



Assessment of Christian participation in Nigeria politics in first republic in the new normal

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Abstract

The word politics has been discuss by various scholars to mean "to be acitizen to govern a state or administered the affairs of the state. While morality on the other hand means the standard the societies used to decide what is right or wrong in their behavior. The paper would discuss the, its moralism in the society. Also the participation of Christians in politics, why should Christians be involved in politics, how to be involved in politics, misconception about politics, Christian in politics, Nigeria experience towards an effective participation in politics. Participation in Nigeria Politics must be by the principles of discourse either as scholars in Academic environment, as religious leaders or as a socialites or public opinion. This paper in conclusion is of the opinion that Christians should maintain their morality and integrity and should not be discarded because politics will definitely affect our tomorrow and should not be seen as a do or die affairs. Another important thing to note is a leader you elect or fail to elect have great influence in our freedom. This research therefore recommends that Christian politicians in this new normal in Nigeria should beware who they ally with for politicking.

Keywords: Keyword: Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Morality, Participation, Politics



Introduction

Assessment of Christian participation in Nigeria politics in the first republic has been an issue of concern to scholars in various fields of learning in Nigeria. Nigeria in Christianity dates back to the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slaves trade in the early 19th century, which was followed by the emergence of a literate African Elite: consisting of liberated and returned slaves as well as local converts. The need for political stability in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. Indeed all the segments of the Nigeria society are interested in the political future of the nation. However this interest is approached from various dimensions.

A major interest in the Nigerian polity is the Christian participation in politics, moral concerns in contemporary Nigeria. Politics is about the acquisition of power and the use of such power. The Oxford Dictionary of Words defines politics as "matters concerned with acquiring or exercising power, within a group or an Organization". The term politics as the struggle for power which itself is the authority to determine or formulate and execute decisions and policies, which must be accepted by the society. It is the struggle for power of governance, especially executive authority. The involvement of Christians in politics has been an issue of concern to scholars in various fields or study with different views resulting from such discourses. While many believes that committed Christians have no business in politics; others think their involvement is a sacred duty, which must be performed with high sense of responsibility. It is difficult to say which of the schools of thought is right or wrong as each of them has reasons for its stand. The political scene in Nigeria is, as a matter of fact, morally sick because people of integrity are apathetic and treasury looters have taken over. Good governance is an illusion in Nigeria and this has engendered retardation of growth and development. The yearning of many Nigerians is need for sanity in the political sphere. Our aim in this paper is to access Christian's participation in Nigerian Politics in the First Republic in the New Normal.

The Meaning of Morality

Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour. The matter boiled down to simple morality: innocent prisoners ought to be free. It is synonyms to ethics, right and wrongs, corrections, ethical, virtue, goodness, good behavior, righteousness, rectitude, uprightness, morals, principles, honesty, integrity propriety honor, justice fair play, justness, decency,



prohibition, chasteness, chastity purity blameless, moral standards, moral code, principles of right and wrong, rules of conduct ethics, mores, standards ideals Its Concept Morality is the standard of society used to decide what is right or wrong behavior; An example of morality is the belief by someone that it is wrong to take what doesn't belong to them even if no one would know. It is principle of right and wrong in conduct or ethics. Moral means quality or character, righteousness or wrongness as of an action. It is also the character of being in accord with the principle or standards of right conduct or right conduct sometimes specify virtue in sexual conduct. Morality is the standard of society used to decide what is right or wrong behavior. It is the quality of being in accord with standards of right or good conduct. It is the recognition of the distinction between good and evil or between right or wrong, Respect for obedience to the rules of right conduct, the mental disposition is characteristics of behaving in a manner intended to produce morally good results. Morals are formed out of a person's values. Values are the foundation of person's ability to judge between right and wrong. Morals build on this to form specific context-driven rules that govern a person's behavior. They are formed from a person's life experience and are subject to opinion.

For example, someone's morals might indicate they have opposed to murder. That's a pretty general rule of thumb. But what about something more mundane? While one person's morals might tell them not to gossip, another person's morals might be quite different. They might not consider gossip to be a bad thing. Consider the following examples of morals and see how many line up with your core values and beliefs.

Moralism in Society

Is there a standard moral code in society these days?

