

## **Religion as a Tools for Unity and Faith, Peace, and Progress in Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

This study focused on religion as a tool for unity and faith, peace, and progress in southwest Nigeria. This study is qualitative and adopted a phenomenology design, primary data collection instrument consisting of interviews and ethnographic observations. The population consisted of all the citizens in southwest Nigeria and a sample consisted of 20 participants selected from religious groups. The analysis was issued based and focused on the use of the theme provided by the research questions of the study. Observation, and interviews were used to find out multifarious views on religion as a social institution. The paper further discussed the types of religions, the needs for religious activities, its impacts on people's lives, both positive and negative. It was recommended that the issues of rewards and punishment that are established in every society tradition, norms, value, custom and constitution of every nation should be upheld, and the government should check the activities of religious leaders; also review the act that established religion as a social institution to pave way for unity, peace, and progress in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** *Religion, Faith, Peace, Progress, Unity.*

### **Introduction**

It is generally believing religion is very deep in the human mind, it has generated a lot of concern among diverse race and nations of the world, Nigeria inclusive. Impact of religion can never be overemphasized in people's lives, it helped a lot in the area of unity, faith, peace, and progress, and it is very rear to see anyone without religion beliefs, affiliation or relationship. In Nigeria, religion has been used as tools for development in many occasions' religion was used as indices to settled differences among people, such as family, community, associations, political functions

and other areas of human endeavor. Religion bodies was involved in government functionaries, they served as special advisers to the government, also political offices have been shared among peoples based on religion affiliations. But in this modern dispensation religious activities have been generated a lot of controversy because of negative contributions to society existence, such as indoctrination, false prophesy, duping, rape, suicide bombers, terrorism, and other anti-social tendency, a lot of lives has been lost and many properties were destroyed.

The government has made a lot of effort to ameliorate the crisis of religion in Nigeria especially the issues of Boko-haram menace where billions of naira had been spent to cater for people that were displaced, also foreign country such as United States of America and other non-governmental organization were donated both cash and materials needed for the nation.

Austin (2017) Religion belief in supernatural beings, a distinction between social and profane object. Religion as an institution is a powerful organization which has a lot of impact on our socio-economic and political activities. Religion has been deeply reflected in the socio-economic and political activities of many people whether as Christians, Muslims, African Traditional believers or any other religion in the world. Christianity and Islam are foreign religions in Nigeria they were introduced between 13th and 18th centuries by European and Arab people respectively. Micheal, (2014) the unexpected subject matter of religious studies; method and practice in the study of religion. Since virtually all societies have some form of religion, it is a universal human institution. Religion varies from place to place. Religion can be traced back to the days of early man and sought a way of responding to the unknown forces of nature in their various localities. Religion has generated a lot of controversies among people of diverse opinions in Nigeria. Time had been set aside for religious activities no matter the condition, Christian with different denominations engaged in prayers likewise Muslim and traditional religion, they practice their festival without chaos. Vexen, (2013) religion best describe in terms of the beliefs and practices of the bulk believers. When we imagine the evils deeds in many Churches and Mosque, we may come to conclusion that despite the disappointment that people meet from acts such as duping, fraud, rape, money ritual, they still very relevant with this institution. It has been observed that majority of Christians and Muslims do not know the origin of their adopted religion. Titles are not left out

among religion leaders such as, General overseer, Deputy General Overseer, Regional overseer, Bishop, Apostle, Dr. Rev, most superior leader, Evangelist, Lady Leader, Deaconess, Pastor, Prophet, Imam, Sheik, Alfa, Chief-Imam, Father and mother of Adini, Oluwo, Apena and host of others. It seems there is no difference between religion institution and private organization the same set of innovation such as code of conducts including dressing, time allocation, titles that exist in private organization are now dominating religious institution which the members must adhere strictly to remain in the domain.

