

Christian Response to Social Injustice – A Consideration of a Holistic Approach

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The mission of the Church involves the engagement of nations and their way of life with the vision of ensuring the Lordship of Christ. These engagements are not always without confrontations as Christian mission seeks to possess nations and ideologies. It mostly become a difficult one when the Gospel has to engage societal ills and practices as a results of the power dynamics involved. It is therefore not surprising that Christian history, which is invariably mission history, is full of conflicts and sometimes violent conflicts. But can there be a way where violent confrontations can be minimized if not totally avoided? This paper interrogates and critiques the approach employed by a Pentecostal local assembly in Gomoa Debiso, a rural community in Ghana against widowhood rites, a traditional rite and cultural practice known to dehumanize and traumatize widows but common among the Gomoa people in the Central region of Ghana. The paper also seeks to bring out lessons from this Pentecostal engagement with social injustice to the attention of missionaries as they seek to engage cultures and traditional beliefs with the principles and values of Christianity. Evidence from both quantitative and qualitative surveys shows an antagonistic engagement among others. Arguing from a communal sociocultural dynamics point of view, the paper recommends the Inclusive Audience Approach in the engagement of social injustice issues by missionaries. It explains the approach as targeting different audiences in the engagement process with the aim of involving all key stakeholders in transformational change processes.

A Brief Bio of Solomon Kwasi Kyei (Rev.) ACMA, GCMA

Solomon is a researcher and full-time minister of the Church of Pentecost with research interest in Gospel and Culture, Pentecostal Theology and Missions, and Church Administration, Finance and Management.