

Theses

1 For today's people, characterized by a subjective turn in their religiosity, there is a growing need for experience. In this context film as an audiovisual medium calls for a place in the mission work of the church. This also means that film as a community medium can provide theology with source materials appropriate for the analysis of the human situation, thereby helping the church participating in God's mission gain a better understanding of the context receiving the Gospel.

2 According to a typical but simplistic understanding of the relationship between theology and film, film can only illustrate theological content, that is, it can be used as an aid or, at its best, as a dialogue partner of theology. Mission as interaction between the Gospel and culture allows for a more dynamic relationship between theology and film.

3 Modern media and film can be used in the horizontal (social ethical) and vertical (evangelizing) dimensions of communicating salvation/redemption. This way the medium of film can get a place in preaching, but cannot be identified with preaching itself.

4 Messages of salvation/redemption mediated by film can be perceived as true words of contemporary culture that may become unconscious witnesses to the One True Word. Or they can be perceived as legitimate contextualized gospel interpretations, which tell the Biblical creation - fall - redemption narrative in a way that is understandable outside the church. In the first case it is the temporariness of the witnesses, and in the second case, it is the partial nature of the interpretations that cannot be ignored.

5 A basic learning of the cinematographic language of contemporary culture, and respect for "the translation rules" between theological and cinematographic languages is an essential condition to the interpretation and use of film as a means in mission.