

KABARAK UNIVERSITY

6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

A Biblical Approach to Negative Ethnicity in Kenya

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20/07/2016

Introduction / Background

Broad Perspective – Religion and Politics but Now – Practical theology

Negative ethnicity is a social evil which the church must fight

The ministry of the church is beyond evangelism to social concern

Jesus preached but made his preaching practical

Besides the Gospel explosion in Africa – Kenya - Negative ethnicity prevails

Statement of the problem

Kenya as the rest of Africa is experiencing an explosion of Christianity (Esti. 70 -80% Christians).

There are over 8500 registered churches with over 100 applications every month

Believers are bound together in unity as one body of Christ- brothers and sisters.

Why then does negative ethnicity still prevail?

Study objectives

-) To discuss a probable biblical platform in addressing Negative ethnicity in Kenya
-) To investigate the prevalence of negative ethnicity despite the explosive growth of Christianity in Kenya.

Brief literature review

- ▶ The explosive growth of Christianity and its irony ((Ndegwa, 2007; Katongole, 2011).
- ▶ Concept of ethnicity as self preservation and identity (Sparks, 1998; Tarimo, 2000).
- ▶ The exclusive posture of negative ethnicity (wamwere, 2003)

Cont'

- > The reality of Negative ethnicity in Africa (Moyniha, 1993; Turaki, 1997).
- > Negative ethnicity and Kenyan elections (Kenya Thabiti Taskforce, 2008)
- > Negative ethnicity as Africa's second devil after corruption; Africa's biggest problem after HIV/AIDs; Cancer threatening the Kenyan national fabric; Ethnic bigotry (Okollu;1974; Tarimo,2008; Tarus & Gathongo (2016).

Methodology

- ▶ Descriptive in nature employing both purposive and simple random sampling
- ▶ Sampled six churches in Eldoret Uasin Gishu County (three main stream Churches, 3 Pentecostal Churches)
- ▶ Interviews, questionnaires and personal observation
- ▶ 135 respondents sampled for the study

Findings / Results

87.4% response rate (135 respondents but 118 responded).

The single New Humanity (Eph.2:11-22) as the appropriate biblical platform in addressing Negative ethnicity

Others: Jesus and the Samaritan woman & the sacredness of human life (John 4; Genesis 2).

But Ephesian platform most probable with 63 frequency (53.9%)



Cont'

2. Ethnic factor in Churches and Christian institutions
3. Ethnization and politicization of the Kenyan Church
4. Limitation of the Gospel to personal spirituality and prosperity
5. Prophetic Utterances

Conclusions

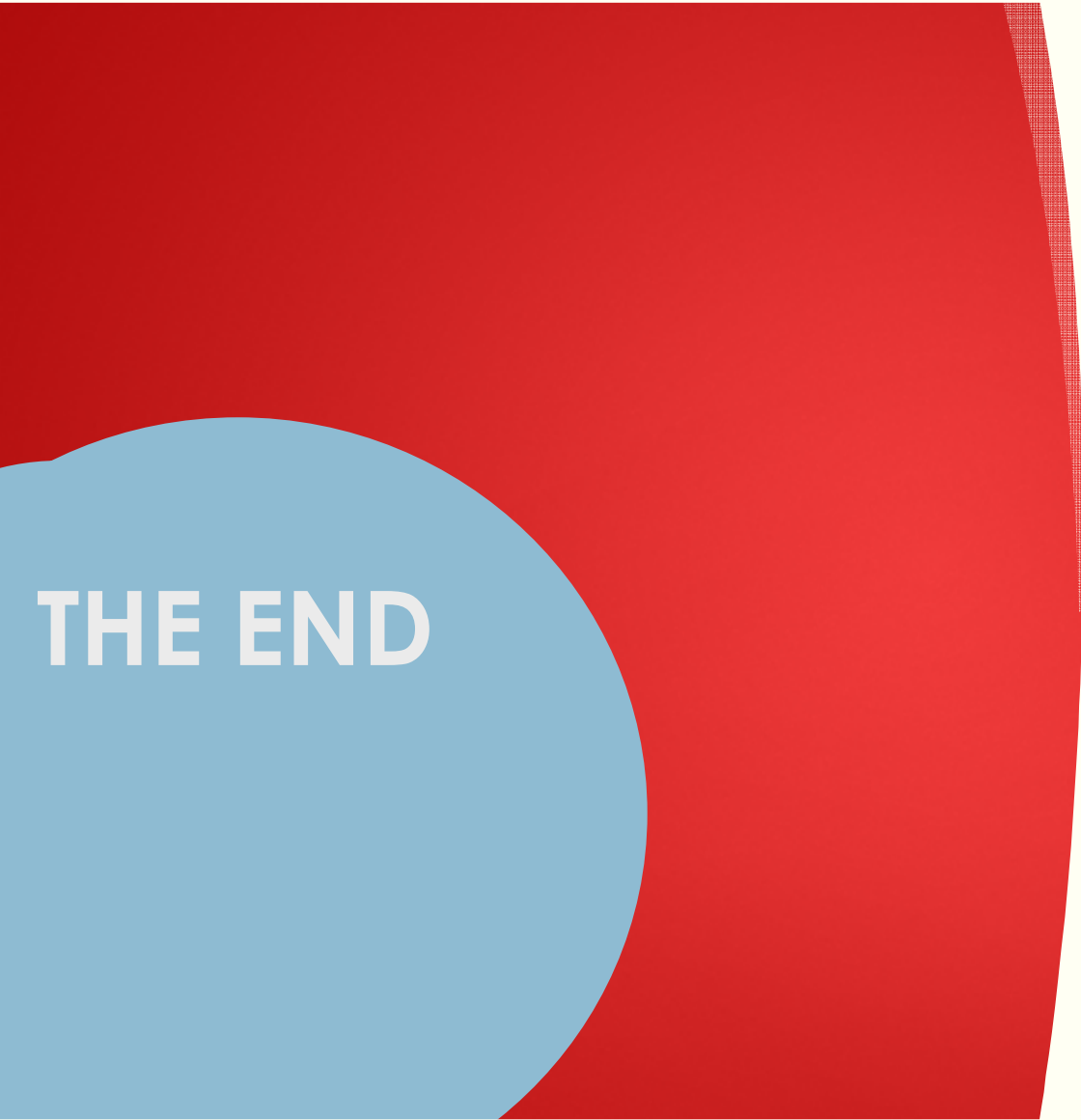
- > Negative ethnicity is a social evil
- > The single new humanity is an appropriate biblical platform in addressing Negative ethnicity
- > The Kenyan Church must be a role model in combating tribalism in her leadership and preaching
- > The church must develop a critical public theology beyond personal spirituality.

Recommendations

- ▶ More training of the clergy on Church and social concerns
- ▶ Perhaps prosecution for hate speech should be extended to touch the clergy

Areas for further study

- Biblical teaching on ethnicity and ethnic diversity
- Theoretical and conceptual framework on biblical understanding of ethnicity



THE END

THANKS