Ole, (2011) says religion is “a world view” ideology, an organization, an attitude, a set of value, as moral and motivational, or an ethnical disposition. Professor Coulson, Sheila Dawn (2008) from Oslo University in Norway however claims to have proof that modern humans started performing advanced rituals in African 70,000 years ago. She discovered making oldest known ritual in Ngami region of Botswana; here our ancestors performed advances rituals, worshipping the pantheon. Andre (2009), It was the early man then that found themselves in unworldly circumstances due to their engagement in difference activities and discovery and invention by that time starting from fruit gathering to hunting from hunting to domestication of animals the more they discover the more they arrived in one complication through the exploit of nature, the consequences of their exploitation led to many things such as sickness, and other unexplainable condition, through all this they realized that where they are, it may be the owner that was not pleased with them with this view, they develop the ideas of placating, appease and persuasion with the unknown spirit, the identifiable objects around them that they exploit were water, hills, mountains, tree, and forest spirit this response was based on the idea that, if they worship them all that calamity will not befall them, continue in these activities and nonstop of exploiting nature as civilization proceed, they continue to experience the same things.

Another noticeable was the case of Australian Aboriginal around 60,000 years ago; it was later cited by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) Oedipus complex (father-figure neurosis). Religion has been used as a tool for unity in Nigeria in many ways, such as through preaching by religious leaders, sharing of political offices among the politicians, also to settled ethnic differences in many regions in the country. Religion leaders were also given different roles to contribute to nation-building.

[Nigeria](#), the most populous [African](#) country (with a population of over 182 million in 2015) is nearly equally divided between [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#), though the exact ratio is uncertain. According to a 2001 report from [The World Factbook](#) by [CIA](#), about 50% of Nigeria's population is [Muslim](#), 40% are [Christians](#) and 10% adhere to local religions. But in some recent report, the Christian population is now slightly lesser than the Muslim population. An 18 December 2012 report on religion and public life by the [Pew Research Center](#) stated that in 2010, 48.3 percent of Nigeria's population was 'projected' Christian, 48.9 percent was 'estimated' Muslim, and 2.8 percent were followers of indigenous and other religions, or unaffiliated.

The 2010s census of [Association of Religion Data Archives](#) has reported that 47.5 percent of the total population is Christian, slightly bigger than the Muslim population of 45.5 percent, and that 7.0 percent are members of other religious groups. The Pew Forum in a 2010 report compared reports from several sources. The 1963 Nigerian census found that 38% of the population was Muslim, 36% Christian, and 26% other; the 2008 Measure Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) found 53% Muslim, 45% Christian, and 2% other; the 2008 Afrobarometer poll found 50% Christian, 49% Muslim, and 1% other; Pew's own survey found 52% Muslim, 46% Christian, and 1% other.

Clark, (2009), Religion in Nigeria plays a major role in the life of the people, to some it is their candlelight, it gives them insight, wisdom, knowledge and faith is increased through the study of scripture, books and prayers In Nigeria, religions help us remain in line and stay focused.

A religious leader is feared, respected and loved. He could mediate in situation that defy several means. The advent of the Nigerian religion could be dated back as far as the advent of men in Nigeria. Initially, everybody worshiped whatever they

The introduction of Islam to the northern part of the country as early as the eleventh century. The Islamic religion in Nigeria has been well established in the northern state, with central mosques in most state capital as at the 16th century.

It grew popular to even the middle belt and several parts of Nigeria at some point, Usman Dan Fodio Had to establish a government based on Islamic Religion before the advent of colonialism when the government was infiltrated by the British

Christianity is the most popular and most advertised religion in Nigeria. It was introduced in Nigeria in the middle of the nineteenth century by devote missionaries from British, Christianity was one of the religions introduced into Nigeria by the British among many others things. The missionaries came preaching the message of Christ, ministering to the people and also healing the sick, this was what actually pulled the crowd to them in the first place.

They started from the eastern part of the country which is populated by the Igbos, they infiltrated the village councils and chiefs, who gave them lands to build local churches.