Yes, while most people follow society's laws, they also abide by certain social morals which are governed by morals while morals tend to be driven by personal beliefs and values, there are certainly some common morals that most people agree on such as always tell the Truth. Do not destroy Property, Have Courage, Keep your Promises, Do not Cheat, Treat others as you want be treated. Do not Judge, Be dependable. Be Forgiving, Have Integrity, Take Responsibility for your Actions, Have Patience, Be Loyal, Have Respect for yourself and others, Be Tolerant of differences, Seek Justice, Have Humility, Be Generous.

In the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments are often considered the basis for societies founded on Judeo-Christian principles. You will



notice some overlap with the list above as many of these principle are still embedded in general society.

- i. Do not have any gods before me
- ii. Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
- iii. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy
- iv. Do not kill
- v. Honour your Father and Mother
- vi. Do not commit adultery
- vii. Do not steal
- viii. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor
- ix. Do not covet your neighbor's Wife or possessions.

For the capacity of a group's members to maintain belief in the face of opposition or hardship it is called morals redirects.

Long Sedley (1987) said morality comes from the Latin word *Moralities* meaning Manner, Character. Proper Behavior. It is the differentiation of intentions, decisions and actions between those that are distinguished as proper (right) and those that are improper (Wrong). Morality may also be specifically synonymous with goodness or rightness. Moral philosophy includes meta-ethics, which studies abstract issues such as moral ontology and moral epistemology and normative ethics which studies concrete systems of moral decision-making such as deontological ethics and consequentialism.

An example of normative ethical philosophy is the golden rule which states: One should treat other as one would like others to treat oneself. Anthony Flew (1979). Immorality is the active opposition to morality i.e. opposition to that which is good or right. While amorality is variously defined as an unawareness of indifference towards or disbelief in any particular set of moral standards or principles.

If morality is the answer to the question how ought we are to live at the individual level, politics can be seen as addressing the same question at the social level, though the political sphere praises additional problems and challenges. See Weber, Thomas (2011). It is therefore unsurprising that evidence has been found of a relationship between attitudes in morality, and politics.



Moral foundations theory authored by Jonathan Haidt and colleagues has been used to study the differences between morality and politics. Haidt Jonathan, Joseph Craig (September 2004). The Meaning of Politics and its concept The activities associated with the government of a country or area, especially the debate between parties having power.

Activities aimed at improving someone's status or increasing power Within an organization yet another discussion of office politics and personalities. Politics are set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups or other forms of power relations among individuals such as the distribution of resources or status. The branch of Social Science that studies Politics and Government is referred to as Political science.

It may be used positively in the context of a political solution which is compromising and nonviolent or descriptively as the art or science of government (Graham Haidt Koleva), but also often carried a negative connotation, For example, abolitionist Wendel Philips declared that "we do not play politics, anti-slavery is no half-jest with us. (Morality (2012)Online Only Video. The New York Retrieved (6th May, 2012).The concept has been defined in various ways and different approaches have fundamentally differing views on whether conflict or co-operation is more essential to it. A variety of methods are deployed in politics is excised on a wide range of social levels, from clans and tribes of traditional societies, though modern local governments, companies and institutions up to sovereign states to the international level.

In modern nation states, people often form political parties to represent their ideas. Members of a party often agree to take the same position on many issues and agree to support the same changes to law and the same leaders. An election is usually a competition between different parties. A political system is a framework which defines acceptable political methods in a society. The history of political thought can be traced back to early antiquity with seminal works such as Plato's Republic and Aristotle's politics in the West and conscious political manuscripts and Chanakya's Arthashastra in the East.

That Christian denominates through literal interpretations of some biblical passages seek to exclude Christians from political participation and the fact of political misconducts. Malpractices and faulty democratic leadership in a process many Christians are involved in considering the moral Christians ideals. The ideals of Christianity are good to better political conduct but practice of such ideals are usually influenced by the socio-cultural institutions in the society



including politics, this suggest that Christians have the moral norms needed to better a society but if Christians do not participate in policy making where politics is a mechanism needed to exercise that then these qualities are so good as nothing. Therefore Christians from every walk of life should heighten their political participation with the view of ameliorating the political system in Nigeria from every corruption.

