

Christian Fundamentalist's Use of Modern Communication Devices in Contemporary Nigeria: Threats to Authentic Faith

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Abstract

Nigeria is indeed a religiously pluralistic society where African Traditional, Christianity and Islam religions are been practiced. Christian fundamentalists resort to the use of modern communication gadgets like television, internet, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, satellite dish, films, twitter radios to propagate erroneous teachings, which has indeed blossom threats to authentic faith witnessing among Christians today. The purpose of this study is to draw the attention of Christians to be aware of the erroneous teachings of fundamentalists which could lead to religious extremism and denominational rivalry. The research methods adopted by this paper are prescriptive, descriptive and analytic. Data collection was assembled from Focus Group Discussion and consultation of relevant books. The paper discovered that Christian fundamentalists insist on the literal interpretation of the Bible without considering human and historical perspective. They also engaged in doctrinal attacks on the teachings of other denominations without considering the place of traditions as one of the aspects in which the word of was revealed to the world. The paper is of the view that Christian preachers should guard against becoming fundamentalists who now resort to distorting the Gospel using modern communication devices. Also, intending preachers should be well schooled in Biblical Hermeneutics, Exegesis and homiletics in order to be acquainted with the principles of preaching the Gospel using modern communication devices instead of promoting a breeding ground for religious of bigotry and extremism. All intending preachers should emulate the exemplary life of Christ, who was never a fundamentalist preacher

but a role model for preaching salvation to humanity by judiciously using modern communication devices.

Key words: Christian, Fundamentalists, Faith, Devices and Communication

Introduction

In the existence of human beings, religion has always been an institution to reckon with, which permeates man's existence and his relationship with the Divine. Christianity is a religion founded by Jesus Christ. The prologue of the book of Genesis clearly enthused: "in the beginning was the word... the word was God... (John1:14). Christianity as a religion gives room to all its adherents to go into the entire world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:150). Thus, today many Christian Fundamentalists took to the frantic use of modern communication devices to reach fast to the public, thereby posing problem to authentic faith witnessing in contemporary Nigeria among Christians. The divine mandate recorded by the Gospel of John above gave rise to evangelistic zeal by which Christian Fundamentalists queue in to using modern communication devices as the easiest and fastest means to reach targeted audience in different places and time there by distorting the authenticity of the Gospel in erroneous manner. It is worth gain saying that, God spoke to His people in the olden days through the prophets and later communicates through His Divine son, Jesus Christ. Christ established a link of communication, which He never wanted to end with Him, being from the Jewish society, he came that all may have life to the fullest. The imperative of the sacred word of God as it is been communicated in various ways by different people clearly affirms to the fact that communication is an important medium of conveying messages between the sacred and the profane.

Thus, the word of God is alive and active which Christians uphold as a compendium of salvation of souls. Hence, it is the desire of the Church that all her members should love and cherish the word of God as revealed in scripture and tradition. However, Christ did not want the communication of God to people to end with Him and within the Jewish society, but gave the mandate "Go out into the whole and proclaim the Good news" (Mtt.28:19-20). This very reason necessitated Christ to choose disciples and apostles worthy of morals by sending them to proclaim the Good news. God further revealed Himself to His people through traditions and scripture, which means the duo, are interconnected ways in which God revealed Himself to his people. But these views are being disputed by some Christian denominations based on issue of doctrine and functionalism, which Christian fundamentalists tenaciously hold unto the scriptures as the only source that God revealed himself. *Sola Scriptura* (only the scripture) upheld dearly as the only deposit of Christ' revelation to mankind.

On defense of aggressive evangelism by Fundamentalists, Emehel quoted Ahmad Manzoor to have enthused that “for any religion to exist significantly as important dimension of human existence, the adherents have to become enthusiastic (37). Thus, this is seen actively in practice today by Christian Fundamentalists, who now use modern communication devices to distort and preach extremism thereby distorting the essence of the divine mandate of preaching the word of God. Christian Fundamentalists are conservatives who do not believe anything outside the Bible should be accepted. Hence today, Fundamentalists authoritatively and aggressively claim the mandate given to the apostolic universal church by Christ to his disciples to evangelize and make disciples of all nations using modern gadgets of communication, which is a good move. Sadly enough, these Christian fundamentalists today are at brace with the latest communication devices serving as their spring boards in carrying out the divine mandate of reaching out to the world in distorted manner, confusing and misleading souls using internet, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, Television and Satellite dishes, Compact discs and Audio recorded tapes. Also, the use of electronic media houses like Emmanuel TV, Ajara Gospel TV, Seraphic TV, His Divine Word TV, Joy Radio, Adventist Radio, Eternal Word Radio and host of other social media platforms like YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook or Twitter handles received high patronage today in Nigeria by fundamentalists, where erroneous teachings are carried out.