Before the 80s the Christian religion had spread to the southern part of the country, to the Yoruba's and the middle belt (Benin) as at the year 2005, there are over 50 million Christian in Nigeria, we have the Protestant which strongly believes in the power of the Holy-ghost as well as the catholic, Baptist and Anglican churches.

We have the traditional religion in Nigeria, as much as the message of Islam and Christianity have taken over the major part of the country, the previous indigenous worship could not be properly annihilated. These indigenous religions are simply the worship of inanimate objects, the worship of rocks, trees, or some mysterious animals like lions or a huge python which they believe to be their source of strength or spiritual guide. Before the advent of the modern religions (Christianity and Islam) These gods (as they are called) were seen as a guide and the sovereign authority, in any village or town they speak to the people through a mediator (Priest), they go by so many names Amadioha, Iku, Urashi, OgwugwuIkuku and one thing so mind wrenching about these gods is the facts that, they cannot go without blood sacrifice.

Lambora, (2009). The country is undoubtedly struggling with a long list of religious issues. The government currently has a lot on its shoulders, so the responsibility of solving religious problems partly lies on the citizens. Many people believe that a single person can change the world, and if a group of people understand that something is wrong, they should try to do something to change it for the better. Some of these issues are:

Religion has been used as a tool for unity in Nigeria, but some negative aspect of it has impede the progress of the nation. Fadeiye, (2010) argues that religion promote unity in the society, particularly among people of the same belief or faith. Religion intolerance is one of the problems that is facing Nigeria as a country, it has been used for personal gain by religion leaders. Nigeria is a relatively young country because it gained independence only 59 years ago, in 1960. It was also created in an artificially way after gaining freedom from its colonial masters. There is a large number of tribes in Nigeria, and this is one of the important issues being faced, because to this day the country still has problems with gaining and voicing a national idea. The main purpose of this idea of nationality is to unite all the social, religious and ethnic groups within one country and make them identify as Nigerians despite all their differences. Besides, there are some conflicts with other nations that create unnecessary tension among Nigerians. This is without any doubt, a large social issue that does not portray Nigeria in the best light. Poverty causes a lot of problems in society, and while the population of the country is huge, a large part of it does not have access to the basic needs for comfortable living. Statistical data shows that about 70% of the country's residents live below the line of poverty, and there are a lot of people who are forced to survive on just \$2 per day, which is a critical situation.

The population is rapidly growing, and soon, even more people will be under the risk of living in poor conditions without money, poverty had led many people to religious center and the consequences are not favorable, some had been raped, molested, and duped. Ajayi, (2001). He further observed that, corruption by political and civil official's manifests in various dimensions such as embezzlement of public funds, misappropriation, inflation and indiscriminate re-evaluation of contracts and collaboration with contractors who may later pay kickbacks and percentage commissions to relevant officials and invariably leading to failed contracts and abandoned projects. Nigeria is known as a country with a high level of corruption amongst its government representatives. Reports show that some people in government offices earn as much in a year, as the average Nigerian could earn in 65 years; this shows that they definitely have other sources of income apart from their official salary. In all honesty, the governmental system in the

country is corrupt and there is a clear lack of justice. This has led to an increased level of stealing, manipulation and bribes. Corruption is the main reason for class division; while people living in poverty are struggling to survive, the rich people have huge possessions and are becoming wealthier with every passing year. Center of religion worship in Nigeria has also leveled with the allegation of corruption where members had been defrauded.

This problem was briefly pointed out in the last paragraph – in fact, Nigeria is widely called “the rich country with poor people”. The reason for this is a huge number of natural resources all over the country which are not equally spread amongst citizens – the bigger quantities go to the rich people, while the poor ones are left to suffer. In light of the poverty problem, it is quite ironic to know that some of the richest people in Africa come from Nigeria. The primary issue is that the main part of the country’s population is involved in petty agriculture and earn very little. Only a few chosen people have access to the oil production sector, which brings the biggest income to the country. This leaves the situation as it is poor people are destined to struggle with poverty, while the rich cannot get enough of their expensive belongings. Religion leaders are also live in affluent, and the majority of the followers are living in abject poverty.

