

Jenkins on The Next Christianity

Jenkins argues that we are at a turning point for Christianity as the majority of Christians are now in the “global South” (Africa, Latin America, Asia).

480 million Christians in Latin America, 360 million in Africa, 313 million in Asia, 260 million in North America.

Some in the “liberal West” are calling for a Reformation, but Christianity “is actually moving toward supernaturalism and neo-orthodoxy, and in many ways toward the ancient world view expressed in the New Testament.”

The appropriate comparison may not be the Reformation, but the Counter-Reformation.

“In terms of both theology and moral teaching, Southern Christianity is more conservative than the Northern—especially American—version.”

By 2040 there could be a billion Pentecostal Christians who “preach messages that may appear simplistically charismatic, visionary, and apocalyptic to a Northern liberal.”

The success of supernatural churches “is a direct by-product of urbanization” as these churches provide health, welfare and education.

Anglican bishops in Africa have consecrated bishops in the U.S.

Religion may replace political ideology as “the prime animating and destructive force in human affairs, guiding attitudes to political liberty and obligation, concepts of nationhood, and of course, conflicts and wars.”

“Extremist Christian movements have appeared regularly across parts of Africa where the mechanisms of the state are weak.”

“Across the global South cardinals and bishops have become national moral leaders in a way essentially unseen in the West since the seventeenth century.”