

Contemporary Christian Mission in Nigeria, the Question of Identity and Self-Realization for Integral Development

Authors : Felix Ehimare Enegho

Abstract : The issue of the Christian mission among various people in our world has become a subject of discussion for quite a while now considering the many challenges faced by people of different religions. The understanding of who we are and how we choose to live our life as a people is quite imperative in many societies. The Christian Church down through the ages attempted to define itself so as to become relevant in human society. In Africa, the question of identity and self-realization is quite imperative if Africans are to define themselves and place themselves in the proper perspective as Christians. With the high level of insecurity bedeviling the world and especially Nigerian society, there is the need for Christians in Nigeria to see themselves as one body belonging to the same family. It is however disheartening that for several years now, there is a high level of disunity, lack of trust, disharmony, and vices of all kinds even among Christians who are often too quick to segment themselves into denominations thereby making themselves weak, segmented and powerless in the midst of great oppositions, as if the Christian church in Nigeria is a divided house. The significance of this paper is to explore the areas of conflict among Christians in Nigeria with a view to finding possible solutions that would lead to the integral formation and in the long run a common identity and invariably self-realization. This paper utilized the socio-historical method of research. Among the major findings in the work is the fact that it is only people that can truly be responsible and held accountable for how they define their identity and self-realization. This entails that Christianity's identity and self-realization in Nigeria will not only lead to a better and more defined form of Christianity but would ultimately assist in the integral development of Christian mission in Nigeria, a kind of development that would lead to a better Nigerian society.

Keywords : contemporary, Christian, mission, Nigeria, identity, self-realization

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