The terrorist group called Boko Haram is one of the reasons for Nigeria’s worldwide fame. This organization is fighting against the western way of life through their adopted religion, they have already murdered hundreds of citizens during their terrorist attacks. Lots of people have lost their homes and thousands were displaced from their hometowns due to the activities of Boko Haram. This issue is definitely an important one – terrorists have to be dealt with before they can kill more innocent resident’s especially people in northern part of Nigeria. Most of the unemployed in the country attended religious activities because they have nothing to engage them, instead to leave their homes and search for a better life; they sleep in various religious centers to meet or see God for their problems. This is a strong social issue that often leads to psychological problems. The current rate of unemployment in Nigeria is about 8.2%.

Lots of people have strongly negative opinions about Nigeria’s system of education, and they mostly blame the government and their involvement with corruption for this. The statistics show



that only 50% of women and 70% of men in Nigeria can read or write. This is obviously an issue of high importance because our world is based on information technologies and uneducated people do not stand a chance of succeeding in this world. That was why Sigmund Freud says that, uneducated people would believe in the illusion of religion while educated people would believe in scientific fact that has been tested and proved. Some that has been duped and raped by religions leaders may not be educated.

Religion also caused tribal conflicts in Nigeria because the country has been existed for so long. The biggest tribes in Nigeria are Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, and they all are culturally and religiously different, not to mention the fact that they all speak their own language. These differences have been causing conflicts all through the years, and this situation is yet to change. The different tribes still have conflicts with each other from time to time, and this does not help in making sure they remain one Nigeria, in many occasions' religion had been used for ethnic's diversity especially in politics.

There are a lot of contemporary social issues in Nigeria that associated with religion, however, the country is not completely hopeless – the mindset of the government and people can still be changed. It may take a long time, but there is a chance that these problems can be dealt with if we work hard enough. Thompson, (2008)

### **Statement of the Research Problem**

Nigeria as nation is facing challenges especially in the area of religion belief, and this has affected the citizens and nation economy. Religion crisis has generated a lot of controversy among the citizens to the extent that many lives were lost and properties worth billions were destroyed.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study investigates the activities of religious leaders, and their impact of religion on people lives in Nigeria, also examine was the controversy that surrounding the extremism that led to terrorist insurgency in Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

1. Is religion solving problems more than what it's created in Nigeria?
2. What is the positive impacts of religion on citizen's lives in Nigeria?



### 3. Does religion have negative impacts on citizen's lives in Nigeria?

#### **Research Methodology**

A phenomenology research design was adopted in this study. This choice follows the goal of the research to identify and investigate the experiences of individuals and groups within the context (Daly, 2007).

The population for this study consisted of all citizens in southwest Nigeria.

The sample of this study consisted of 20 respondents selected using a multistage sampling procedure. The first stage involved the use of a simple random sampling technique to select Oyo State out of six states in southwest Nigeria. The last stage involved the use of a purposive sampling technique to select 20 respondents that include business owners, artisans, religious leaders that involved pastors, Imam, and traditionalists.

#### **Findings**

The findings of this study are reported in line with the experience of the respondents within the religious groups.

#### **The Christian Perspective**

The most accepted scripture among Nigerian is protestant bible of 66 version, only the Roman Catholic members have the catholic bible of 73 versions. The main focus of followers of this religion is the second coming of Jesus Christ and inheritance of kingdom of heaven also known as eternity. Rusell (1967) in his book "why I am not a Christian assert that" I regard it as disease born of fear. He further suggests that the fear of defeat and fear of death gave rise to religion in addition to fear as an irrational passion.

