

INFLUENCE OF *IJO ORUNMILA ADULAWO* ON
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN EJIGBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA, OSUN STATE.

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ABSTRACT

Africans are incurably religious and the adherents of *Ijo Adimula Adulawo* in Ejigbo Local Government Area are very versed in their faith and practices. It is very important to note that the African Traditional Religion has rich moral teachings which are strictly practised by the adherents. The influence of *Ijo Adulawo Orunmila* on Christianity is the great motivation for this work titled: Influence of *Ijo Orunmila Adulawo* on Christian churches in Ejigbo Local Government Area, Osun state. This influence manifests itself in various forms of syncretism and abuse of Christian faith. This posed challenges to Christian faith, individual Christian, Pastors and Christian Association of Nigeria in this area. The study established the fact that there is peaceful co-existence of both religions on matters of social, economic and political development. The work also established that the church of God at this contemporary time must respond to the great commission among the adherents of ATR. There may be similarities and differences between *Ijo Orunmila Adulawo* and the Christian church, yet the Christian message is totally different. Thus, the church should proclaim Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of the world. The study is descriptive in nature. The researcher employed historical, descriptive and phenomenological methods to analyse *Ijo Orunmila Adulawo* and Christianity from historical and biblical perspective. The researcher's participation and observation helped to understand the influence of *Ijo Orunmila Adulawo* on Christianity. The work encouraged the biblical practices of Christian faith and guide against syncretism and convert the adherents to Christian faith. Based on the study, it is discovered that ATR has been modernised to meet the contemporary taste, which has great influence on the church of God. It was recommended that Christians should not be confused with their modernised liturgy, practises and worship of *Ijo Orunmila*. The church should not lose focus on the mandate to win souls for Christ.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The study examined the religion of the people which tends to move along with the changes and development of the contemporary society, since the world is not static. Today, contextualization and modernization has crept into the mode of worship

in many religious groups. African Traditional Religion is an exception. The desire to meet the demand of the contemporary world has made *Ijo Orunmila Adulawo* “worship center of *Orunmila*” to adopt modern method of worship which is very similar to that of Christian mode of worship.

The physical outlook of the structure of the *Ifa* worship centre building will be mistaken for a Christian church. The leadership, mode of worship, sitting arrangement and all other things are identical. Moreover, apart from the modernization that is brought into the mode of worship of *Ijo Orunmila* “worship center of *Orunmila*” it has cordial interaction with other religious group and the Government, Local, State and Federal levels. This work is an eye opener to motivate most of their messages and budgets on evangelism. Finally, this essay emphasis is on the modern form of worship activities of *Ijo Adulawo Orunmila* and its influence on Christian churches.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Christian church should re-examine some of its practices and doctrines and identify good morals found in them, so as to employ them for an effective ministry. Christian leaders and the entire church must be aware of the impending danger that Church of *Orunmila* “*Ijo Orunmila*” posed on the church and on Christian witness. This is because worship centre of *Orunmila* is all over the places now, most especially the six (6) states in south western Nigeria; they are always on the radio, television, dailies and on internet.

Christian leaders and churches should shun syncretism. Also practices and doctrinal beliefs of the traditional religion should be accepted into Christian practices and doctrines. Church leaders and Christians should not be too self-centered and parochial; they should learn to know about the beliefs and practices of other religions

adherents in order to understand their philosophy and world view. Christians are not worshipping and serving the same God with any religion on earth. Church leaders and Christians should prayerfully make friends with adherents of *Orunmila* "*Ijo Orunmila*" and in doing so they can share the good news with them frequently and win such persons for Christ. Christians should not be bias about adherents of African Traditional Religion; they should take time to know much about them, not to condemn them and pass negative comment about them, but instead pray to God to open their eyes and inner minds to accept Christ. They should not see them as cultists as claimed by people. They should rather strive to be salt and light to them in order to expose them to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians should avoid the use of rituals and ritualistic materials that are too extreme and not biblical. The spiritual leaders must be very careful not to become herbalist "*babalawo*" through the sales of anointing oil and other faith healing materials. Pastors, prophets and prophetesses should take note of how extra Biblical elements are used.

There should be adequate and regular teachings of the word of God in terms of Bible study and Sunday school. Members / Christians should give themselves to these teachings in their various Bible believing churches. Christians should hold on to their faith without compromise. Further topics can be drawn for further studies as related to *Ijo Orunmila Adulawo*.