Again many Nigerians have resorted to tag politics as a game of dirtiness owing to them is conducts prevailing in the political system. This is due to the assumptions that people have lost confidence in the political class and on the electoral processes in the country where votes cast by electorate are presumed not to count. Where there is so much political thuggery and ballot theft. Worst of all still, these anomalies prevail amidst Christian presence in the process, the same people who are supposedly taught the ethics needed to build a morally viable world. It is the duty of every one restate those Christians ethical principles that is poised to better the society as well as encourage Christian to participate in the electoral processes, party politics and other politically related activities so that they could use their moral consciousness to improve and sanitize the political system and ensure sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

The involvement of Christian in politics has been an issue of concern to scholars in various field of study with different views resulting from such discourses. While some believe that committed Christians have no business in politics, others think their movement is a sacred duty which must be performed with a high sense of responsibility. It is difficult to say who is right or wrong as each of them has reasons for its stand. The political scene in Nigeria is morally sick because people of integrity are empathetic and treasury looters have taken over.

Good governance is an illusion in Nigeria and this has engendered retardation of growth and development. The yearning of many Nigerians is the need for sanity in the political sphere. The aim of this paper is to see a moral critique of Christian participation in polities in Nigeria. So we will be accessing the impact of Christians on Nigeria politics so as to know how relevant they have been in achieving good governance, political stability and social harmony. The word politics has no unilateral definition as it has been explained in different ways by the writers. However for the purpose of this paper, we shall attempt a concise clarification of the term.

Politics is derived from the Greek word "Polis" meaning a *city and from polis comes the word politics translated as "Citizen". The English word Politic is derived from the verb Politicus which can mean to be a citizen, to govern a city or state or administer the affairs of a state.



From the foregoing, one can understand politics as an act of governance which is the commonest perception of it. This equally is a process of decision-making both in private and public sphere. Also politics is a way of peace.

In Aristotle's opinion, Toryough(2007) said Aristotle see politics as the essence of social existence of two or more men interacting with one another. It includes national politics, municipal and international politics. Politics involves everybody and the use of political power. This often results in conflicts which are either resolved through dialogue or violence. It deals with peaceful co-existence between individuals and groups and provided a platform for cooperation in matters of a common interest. Politics is a game and for it to be effective, it must be played. Therefore everybody who is involved in it is a player, but the question is how well it is played. With these understanding of the subject matter, we will further proceed to discuss Christian's involvement in politics as an issue.

The Participation of Christians in Politics

Having understood the term politics from various perspectives, it can safely be concluded that there are several ways in which Christians can be involved. For a clear understanding of this section, it is apt to discuss in brief the interplay between religion and politics. Religion is an all pervasive social phenomenon. It interacts with every social institution: Politics being one of such. If both religion and politics are practiced by men, it will not be difficult to see the duo as interacting entities.

Historically, one can trace the history of the interaction to the time the Israelites asked for a King to rule them like other nation which suggested a rejects of theocratic governance. Saul the first King in Israel became the political head of Israel while Samuel continued as the spiritual head. Following the rejection of Saul and on God's instruction, Samuel anointed David as Saul's successor. What could be described as real politicking preceded the emergence of Solomon as King, Christians were persecuted in the early days of Christianity in the Roman Empire because it was seen as a religion illicit-illegal religion. Falokun (1999) opines that this continued until Emperor Constantine became a Christian and pronounced Christianity a legal religion. Since that time there has been an appreciable interaction between the church and the state. In England, for instance, the office of the King or Queen is recognize by the Anglican Communion and he or she cannot be crowned without the input of the church. Hence they sing and prayed that God will preserve the King /Queen on the throne. If religion does not concern politics matters then this restrain keeping and religion out of the public sphere-is no constraint at all. It

will not limit the religion itself only distortions of religion that inappropriately intermingle the discrete domain of religion and politics. It bears emphasizing, however that one need not accept this view to be a liberal in the relevant sense a variety of reasons might be offered for bracketing religious beliefs, even if those beliefs do in principle pertain to public matters. Rawls's later work offers one version of this as does Richard Rorty.

Nonetheless, views of religion as interior and of religion as absent from the public sphere have frequently gone comfortably together. Against such arguments for withholding religious reasons for the public sphere a number of recent theorist have argued that without bringing our deepest commitments-which are often in some sense religious-to bear, we lack what it takes to reason effectively about major issues of public concern. Alas DairMacIntyre has elaborated a version of these claims in arguing that tradition is not an alternative to reason but rather the bearer of reason. Substantive, reasoned debate can take place only on the basis of sharing a tradition and commitments, not by rescinding from them.