In this contest we can talk of the ordeal of Christians in particular there believe concerning scripture which many regarded as book from God without being specific of intention, outcome and controversy surrounded it, the bible per say include stories, history, illusion, poems, songs had been digested by the wise one in order to formulate the ideas of giving people hope under tension of fundamental problems of human existence, no matter the predicament of our people they rely on the ideas that they will inherit the eternity where all they deny them on earth will be fulfilled,

such as social amenities and pleasure of lives some lives in abject poverty and continue to smile, in the opinion that Jesus is coming to take them to heaven, most of those in this categories include the new generation churches which their leaders are living in great luxury, this is one of the causes of French Revolution of (1789-1795).

A Christian lady was interviewed in Apapa Ibadan South West Local Government concerning her way of life, she lamented that what she is passing through is for the sake of Jesus. The purpose of being religious by the early man was centered on God but now it was individual, such as Jesus and other powerful men in Christian religion in Nigeria because their followers had turned them to God due to the way they appeared.

A Bishop was interviewed at Iwo Road area of Ibadan North East Local Government and through finding he does not know the true story of bible including the writers and place of writing, condition that warrant for that submission of each writer, if a leader can fall to this category, how terrible is the followers. Over two thousand years of waiting for Jesus to come, how can we justify the inclusion of his coming especially when Mathew, Mark, John and Luke who were with him cannot give us the accurate account and record of Jesus death on earth but Prof Fida Hassnain is a sufy, archeologist and professor of history, Suzane Olsson, American researcher former journalist, German scholar, Holgar Kersten, Man toshe Deuji Indian born researcher, Louis Martins, French socialist and politician, Bashrat Saleem of Kashmir in Indian, former caretaker of the Martyr's Tomb of Yuz Asaf in Srinagar. Michael Roger Lafose a Belgium, Kafhlean Mc Gowan an America author, Lyricist, screen, writer, Nicholas Notovitch a Russian aristocrat Cossack officer, spy and journalist, D. Ehrman (H.O.D.) Religion Studies University of North Carolina. Osho Rajneesh of Indian and host of others have presented the life and history of Jesus the Christ.

Religious beliefs have pervaded the relationship of people in Oyo south senatorial district. In Bashorun area of Ibadan North Local Government they have more than hundred different churches with different denomination among the population that does not up to ten thousand. In this geographical area where all this churches are located, some people still have their own churches outside this area, some in Ibadan north, south east, south west and north east with different denomination, revival everywhere, church programme starting from Sunday to Saturday, time for

pastors meeting, ushers, protocol, choir, security, traffic warden and other departments, hardly people have a little rest from Sunday to Saturday, early morning prayers, evening revival and those who patronize the mountain does not have time for social-economics activities and the leaders will tell their followers that they should not come before God empty-handed whereas there is no time for them to transact their business. The case of one tailor who works at Omitowoju area of Ibadan North west Local Government, he always fights with his customers because of disappointment due to church activities he engaged, he will open the shop around 2:00pm giving excuse of attending church programme.

Those who fall to these categories of using their times in churches are white-collar workers, Artisans, unemployed youth, migrant, vagrant, juvenile, delinquent, neurosis and recluse.

Through the over-dependent on church activities many people have fallen victim of duping, rape, fraud, and other anti-social vices, those found culpable of these criminal acts are young and middle-aged who found their work unwarranted to their needs and engaged in these nefarious activities and average youth who are unemployed prefer to be a pastor and enjoying parading themselves as the man of God.

Another observable issue is when the church is far growing and having many branches, the leader engages in selection of who are to manage the branches through this there is a lot of rancour among them and those who the final decision does not favor prefer to establish their own churches, this is how churches are multiplying. The opinion of the followers was that through prayer and dedication to the work of God they will overcome poverty, this contradicts the submission of Apostle Stephen in Acts 7 vs 48. People want to solve all their problems with religion point of view they have neglected the acts and deeds of the government who engage themselves in corruption, mismanagement, bad leaders, all these led to unemployment, economic depreciation, and poverty in society.

