Name

Institution

Course

Date

Kaffir Boy

Johannes was introduced to Christianity by her mother in a secret move that saw him attend the Full Gospel Church. Johannes, his mother, and siblings were baptized into Christianity. Her mother had met the Full Gospel Apostles of God before, who convinced her of the value of Christianity (76), creating a reason for her and her children joining the religion. Johannes was simply influenced by her mother to join Christianity reluctantly. He did so to obey her mother rather than for his own reasons. Johannes remained doubtful of Christianity, although he was baptized and continued to attend church services. Moreover, Johannes' mother was drawn to Christianity by the promise that if he became a Christian and start attending the church, she will get a job. Her main concern was how to get a job, a factor that was explored to entice her into joining Christianity (76). The missionaries persuaded her that her problems would be solved upon joining Christianity. While defending the desire to join Christianity, Johannes' mother informed her husband that all Christians had jobs and that she really needed employment (77). Her conviction that she would get a job led to her defiance of the husband's orders that she should not join Christianity unless in the event that she was ready to leave.

Johannes' father did not like Christianity; he saw it as a foreign religion that had nothing to do with Africans. He stuck to his African religious practices, which were strongly embedded in the family (77). On this premise, he confronted his wife when he learned that she had talked to the Full Gospel Church of God apostles. He warned her of severe consequences if she dared go against his demand that she should never join Christianity. Moreover, Johannes Father saw Christianity as the religion of the oppressor, the colonialist, which meant that joining it was bowing to colonial power. He sought to remain steadfast in defending African values, which affirmed his strong convictions towards the region. Consequently, he rejected Christianity as the white man’s religion that meant no good for Africans.

In my opinion, the issue of religion is dealt with by Johannes' family through a mixed approach. One, the father rejects Christianity and insists on African religious practices. On her part, the mother is ambivalent; she embraces both religious practices, Christianity for convenience, and African for spiritual and cultural attachment (77-78). Children are seen as torn in between, which can be seen in Johannes' insistence that although he was baptized, he still doubted Christianity (77). In essence, children were largely influenced by their parents on how to approach the issue of religion. The family is simply divided on which religious belief to hold on to. The father remained a staunch believer in African religion while the mother and children practiced mixed religious practices that embraced Christian and African religious values. It is also important to note that the family remained strongly attached to African religious practices, albeit the mother and children being introduced to Christianity. I can say that the issues of religion remain unresolved and a possible source of divisions in the family.