Superson (2009). too has maintained that the notion of deliberating about our public life without bring religious commitments to bear presupposes an inadequate conception of Christian faith and effectively required Christian to violate, not just suspend, their deepest commitments about how to live it. Also in United State of America, despite its secularity, the motto of that country is In God We Trust, while both the National Anthem and The Pledge in Nigeria have on them elements of religion. The second stanza of the Nigeria National Anthem is full of prayer for the country while the last line of the pledge is a prayer to God for grace to live what we professed. All these point to the fact that religion is an inescapable phenomenon. One can therefore conclude that the age-long interaction between religion and politics suggests that Christians may be involved in politics.

An opinion says that Christian's participation in politics is in contrast to Christian integrity; there are many reasons to suggest that there is a need for it. Several inferences can be drawn from the bible to lend credence to this claim. The view of Echman, (1999) is that Christian do have an obligation towards the state, basing his thesis on Jesus answer to the question about payment of tax to Rome as well as Paul's Timothy's admonition that Christian should submit to government because God established it and their prayer for those in authority in the state respectively. Romans:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-7. Therefore He recommends that Christian living in a democracy should vote during election as failure to do so would amount to irresponsibility. Not only that they are expected to propose politics a decisions that unjust work for candidate who support Justice and righteousness. Echman (1999).



According to KUNHYOP (2008) Jesus response to the Pharisees in matthew 22:21 indicates that he saw believers as having a responsibility to both God and the state. This relationship was not without tension as He referred to Herod as a fox. This implies that he was a predator. Also in the Acts of the Apostle, the disciples disobeyed the Jewish authority who legislated that they should stop preaching in the name of Jesus and the disciple said they would obey God rather than man. It is to be understood that Jesus teaching on believers being the salt and light of the earth indicate that they have necessary and important role to the world.

Elder (1998) further said that a person who takes his Christian citizenship seriously is the one who applies the gospel to his world through responsible involvement in the political process. A responsible citizen should understands the way his group is structured in order to make corporate decision and participate in decision making. Being responsible does not only mean that Christian understand the process and actively participates but also that he participates in from Christian perspective.

Despite the relevance of Christian citizenship to the political process, there are some barriers as polities is seen as a dirty game while at the same time, Faith is believed to be personal. It is believed that voting is minimal obligation, nevertheless this small as peer should not be neglected because that is where citizen expresses their opinion. For God's will to be done, God's people must speak out though the polling booth. But if you refuse to vote, then it means you are ignorant of your position as Christian.

Although the kingdom of the believers is in heaven, God gave the earth to possess as possession. Believers heritage includes the country/cities and towns which God has given them. They own it and need to reign on it. The earth is the Lord's and what belongs to our God belongs to us. Psalm 24:1.

Why should Christians be involved in Politics?

Gen 1:28 It is the desire of God that believers take charge and have influence here on earth. Christians are to take the lead and allow kingdom values to shape our society. The leaders we elect or fail to elect have great influence on our freedom, well-being and the fulfillment of our God-given mandate. They can choose to protect our right to worship and spread the gospel or prevent us from exercising such rights. Politics like other sectors of national developments i.e. health, finance, education and so on, should be explored to teach all nations in order to demonstrate the exemplary life and flavor of godliness.



The involvement of Godly Christians in politics will reduce corruption, disorderliness, mischief and other socio-economic vices in the society. To effect positive and lasting changes that will benefit the society.

How to be involved in Politics

It is divided into two. Getting involved and how to join political party of your choice.

1. It is your civic right and responsibility under the law to vote and be voted for.
2. Eligible Christians should get registered with relevant electoral bodies.
3. Be a card carrying member of any political party of your choice.
4. Wield your influence on the choice of representative for the elective position.