In Nigeria today, Fundamentalists use of modern communication devices posed serious threats to Christian faith witnessing there by neglecting tradition and making over emphasis on distorting literal Biblical statements. Hence, this approach of new evangelism has become worrisome round the nook and cranny of Nigerian society and even the world at large today. Hence, Christian fundamentalist use of modern communication devices is seriously impeding authentic faith witnessing among Christians. Interesting to say that, some of the wanton damages caused to the sacred of mandate of preaching the Gospel are indeed a threat to authentic faith witnessing among Christians and intending converts. One cannot run away from the wanton damages been caused due to use of modern communication devices by Christian fundamentalists today, which is an indelible threat to the authentic Christian faith today, where the substance of the Gospel is distorted or twisted to project a different essence of preaching the sacred word of God using the Bible and forgetting the place of tradition.

It is sad to hear and watch fundamentalists’ programs been championed in aggressive mood with the sole aim of canvassing for more members within the shortest possible time and space using modern communication devices today. Hence, modern communication devices are adequately been used by Christian Fundamentalists in this competitive era

there by posing great danger to authentic faith witnessing among Christ faithful and those intending converts. It is interesting to note that there, various fundamentalists' programs or teachings are broadcasted either using audio or visual platforms tagged with enticing names to woo members, who are erroneously misled and later form ecclesiastical schism bands. The Nigerian society is not innocent and free from the aggressive cling to use of modern communication devices by Christian Fundamentalists, who succeed in confusing and distorting the true essence of the sacred scripture among Christians today.

Key words: Christians, Fundamentalists, Faith, Devices, Communication and Christian

The word Christian cannot exist without Christ. Hence, people have different notions on which a Christian is. In this write-up, we shall sample some of definitions of the above concept. In a lay man's understanding, a Christian is a follower of Christ. Hornby also defines Christian "as a person who believes in the teaching of Jesus Christ or has been baptized in a Christian church" (92).

Cassell's English Dictionary also puts that:

The Noun 'Christian' denotes: one who believes in or professes the religion of Christ; one belonging to a nation or country of which Christianity is the prevailing religion; one whose character is consistent with the teaching of Christ (198).

Gospel of Mathew (Mtt.7:21-23) also recapitulate in this manner thus:

Not everyone says to me "Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my father in heaven. On the day, many will say to me Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, we cast out demons in your name, and many deeds of power in your name (RSV Bible).

The word Christian cannot exist without Christ just as Shittu also posits:

The word is both a noun and adjective. As a noun, it is the name that anyone who believes he [or she] has an intimate relationship with Christ. As an adjective, its counterpart validates someone who possessed the attributes of Christ or Christ like (23).

Jusuvi in a similar vein defines a Christian as:

That individual who having decided personally, acted upon his decision by accepting Jesus Christ as his /her Lord and savior in respond to god's love towards mankind and assumed the responsibilities for life in the world by imitating (69).

Fundamentalists

Fundamentalists could be referred to as Biblical conservatives or people who hold tenaciously to the scriptural words of the Bible to be literally interpreted and accepted without taking cognizance the place of tradition as one of the sources of God' revelation to mankind. There are versions of definitions on who Fundamentalists are, and as sampled by this paper below:

New Standard Encyclopedia also sees Fundamentalists as:

Groups of theologically conservative communion that emphasize the full and often verbal inspiration of the Bible and complete: authority over faith and good works. These Fundamentalists preached that felicitous eternal bliss is won only as the gift of God' grace via a radical conversation and communion to Christ as saviour (498).

Dzurgba also went further too succinctly define Fundamentalists as "people who want the Sacred Scriptures (Bible and Qur'an) to be obeyed literally without consideration the context of the scripture" (15). Ugorzor and Obiji also see fundamentalists "as group of conservatives who engaged in communication that emphasis the full, and often verbal, inspiration of the full and complete authority over faith and good works" (46). In another manner, Ogueche et al define Fundamentalists as "agents of evangelization who uses the radio, television to err their programs" (167).

