

**ECUMENISM: ITS EFFECT ON THE CHURCH IN
NIGERIA**

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M.B.T.S.
M. Div

**AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE
NIGERIA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER
OF DIVINITY**

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JUNE, 2003

05-1089

ABSTRACT

This research has tried to examine the role unification can play among various denominations of Christianity in Nigeria. In carrying out the study, observation and personal experience methods were used for data collection.

This study shows that where there are no clearly defined objectives and qualified ministers, the purpose of Ecumenism can be defeated and meaningless. This study further reveals some of the problems militating against effective church growth because of inadequate orientation of some of the frontier ecumenists.

To curb these problems, the researcher proffered recommendations that could lead to an improvement in terms of unity among our various denominations. Some of the recommendations include Interdenominational theological training, removal of traditional and cultural barriers in order to attain mutual understanding of oneness in prayer, sharing the Word of God and Fellowship.

The study also highlights the reasons for unity and draws conclusions from the various findings which if implemented would pave way for a dynamic and pragmatic universal church which will lead to a greater spread of the Gospel.

Conclusion

Christians must inculcate the priority of Jesus' Ministry with honesty and genuine faith. This is because the acceptance of the name of Jesus is more precious than any Church structure or even any particular brand of creed. If the church is united she will be able to fight for the poor, the oppressed and struggle for peace and justice. This will also enhance the Evangelism and Missionary activities of the church.

¹⁶⁷ Stephen C. Rose, Who's Killing the Church? (U.S.A: City Missionary Society, 1966), p. 5.

¹⁶⁸ Orlando L. Tibbetts, The Reconciling Community (U.S.A: The Judson Press, 1969), p. 128.