You will be termed poor citizen when you choose to remain silent and inactive while significant decisions are made for insight and impact. The looters gained opportunity to loot the public treasury and live the citizen to suffer poverty because the moral Christians do not participate in politics. Adeiwa (2011) further stated in his contribution there is no place in the bible where it is written that politics is a sin. It then means that God does not forbid politics, in effect there is no justification for apathy. The involvement of Christians should go beyond campaign exercise. Voting, identify with party of their interest they can also be voted for so that the morality they have acquired may help to salvage the economy and give us peace of mind. Proverb 29:2, the bible says when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked bear rule the people mourn (Holy Bible King James version).

Generally speaking, politics can be described as the methodology and activities associated with running a government, an organization or a movement. Politics is an act of influence. It is this influence that further births positive or negative changes in the lives of the people. The involvement of Christians in politics is neither secular nor beyond the ideologies of Christianity because it is the desire of God that believers take charge and have influence here on earth.

Misconceptions about Politics:

Politics is a dirty game and worldly affairs. Politics takes one to hell, all politicians are liars, corrupt and promiscuous, it is an opportunity to embezzle money or amass wealth unlawfully and most politicians are fetish or occult.

Go out and vote rightly election.

How to join Political Party of your Choice

In addition to other possible information:

- i. Christians should visit the website of the parties or the secretariat of your choice party.
- ii. Study the party ideology and manifesto.
- iii. Fill a party registration form.
- iv. Supply/provide necessary document as required.
- v. Make necessary payments as stipulated.
- vi. Obtain your membership card.
- vii. Attend party meeting regularly.
- viii. Actively participate in discussion and strengthen your voice.
- ix. Christian should read books and attend
- x. In order to succeed in politics, seminars/conferences on leadership/politics.
- xi. You can prayerfully join or support advocacy group.
- xii. You can form a political party with people of like minds

So desist from any thought or act of wickedness, politics is not a do or die affairs. Avoid prayerlessness our adversary is not resting so be sober and vigilant. Shun all foolishness: Get the necessary qualification or experience and act wisely. Never disable into politics without a Godly burden or passion. Avoid compromise: Stand by your godly principles. Beware of the negative influence of political god-fathers. Be resolute in the face of persecution and propaganda. Avoid abuse of power. Do not be tyrannical.

Christian's involvement in Politics, The Nigerian experience

Nigeria through a secular state according to the 1999 constitution is made up of people of different faiths such as Christianity, Islam and Indigenous Religion among others. There is no valid statistics to support the religious affiliation of Nigeria citizens but it can be said that Christianity are among the major religion and played the principal actors in politics. Nigeria is divided into geo-political zone. The representative of this zone are in the National Assembly, from the representative you can predict the religion being practice in the zone and it can categorical stated that Christians are given enabling environment to be represented.

Also there can be no election without campaign practice of politics of any kind, this is linked with election of Matthias in Acts 1:16-26 to fill the vacant post created by Judas Iscariot, in line with the process of selection Oduyoye in (1986) stressed that electoral process was

formerly a religious affairs but later secularized. Today in the Orthodox churches Bishop are being elected.

In the 21 century in Nigeria there are many Christians and Ministers of God who are actively involved in politics. Notable among others is a Reverend Okotie of Fresh party who was vying for the position of Presidency in Nigeria but lost. According to Adeiwa said that many politician do claim that they heard from God to contest and at the end they loss raising doubt that whether God has called them or not into politics. Furthermore some religious organization did not hide their passion for politics, this showed in their activities, prayer sections are setup to pray especially for the President Goodiuck Jonathan when he declared his ambition in 2011. The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) had to pray for him. It is not surprising that such prayer meeting can become a platforms for supporting the candidates. The main point here is that Christians, especially those that are moral do participate in politics of Nigeria. Worthy of note is the activities of political God-fatherism as early mentioned in the paper. This does have negative impact on political party.

Toryough(2007) Concur that the issue of godfatherism is so pervasive that an aspirant without a godfather or a king maker's support might be counted as a joker. The Okija shrine saga of ex-governor Ngige and Chief Uba of Anambra State and the long drawn battle between Chief Lamidi Adedibu and ex-governor Rashidi Ladoja of Oyo State are cases for reference in this regard. In both cases, the "Godfather" or king maker either financed the candidate or prevailed on his constituency to adopt his candidate as for the elective post or did both with an agreement that the king maker would be a real governor behind the scene and would get a lion's share of the state revenue and dictate who get what in the state. When the governors on getting into office, decided to dishonor their agreements with their king makers, it cost them tough time, public disgrace and impeachment.