Communication

Communication is derived from the Latin word *communicare* (which means to share). The term used to refer to certain feature of sign situations, namely the identity, similarly or correspondence of what is, or is intended to be expressed by the speaker (Etonu et al 121).

According to Dong:

Virtually, communication in its real sense may be defined as means of sending and receiving messages or information in social milieus, either through verbal or, non- verbal language means. In verbal conversations and normal talking or dialogue between the participants while in the non-

verbal language , the communication is carries on the through various symbols, signs and signal which the members approved as appropriate and legitimate norms or culture of their society(121).

While John Paul II also commented on communication in this manner:

The concept “communication” in our conventional language, has been practically alienated from its deepest, original semantic matrix. It is connected mainly with the sphere of the media, that is, for the most and part, products that serves for understanding, exchange, and bringing closer together. It can be supposed, on the other hand, that in its original and deeper meaning, “ communication “was and is directly connected with subject, who “ communicate” was and is directly connected with subject “ communicate “ precisely on the basis of the “ common union” that exists between them , both to reach and to express (No.6).

History of Fundamentalism

The history of Fundamentalism is not very much reliable because of divergent, dynamic course and inaccurately due to the dual nature and doctrines of various Christian denominations .However, greater assertion of the movement started in the late 19- early 20 Century to counter the perceived rise in secularism, liberalism and criticism of the sacred books due to misinterpretation and distortion of their authenticity. The Fundamentalists who claimed to defend the doctrine of standard Orthodox Christianity championed the movement with all vigour and enthusiasm.

Ugozor and Obiji went on to assert interestingly that:

Among the pioneers of Fundamentalism, prominent among its founder is William Miller. During the 1930s and 1940s, Fundamentalists gradually withdrew any and national sport light. Hence, during this time the institutional structure of modern fundamentalism developed. Some fundamentalists broke away from their denominations to form new churches (46-49).

It is worth saying that, these Fundamentalists were purely an asset of conservatives, who opposed vehemently to modernism at the inception of the 19th Century. Hence by the end of 19th century, these fundamentalists took to the use of modern communication devices like radios, TV, internet YouTube and recently Face Book, twitter handles, satellite dishes and WhatsApp to anchor their teachings for targeted audience. In fact, these Christian Fundamentalists are in love with modern communication devices today. They believed

that the necessary conditions of the church and the society generally were to the point of alarm and that nothing could save the Christians or improve the lot of this theism earth except the coming of Christ, and that the return of Christ which was indeed promised in the scripture and might be expected at any moment. Interestingly also, Christian fundamentalism arose basically on the belief in the so-called pre-millennial eschatology which says that "the world is doomed till Jesus' return and defeat the anti-Christ (Martins et al136). Hence, appeal to the Fundamentalist's movement was not simply due to loss of confidence but that it is worth ascertaining that there exist serious concerns for and with interpretation of the Holy Bible where many people developed interest and join the movement.

Christian Fundamentalists Modes of Operation

Christian Fundamentalists are aggressive revivalists of the Gospels, they operate in varieties of modes using modern communication devices like Television, radio, satellite, twitter, Face Book, internet and prints which are the easiest and fastest means of reaching out to a large number of audience. These electronic and print media houses are highly patronized by these aggressive fundamentalists emphasizing the Bible alone as the only deposit of faith excluding the place of tradition. It is worth saying that, for the fundamentalists, for them, in order for the message of the Bible to be more relevant, the electronic media is highly patronized. It is the task of the Church at all times to make the Gospel message more relevant and credible using platforms for evangelism (Hammawa4).

In order for these aggressive Fundamentalists to fulfill such a great task of making the Gospel more relevant and known to the world, they clinched to the use of modern communication devices being offshoot of the brain child of globalization, which are virtually affecting the world due to their patronages and usages today. Thus, the operation of established media channels and their frequent subscription of air time to err various fundamentalists' views, replicate or buttress their teachings as signs of being acquainted with radios, films and television. Thus, some Christian Fundamentalists see music as one of their modes of operation, where they drum support for the movement by winning members via various satellites channels, Television, Face Book pages and internet sites and radio stations. In daily scenarios today, blasting of music coming from mounted jumbo and mega speakers from top of cars' and churches' roofs often attract one's ears to such sounds of fundamentalists programs which are conglomeration of noise pollution and distortion of the Gospel. These speakers mounted on cars, tricycles, church buildings, radio and television stations often aired fundamental ideologies or teachings denoting the aims and objectives of the movement, which is to reach out to the world. Our streets are also floated with musical rallies of Fundamentalists campaigning for new members especially

at weekends or what they refer to as week of revival or encounter. Hence, during such weekends or revival programs, musical composition and concerts of songs are demonstrated in order to attract more audience before the commencement of fundamental teachings on the scripture via modern communication devices.

