

justification & atonement

Church

In some churches MBBs

outnumber locals

Locals join out of envy

Making jealous (Rm 11:14)

Parade in Espoo

Actual revival on!

Marriage

-We could fight together on the

gay marriage issue

-Polygamy already in church

Security

Church train Welcomers

Clothing instructions

Border controls

Laws on religious org in Russia

political map of Europe

redrawn

Brexit

Walls

Countries left alone against

each other

Europe changed by

our reaction

Self image

Our identity lost and found

Evangelicals & Europe

Feel uneasy

In past decades we saw

Christianity being marginalised

by secularism What did we do

in response? We explained

there never was Christendom

Now as Syrian refugees flow

into Europe

seeking shelter in

Christian Europe

Do they see something what we couldn't see?

Is there some truth in the

Christendom after all, when

looking from outside?

Doctrine of two kingdoms

We see politicians opening

borders with loving kindness to

the ISIS elements and then on

the other hand we see angry

local Christians hating their

Muslim neighbours.

How did it go so wrong?

In the Christian church we have

the doctrine of the two realms

of governing.

Let the authorities carry the

sword and use it.

Let Christians love in charity

I believe this doctrine is

One key to discern this time

Angela Merkel

Excercising Christian charity

She is right in helping needy

Right: terror not by these, but

earlier immigrants

Greatest Christian leader

President of Finland worried:
“Can’t follow our humane values any more” tested beyond ability
Sarkozy using the cross symbol for strict policy
Moderate politicians have started speaking like far right Christian politicians
lost rainbow as Christi symbol
Will we lose cross as well?
Austrian pol using rhetorics
Ottoman invasion 500 y ago
Erdogan of Turkey does same
Orban will not take migrants, but Hungary is first to recognize persecuted Christians

Some MBBs are warning:
Islamic worldview:
Christians submitted slaves
Muslims are served – normal
Himaar – donkey
Deserve to be abused
- They are called to rule
- We are called to serve
is this a trap?
Is this higher wisdom?
Luther wrote in the shadow of Ottoman invasion hymn

“A mighty fortress is our God”
“Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God’s truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.”

Islam operates by fear
Submission by power of fear
“we love death”
How do you respond?
Throw them money and edu?
Socialist explanation
Blind to Islamic religion
Can’t beat radical religion with social agenda
Peshmerga nationalism&arms
How do Christians fight fear?
“perfect love drives out fear” 1 John 4:18
The answer of reformers was God’s eternal kingdom
Cannot be taken from us
Again we are driven to the core values of our faith
Faith, hope and love

The two kingdoms: secular & spiritual are intermingled
Forced by Islam

We should look closely what is happening in the spiritual realm of governing.
The real spiritual challenge for us is the concept of sacrificial love and martyrdom as testimony.
We are treasuring our security and this has become our idol.
The church has been domesticated and tamed already before Islam.

We failed to go to risky places
God sent them here
To our comfort
There is a price
Not by church
Paid by thousands drowned
Somebody’s cousins!
Paid by whole society
On credit
Easy to predict
Mission could have been our honour
Now there is no glory
It is messy

As we were not ready to suffer, the whole western culture is now being sacrificed.

7 years ago visited Herat aid workers retreat
host lady gave a gift
2 years ago shot dead baton for relay run
Last year 7000 afghans
200 members in assoc
45 in Bible school
Government is sending back Members of our churches
Sent to be executed
The apostles were “rejoicing , because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name” Acts 5:41
glory in serving and suffering

Could it be that Islam is reshaping the church
Find again
Sacrificial love
Testimony through martyrdom