

THE EFFECTS OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM ON THE PRACTICE OF

CHRISTIANITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This essay "Effects of Islamic Fundamentalism on the practice of Christianity in Northern Nigeria", examined the specific demerits Christianity in Northern Nigeria has suffered in the hands of Islamic fundamentalists. The study comprises of five chapters. The first chapter is introductory. The chapter also contains the motivation for the work. The motivation comes from the personal experience and observation of the writer. The second chapter deals with the review of relevant literature. On the origin of Islam in Northern Nigeria, the practice of Islam in Northern Nigeria, the nature of Islamic fundamentalism, a survey of the activities of Islamic fundamentalists in Northern Nigeria, and the role of the government in the promotion of peaceful co-existence among religions in Northern Nigeria. The third chapter deals with the effects of Islamic fundamentalism on the practice of Christianity in Northern Nigeria, the effects on church activities in Northern Nigeria, effects on church membership in Northern Nigeria, and the effects on pastors and church leaders in Northern Nigeria. The fourth chapter tackles the problems of the effects of Islamic fundamentalism on Christianity in Northern Nigeria, the chapter reveals that tolerance, inter-religious dialogue, friendship approach, evangelism methods and teaching of the word of God are ways through which Islamic fundamentalism can be alleviated. The work is summarized and concluded in the final chapter, revealing that Islamic fundamentalism has enormous effects on the practice of Christianity in Northern Nigeria.

5.2 CONCLUSION

It is hereby established that Islamic fundamentalism as an ideological phenomenon continues to have negative effects on the practice of Christianity especially in Northern Nigeria. These effects are evident in way and manner Christians are treated

in Northern Nigerian, and continuous rioting and killing of Christians with properties worth Millions of Naira destroyed.

If this rapid and continuous encroachment on the fundamental human rights of Christians living in northern Nigeria is allowed to continue, it may lead to a national disaster and religious war. The government must participate in the eradication of this erroneous phenomenon and seek continual peace among religions in Nigeria.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

To the Convention: the Nigerian Baptist Convention should ensure that they meet with government and influence policies that would lead to adequate security in the nation. The convention should make adequate security available in her programs such as the Convention in session, General workers conference, Baptist night of wonders to mention a few. Proper support should be made available for churches affected by religious crisis, especially in northern Nigeria. The convention should also take advantage of the Baptists that work in security agencies like the Military, Police, State security service, Civil defense and all other security agencies, so they can receive relevant information for the protection of Baptist living in crisis prone area.

To the Churches in northern Nigeria: adequate religious dialogue programs should be set up to assist in relating with the larger Islamic community. Every church in Northern Nigeria should put in place adequate security measures for the church and her members during worship services. Pastors should no longer live within church premises to reduce the possibility of attacks over their lives. Church Pastors should liaise with security agencies in the area to receive assistance in times of crisis. During worship services, churches should ensure that adequate security measures are put in place to reduce the

possibility of attacks. Instruments like bomb detectors and metal detectors should be used to scan visitors before coming into the church to ensure they are not Islamic fundamentalists posing as worshippers. Churches in Northern Nigeria should also ensure they have the presence of the Army or the police at every worship service.

To the Government: the government should ensure immediate response to religious crisis in Northern Nigeria. Adequate security measures should be put in place to ensure the safety of the citizenry in every part of the country, with particular emphasis on Northern Nigeria. The government should not be seen as taking sides with any religion, government must play the neutral role in resolving religious crisis in Northern Nigeria.

To Islamic Fundamentalists: all complaints and grievances should be taken to government for proper and legal settlements; no individual should take laws into their own hands and cause chaos in the country. No one is above the law of the nation, there are constitutional methods of settling quarrels and dissatisfactions, those methods should be properly followed to allow for progress and peaceful coexistence in our nation.