On the relevance of music among Christian Fundamentalists, Ugozor and Obiji also posit thus:

Songs like Jehovah *Chineke* (God)..., he has done me well.., let my enemies die.., forward ever.., double blessings.., I surrender.., my double portion.., I surrender.., today, today ..., Jesus will answer me...,daily bread is from the Jehovah ... , I receive double blessing..., every blessing is double. These songs featured the strong Theology of the fundamentalists as they offer consolation and hope to the people (51).

It is interesting to know that, there are packaged programs depicting Christian Fundamentalist's theology and doctrines, which are commonly voiced and watched as one tuned on some states and private own radio and TV stations like Eternal TV, Mercy TV, Emmanuel TV, and Showers of Blessings TV, Dunamis TV, Dove TV, Adventist Radio and host of other visual and audio stations. Various fundamentalists' programs are erred with vehement support from international and church members. Thus, donors sink huge sum of money in financing various fundamentalists' programs with the aim of canvassing for souls via using modern communication devices.

In a similar injunction also, Ajang asserts that:

Fundamentalists mastered the modern media like radio, television cable stations and World Wide Web, falsely claiming that their ideology was exactly the traditional, incontrovertible faith of Christianity. Some of these fundamentalists make us of radio houses for communication, which is highly manipulated to persuade and teach people about their mission directly and across barriers (38&54).

Christian fundamentalists' movements are strongly advised to support fundamental programs which are anchored using any of the modern electronic media channels with the assurance of receiving double blessings or reward of whatever kind. Hence, the modern electronic devices are highly costly to purchase due to aggressive patronage by these fundamentalists today. Furthermore, blasting sounds of fundamentalists' preaching coming from these mounted speakers from churches, praying grounds, football fields and hired school classrooms and streets are often very irritating to the tranquility of the

environment need for silence. Some highly influential church members from other works of life who belonged to these sects support strongly the mode of operation of Christian Fundamentalists using sophisticated communication devices even on free airing today.

Remote Causes of Christian Fundamentalists use of Modern Communication Devices in Contemporary Nigeria

Despite the phenomenal rise in Christian fundamentalists use of modern communication devices in Contemporary Nigeria today, the exhumed some causes of the movement below:

There is denominational competition and rivalry among different Christian denominations which prompts the use of modern communication devices for a wide outreach of targeted population. Hence, there is need to win more members so as to curtail dwindling rate of old fundamentalist members, who could be wooed to other sects. Competition has been considered to become a nagging worrisome issue among the Christian sects, who see the need to outshine other Fundamentalist denominations using modern communication devices. Religious extremism necessitates proactive zeal in order to attract large number of followers for the movements instigate the rise in fundamentalists' use of modern communication devices.

The zeal to test the proactive role of the media especially electronic ones in reaching out to large number of people using various enticing ideologies or programs serve as catalyst for the rise in fundamentalism in Nigeria today. Furthermore, Christian fundamentalists employ the use of modern communication devices to direct their messages towards large heterogamous audience, creating a contact and widely separated from each other. These modern devices of communication are adopted and the language that suits the preachers and listeners are used (Saameakpe et al114&51).

There is need to re-awaken the consciousness of the public on some vital position of interpreting the Sacred Book (Bible) by being pro-active in all ramifications so as to win more converts and the need to rely only on the teachings of the sacred book as the only authority of faith that must be accepted regardless of other sources like tradition, which prompts the use of modern communication devices by fundamentalists today.

Christian Fundamentalists carry erroneous teachings using the mass media because it is believed that, it is the mind of the church that all her members love and cherish the word of God, which can be done easily using modern communication gadgets. The word of God is a compendium as handed to us in the Holy writ (Otonko 6). Hence, there is need to

reiterate creed and basis of the movement so as to stand with its basic characteristics of Biblical Millenarianism, aimed at addressing the impacts of modernism which need to be carried out such ideology which is highly applauded by adherents using electronic platform .