In the areas of education, private schools' owners in these areas have used the establishment to create segregation among people, churches name their schools after missionaries' names such as Baptist, Anglican, Methodist, Apostolic faith Mission etc. some of the interviewers attested that this has contributed to religion segregation among people because other religions do not allow

their children to attend mission schools. Festival such a Christmas, Easter period is part of Christian celebration, and one of the respondents stated that Jesus was not born on 25<sup>th</sup> December as stipulated by Roman Catholic, he was born around (1<sup>st</sup> October 2<sup>nd</sup> BCE). Before Common Era. On 25<sup>th</sup> December it was sun, Max that they worship this was changed to compensate Jesus, majority of Christian engage in Masochism to compensate themselves as late Afrobeat king sang. Fela Anikulapo Kuti 44 sitting and 99 standing suffering and smiling.

### **Islamic Religion Perspective**

Selected respondents that include Islamic followers in Nigerian are in a diverse opinion concerning what to accept or reject in the core message in their Quran that is why we have different denominations in Islam today with a different point of views. They go against themselves in their preaching especially dressing, ceremonies, types of the congregation. Some extremist among them rejects the western education whereas their ways of life had been culture by western education. Religion crisis is not common among the people in Oyo South Senatorial district where the interview was conducted, unlike in the northern part of Nigerian where we experience crisis starting from the day of Uthman dan fodio in 1804 jihad, the first one was from Futa Tore in 1775, Maitasine of 1980 can never be forget in hurry, 1991 Kano riot and millennium self-acclaimed (Boko Haram) who adopted over two hundred Chibok schoolgirls in 2014 from Bornu State North East of Nigeria.

The main protest of Islam follower was that Muhammed is the last prophet sent by God and he worthy to be praised, the opinion of Quran was sent from heaven had been drooped by some Islamic scholars due to civilization and available records that reveals that Muhammed knew nothing about the Quran it was written by Abu Bakar, Umar, and Uthman the first, second, and third caliphs.

A man was interviewed in Bashorun Ibadan North East in confirmation of the reasons for the established congregation that allow the vigil for the Muslim followers after the interview and critical observation of his life he was jobless and he has been paid a salary from the money collected from people who attended the vigil, the majority are women.

Another man was interviewed after we engaged in conversation, he compiled some hand bills and title it “The world Gospel” the message narrated the story of Jesus the Christ, but he said that Jesus is a Muslim he used a holy book call INJEEL to preach not the bible, this made me too called him through telephone interview that Muhammad was born after 600 years Jesus had gone and Muhammad did not write the Quran, also, bible was made a reference book to start the Quran the difference between Quran and bible was that Quran adopted the old testament in the bible and rejected the New Testament, the law of Moses in the old testament was referred to as Sharia law. Jesus who did not meet Muhammad how could he have used INJEEL to preach? At this junction, one of the respondents enjoin the Islamic scholars and followers to try and further their investigation especially the origin of Islam and life time of Muhammad. Muhammad Al Ghazoti who wrote in his book Titled: Christ Muhammad and I in this book Muslim we find out who is Muhammad and his life time, so that they will have a rest of mind and change of thought. Socio-economic activities of people in the southwest of Nigeria are almost the same with Christian that had been discussed earlier. The end justifies the means’ this is not surprising because it has been revealed that the Bible was made a reference book to develop the Quran, this also associated with the Muslims activities in Southwest, all the activities engaged by Christian had been adopted by Muslim such a Vigil, Sunday Morning devotion that was tagged ‘tahjud’, also the Walimot for pupils who learnt how to read Quran according to the respondent.

