

10. A Wholistic Theology

Western theology has lost this-worldly dimension of human existence, and Wholistic Theology is an effort in rediscovering total human life. Apolitical life is not worthy of existence, uninvolvement is a denial of the goodness of creation and of the reality of incarnation. We are not interested in creating medieval monasteries, in setting up ghettos (modern monasteries), but in being involved in the complex social life of our people as we find it daily, with full knowledge of our Christian responsibility.

The history of the people of God in the Old Testament starts with the liberation of a group of slaves from oppression. Nothing is more political than this Biblical narrative. In our continent what is prevalent is the basis to define economic policy, agricultural development, foreign relations – "Politics decides who should die and who should live". African theology should develop a political theology relevant to the African political life. During my recent visit to the South Ethiopia Synod, it was encouraging and inspiring to observe how the elders of our congregations who were elected as leaders of peasant associations were making efforts to practise their Christian faith in the leading positions they occupy. Political theology should grow out of such experiences on the local congregational level.