The quest for material propensity has indeed increase the volume of participants to become strong pioneering Fundamentalists with the hope they can also become rich as some founders of other fundamental denominations using modern communication devices as the fasted medium to reach out to thousands of listeners and viewers. One could see denominations like Deeper Life, Redeem People's Mission, Redeem Christian Church of God, Living Faith Church, Mountain of Fire, Omega Fire Ministry, Calvary Mission Church, Synagogue of all Nations, Christ Embassy, Mountain of Fire, Glorious Army, Sabbath Salvation Ministry, Old Catholic Church, Messianic Covenant Church, Super-Grace Church, Church of the Apostles, Dunamis Church, Calvary Church of Christ Mission, Adventist church and host of other upcoming churches. The founders of these churches are staunch-fundamentalists to the core, who have resulted to the use of rhetoric to persuade the psychology of their listeners to join the queue of worshipers, and who could also become self-fundamentalists and General Overseers now and tomorrow using the electronic and print media channels.

Hence, the quest to acquire fame and riches has prompted a lot of people to join the crusade of fundamentalists' movement today in Nigeria using modern communication gadgets to advert their teachings. One thing that keeps re-echoing is these fundamentalists use the power of rhetoric to pass their messages across large audience using modern communication devices today has gained momentum support from their members. Thus, people claimed to have received visions in dreams and revelation to be born again fundamentalist preachers literally deriving their source from the Bible and skipping the place of tradition.

Christian Fundamentalists use of Modern Communication Devices in Contemporary Nigeria: Threats Authentic Faith Witnessing

Every idea of evangelization cannot be separated with communication, which is an integral part of evangelization(Saameakpe et al111).There is no doubt that, modern media like TV, internets, You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, cable dish and web sites are been patronized by many Christian Fundamentalists in Nigeria today. Hence, Christian Fundamentalists' activities are anchored using modern communication devices, posed serious threats to authentic faith witnessing due to damages done on the sacred

content of the Bible. Some of these threats posed by aggressive Christian fundamentalists' use of modern communication devices are below examined.

Christian Fundamentalists engaged in the abuse of the ethics of mass media when it comes to erring and visualizing their various religious programs. They engaged in verbal criticisms of other' religious doctrines and present distorted version of the sacred scripture at the gullibility of some Christians who are carried away like chaffs of rice. The abuse of mass media continues to witness high dislikes and criticisms among people who hear and watch. Authentic witnessing of the Christian Gospel is been distorted and rendered weak among listeners and followers of Christ. There is a serious negative counter attacks on the personality of the Christian faith, where the unity of Christians is under threat due to erroneous teachings from Fundamentalists using modern communication devices.

Christian Fundamentalists consider themselves as the only experts who hold the grip to scripture and to response to the human desires for truth. They result to the use of modern communication devices in order to ensure that they show cased their conceived ignorance by insisting on the exact messages of the Bible without considering human history. The authenticity of the Christian faith is been rubbished and false doctrine fostered to mislead large crowd using channels. Hence, the authenticity of the Bible is being battered leaving room for questioning whether that was how Christ preached. No wonder, Mahatma Gandhi once said "I hate you Christians because you are unlike your Christ". This statement clearly affirmed how Fundamentalists today abuse the Bible and portray negative and erroneous teachings on the position of the scriptures forgetting the vital place of tradition.

Christian Fundamentalists lack of genuine, objective and balanced spirituality. Hence, there is no religious monitoring team on interpretation and preaching has aid in misleading Christians. Hence, these preachers have a failed vision and lack better understanding of the Bible and its interpretation the scripture. They freely forced their teaching or doctrines on their followers using modern communication devices, and this posed serious challenges resulting to interdenominational rivalry among Christians.

Christian Fundamentalists are faced with inadequate doctrinal rubrics on the sources of the revelation of God's message to mankind. Hence, there is no standard gauge and principle of interpreting the Bible, as such, they run into errors by projecting their ignorance using the using the media. However, the fundamental reading of the bible is

rightly oriented in its insistence on the inspiration of the Bible. The inerrancy of the word of God, and other biblical truths in the “Five Points”, which away of presenting these truths on the media is rooted in an ideology that is not Biblical despite the claims of its proponents. This has indeed become an impediments to authentic Christian faith witnessing today (Nyazing 102).