Some respondents argued that able youth have enjoyed involving themselves in Quranic learning so that they will be calling them ‘Alfa’ this will enable them to gain attention of people in the community they will respect them and wherever they have any occasion they will be invited, the majority of unemployed youth have engaged themselves in this act. The issue of choosing a leader in a Mosque is always a bone of contention because they see the post as an avenue of directing people affairs including the activities especially the one involving financial support from the people. Muslim scholars also established their own schools according to their religious denomination such as Aleem, Sumurat, Nasfat, Ans-U-Deen, etc this worsens the situation of segregation among religion worshippers. Also, the festivals such as El-del fitri, El-del Kabir, Moulud Nabiy are very paramount among the Muslims.

### **African Traditional Religion**

Observations shows that those who practice African traditional religion are really consistent on their belief in their gods such as Ogun, Oya, Osun, Obatala, ifa, egungun are very paramount among their worshippers, their followers adhere strictly to the rules and regulations, unlike Christian and Muslim especially in a political institution, whenever they wanted to swear in, they will claim to be either Christian or Muslim at the end of the day all government properties in their possession will be stolen away, not in African Traditional Religion, if they dare it, they will blame themselves and face the bad consequence.

A case was happened at Iwo-road Ibadan North East Local Government Area. Somebody stole a motor-cycle and he denied it being stolen and Sango was sent to deal with the person, a little rain fell and thunder strike, it killed the man and placed the motorcycle on his chest for everybody to see. This has never happened in these two foreign religions, Christian and Islam. From the incident, we should realize that something is missing in the foreign religion, we adopted. Rift and rancour are also paramount among traditional worshippers, a case of masquerade who fought the people in Mapo area of Ibadan South East Local Government Area during the Egungun festival and he was arrested and detained by the police. It shows that in every religion there is grief and crisis.

### **Discussion**

The findings revealed that the level of the impact of religions on citizen's lives, and activities in southwest Nigeria is high. This can be possible because the government are yet to provide law that will guide the activities of the religious leaders. All the interviewed agreed that religious activities have caused a lot of damage and hardship in the country, this may be possible because of the activities of Boko Haram insurgency that emanated from the northeast Nigeria, and it has affected everyone especially in the area of security; kidnapping, stealing and molestation was rampant among the citizens.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the finding and observation has revealed that in the existence of obligation and responsibility of individual, the issue of rewards and punishment that are established in every society tradition, norms, value, custom and constitution of every nation should be upheld. People should live their lives and enjoy whatever they can see here on earth because the speculation of religions about the unknown place even before 70,000 years ago is uncertain, if any at the end, it will be additional for people. The fear of calamity that befell the early man that was led to persuasion and placating to the unknown was gradually turned to prayer and sacrifice respectively by modern man through civilization, the invention, discovering and ideas, the irony is that upon all sacrifices and prayers engaged by people they still experience all forms of calamity even the Almighty Death.

### **Recommendations**

After examining the opinion of various scholars of religion and the implication of religion on people lives in Nigeria.

1. The Government should check the activities of religious leaders; also review the act that established them this will curb bad deeds among them and also impede the effort of those who still nurse the ambition of joining religious evils.
2. The core message of religion is to provide a patterned and familiar way of overcoming life and environmental crises, and of the preparation and hope for a comfortable future, including adjustment and solving problems not only of overcoming anxiety but of ordering one's relationship with God. It also supports social norms and positive personality in the society and these should uphold among people including leaders and followers.
3. Government should allow organizations, individuals who are engaged in finding and observation to alleviate the situation; this will minimize the religious crisis in Nigeria because ignorance and illiteracy collude with misinformation which led to dehumanization. Politicians should compel to use the traditional means of Religion for the oath of office to reduce corruption.



4. Researchers on the illusion of religion beliefs should serve as facilitators and be motivated towards their improving the situation, this will enable researchers to bring more fact that will liberate people from religious bondage.
5. Government and private organization should organize workshops and seminars that will educate the populace especially those depend on irrational datum of faith that comprises of complicated issues, they will be enlightened to work harder and address issues as its rather than using all their valuable time on religious beliefs and functionaries and also enable them to realize that comedy, tragedy, and goodwill is part of life

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