Towards an Effective Participation of Christians in Nigeria Politics. God-fatherism would not have been an antagonist if it is practiced as obtained in Christianity. How proven are they? Experience has shown that they are self-centered politicians who wants to control their domain politically and economically. They negatively impact political activities in their domain by taken the lion's share of allocation that comes to the state. The role played by tribalism and sectionalism in Nigerian politics is negative. Nigerian did not see themselves as one, there is ethics and sectional loyalty which has impeded development. Our party systems are form on ethic interest no matter how national it may look. People still vote on tribal and sectional lines.



The fact cannot be deemed that there are many evil plaguing Nigerian politics. So it is generally believed that politics is a dirty game which has resulted into apathy by many Christians who could have brought sanity into the system. Several has ended up compromising their faith.

The question is politics in itself dirty? Since politics is in the bible and the bible is the word of God it then means politics is not a dirty game. Because God would not support any immoral act but when God is not in it, it becomes dirty. Because many Christians cannot maintain their integrity while serving in various capacity because of their level of commitment which could not be ascertained has given bad omen to Christian morals which has been spoken against. There are many Christians that are facing the allegations of corruption before EFCC, Electoral malpractices and so on. Some even went as far as holding thanksgiving service after rigging elections or their questionable victories.

Toryough (2007) again stressed that not everybody who processes to be a Christian is a Christian. Therefore those who always failed to uphold Christian integrity could be mere church goers. It is not everyone that bears name like Moses, John, Mary, Patricia, Ruth or Deborah that is a Christian. A Christian from the Biblical point of View is one who is born again or regenerated. Some whose sis has been forgiven him. This is the kind of Christian that qualifies to seek public office in the name of Christianity.

Conclusion

Moral critique about Christian involvement in or participation in Nigeria Politics is a nucleus of academic discourse or a religious debate and public opinion. Hence various reactions and views from scholars religious practitioners and social commentators has been cured. The conclusion is that the idea of politics is not meant for Christian should be discarded in various ways. Christians should desist from any thought or act of wickedness. Politics is not a do or die affairs. Know that Christian adversary is not resting so we need to be sober and vigilant. Don't be prayer less: shun all foolishness, get all the necessary qualifications and experiences and act wisely. Never dabble into politics without a Godly burden and passion. Avoid compromise, stand by your godly principles, beware of the negative influence of political godfatherism. Be resolute in the place of persecution and propaganda. Avoid abuse of power. Do not be tyrannical.

Thus Christians are encouraged to be more involved in politics at all levels, for this could be their own way of serving God. Integrity must be

maintain which is lacking among many serving in politics now. It is very sure that Nigeria will be great again if Christians stop giving out their responsibilities out because we are the salt of the earth and the light of the World.

Recommendation

The following are the recommendation given:

- i. Christian politicians must be guided by the principle of servant Leadership. They must be willing to serve, this will be their driving force. Jesus is in the earthly ministry said. He has not come to be served but to serve also. He washed the feet of his disciple as an example of servant - leadership. Christian must be ready to serve.
- ii. Moral integrity in politics cannot be ignored. Christian politicians must always exhibit integrity no matter what it will cost them. It is failure to do this that present politics as a dirty game. To achieve sanity men and women of proven integrity are required in high number in politics.
- iii. Other Christian leaders and followers alike should have the duty of monitoring their representative so as to know how well they are faring. They can also play the role of praying for them. They are not to encourage politicians to defraud the nation by seeking financial assistance that can only be rendered through fraud.
- iv. The church must consistently organize programs that are aimed at moral transformation based on the bible. Christians must be told to uphold Biblical values while in office. Experience Christian counselor should be engaged to counsel them on moral principles as contained in the scriptures and other source of Christian ethics.
- v. Accountability groups must be put in place to guard against overlooking their earlier pledges before coming into the office. Whatever commitment they must have should be adhere to. This is important because many has failed at different point in time owing principally to lack of monitoring.

If the truth is not being told by religious leaders one wonders who else would do so. Christian politicians must be bold enough to oppose ungodly policies no matter the intimidation the grace to say no to intimidation like Daniel, the Hebrew children, early Apostles and other Christians that suffered martyrdom in the hand of the Roman Empire will be a source of encouragement to forge ahead.



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