

EFFECT OF SECULARISM AND ITS IMPLICATION TO NIGERIAN BAPTIST

CONVENTION. CASE STUDY OF OGBOMOSO

SOUTH-EAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to evaluate the effect of secularism in contemporary Christian church in Ogbomosho South- East Baptist Association of Ogbomosho Baptist Conference of the Nigeria Baptist Convention. This study was done with an expectation that it would be of help to all local Baptist churches and other Christian organizations to understand the secularization as its affect the church and to guide the church the right channels to know the way to reduce the activities that led to secularism of worship. The research was conducted on one hundred (100) Youths drawn from ten (10) churches in Ogbomosho South- East Baptist Association of Ogbomosho Baptist conference of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. Also the opinion which includes Pastors, Age adults were selected from each Churches. Furthermore, the outcome of the research findings were adequately Presented which reveal the total number of percentage of respondent that is high, very high, average and low. It was discovered that from the findings that 75 Percent and 25 percent are very high with the fact that Christian youth borrow from secular to influence church system. Secularism has become the other of the day in many of churches as a result degenerate spirituality of Youths and elders. However, it is the primary responsibility of the church Pastors and Denominational leaders to carefully guide the doctrine of the church not to be Secularize. This study therefore recommends that local Baptist churches, Association, the convention and other Christian organization be an advocate against secularism so as not to exchange spirituality for frivolity as it affect the future of the church.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION.

This Chapter contains the summary, conclusion, suggestion and recommendation of this study.

#### 5.1 SUMMARY

This study evaluates the effect of secularism and its implication to Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ogbomoso South-East Baptist Association of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference. The analysis showed that there is a significant relationship between youth and elders in the church in determining spirituality and secularism in the church. Thus whether a youth will be influenced positively or negatively depends on the tune their denomination leaders and pastors' set.

In the course of the study, questionnaire was administered and data were collected on the effect of secularism and its implication. The data received through the questionnaire revealed that the effect of secularism cannot be over emphasized and it could be positive or negative. However, secularism should not be misinterpreted for pluralism or modernism but be addressed as it relates to comic view point which emphasis point to the inhabitant of the sacred as to the creator of the entire world. The usefulness of this research is to create a wide view for Christians on danger of getting secularize in the course of been relevant in the world.

#### 5.2 CONCLUSION

Response from the respondents have shown that a number of youth have been seriously stripped off from core Christian value. From this research conducted, it was discovered that church and denomination has a lot to do to influence youth and

established the elders not to stray away from faith. Youth enlightenment and programmes which empowers church growth be encouraged to keep the youth and elders in the church.

However, denominational emphasis should always tend to take people back to the bible no matter how scientific the world may be this cannot replace the truth of the scripture. Churches today capitalize on the fact that the world is a global village and church as part of the society must respond to the jet. Secularism as a concept has been misdirected to mean modern technology and therefore every concept in the economy want to find relevance. What people call secularism means different meaning to different people, youth, professionals, artists, technocrats, scientist, government, and denomination finds an interpretation in secularism as a concepts.

Christian's youth misinterpret secularism as social advancement and Christian adults take secularism as modern life which exposes their primitive life of old. In churches today many terminology and belief is now introduced to the church as part of practice and belief which a Christian must partake to be relevant in the society. Many of those taboos and belief today reveal the intent at which a denomination belief in the scripture as the holy book. Scripture is not a standard to some denomination rather they promote their doctrine as ultimate and superior to the bible.

This research work explores various means by which the true fact and meaning of secularism could be discovered. In the course of this research, a close interaction with the youth and adult reveals that people are more comfortable with what the secular system coined to be spiritual. A young teenager narrated and exclaimed that in any way the name of God is called any thing is acceptable to him.

He said anything that is acceptable to the general public should be accepted to the church, similarly an adult reiterated and said there is no way a church can get spiritual without being secular. He said church and secular life borrow from one another, Just as Christian relate to the immediate world via their friends so also their immediate world relate with through their friends.

Christian responds to secularism especially in Africa is slow. In western world secularism is widely accepted as part of cultural norms and law. Some legalize secularism as acceptable way of life while some country like France sees it as the way of life. Christians especially Baptist which operate a congregationalism system of government is not far fetch from tolerating such act of secularism. Catholic Church is moving in that direction of secularism. Baptists as a denomination, known as people of the "Book" need to quickly check the traces of secularism to prevent the Convention from being secularized.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATION

Based on the finding of this study, the following recommendations are made.

A. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should give it a critical look on what is wrong in the system that allows the youth of the Convention to get secularize. This can be done when a forum of discussion is allowed to know the flight of the youth and what bother their mind when mixing with friends outside the church build. However, Convention can encourage the local Church to create a forum at the level they can understand to reduce secularism in Church.

B. Denominational leaders of Churches also who profess Christ also should lay more Emphasis on the spiritual growth of youth which will inculcate

discipleship program to keep and established them in the word. Parents therefore, will not be left out in this since their impact also can also help to curb secularism among the youth. They should not give up on them since they know they youth often are restless.

C. Biblical principle of doing things should be of paramount importance of getting solution to church problem. Though secular exposure may count to do a professional work as it may require in the church, notwithstanding this should not overrule the efficacy of the word of God which have been proved constant and powerful over the ages.

D. Church influence in the community should be felt. Christians should not be afraid to share what they believe with their friends at work and at any gathering wherever they find themselves. This will allow them to stand out even when deliberate attempt is made on them to renounce their faith to social pressure