The Christian faith and its zealous approach to reaching to the whole world are faced with the problem of wrong Interpretation and distortion when it comes to presenting it for public consumption. Hence, this makes it very incapable for many Christians to accept the full truth of the incarnation due to distortion done by Christian fundamentalists projecting erroneous teachings via modern gadgets of communication. Hence, Christian fundamentalists confused other Christians not to belief in that which is not stated in the Bible because is not sacred or authentically approved. Thus, such views of theirs are now easily disseminated using modern communication devices as the fastest medium, which are been use to mislead many Christians today. Furthermore, Christian Fundamentalists do not rightly use the modern communication devices to make strong witness to personal and immediate spiritual experience as they uphold tenaciously to exact meaning of the Bible as perceived today (Uwalaka 6). Thus, approach to aggressive evangelism using modern communication devices has led many Christians to go astray, while some suffered crises of faith due to wrong interpretation and insistence on the literal content and interpretation of the scripture as the only source which the word of God came to men excluding the place of tradition.

Anything outside the Bible is not accepted but is disputed by Fundamentalists. These assertions are highly aired using modern communication devices today. Hence, there are threats to accepting tradition as one of the sources the word of God came to humanity. Thus, tradition is been rejected by many Christian bodies as being one of the other sources in which the Bible came to us till day. Hence, Christian fundamentalists’ position using the modern erring channels is highly lamentable due to over emphasis on the literal meaning of the Bible [rejecting the place of tradition].

Recommendations

Despite the numerous challenges been posed to authentic faith witnessing as a result of the use of modern communication devices by Christian fundamentalists in contemporary Nigeria society, this paper outlined some recommendations below:

Scriptural scholars should be trained by the Church on the need for objective preaching using modern communication devices to preach the word of God. Also, there should be

sift on the content of various teachings or programs intended to be aired by fundamentalists so as to safeguard the sacred message being damaged. Christian fundamentalists should guide against erroneous teachings using the modern communication devices which are capable of splitting the one fold founded by Christ. Furthermore, right basis for interpreting the word of God should be the sole objective of any intending Christian preacher using the modern means of communication. Also, proper teaching should be guided against instigating Christians to become extreme preachers of the Gospel there by causing religious rivalry among other denominations.

Christian preachers should be mandated to attend doctrinal or sound theological schools, where they would be taught the basic approaches to the study and interpretation of the Bible before climbing the stage to preach the Gospel using modern communication devices.

Scripture scholars should be employed to address Biblical and doctrinal issues from been wrongly preached in order to save the sacred Book and Christ faithful from the wanton destructions by Christian fundamentalists using modern communication devices whose impacts are impediments to authentic faith witnessing in Nigeria and the world at large today.

The Mass media should be judiciously used for the intended purpose of proclaiming the Christian message rather than misinterpret it or cause rancor and division among Christ' flock. Hence, Christ was not a fundamentalist preacher, for he is both human and divine taking the form of a servant to redeem humanity. Christians should learn to be like Christ like and not to abuse the doctrine of salvation leading to straying away of souls simply because of aggressive use of modern communication devices today.

The church even though has so many branches should learn to emulate Christ' own communication strategy which was a total self-giving eschew of literal interpretation and distortion of Biblical passages. Thus, the sacred place of scripture should serve as the spiritual food of the people of God rather than been used by fundamentalists to create factions or serves as means to an end as projected using modern gadgets of communication.

Conclusion

In the foregoing, the paper examines Christian Fundamentalists use of modern communication devices in contemporary Nigeria as a serious threat to authentic Christian witnessing. The paper seeks to showcase that, Christian should guard against being

engulfed to become fundamentalist, who now used modern communication devices to distort the essence of the Gospel, denied the place of tradition as one of the sources in which the Bible came to humanity. It paper discovered some of the damages accused by Christian fundamentalists use of modern communication devices have led to religious extremists, distortion of the essence of preaching the Gospel. The paper is of the opinion that, Christian preachers should desist from preaching Christ in a fundamentalist distorted and erroneous manner, which will instigate rancor and division among Christian faithful.

The use of modern communication devices should be judiciously use to foster the growth of God's kingdom among his people, and not to distort the divine mandate of preaching Christ using modern communication devices. Furthermore, Christians should also learn to portray themselves after the role model of Christ who is the initiator of preaching the Gospel by judiciously using the modern communication devices to preach the Gospel in a more acceptable way than resort to extremism and distortion of its content. Hence, human yearning to know the truth, which is Christ Himself declares has prompts preachers to use modern communication devices to facilitate such an intention in this milieu. Interesting to note today that, Christianity has so much advanced graduating from analogue method of propagating its message using technological means, which is a welcome development and the essence of preaching Christ in a respected and uncontaminated manner should be fostered taking advantage of the coming of modern communication devices.

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