

# INTRODUCTION: ENVIROMENTAL THEOLOGY

- Environmental theology is known as Oikothology a term derived from two Greek words, Oikos and theologos.
- Oiko stands for a home or household while theo means God, hence theology is the study of the word of God.
- Likewise, oikothology literally means the theology of the whole household of God, which includes God's creation, the cosmos.
- The root metaphor for this theology is the notion of “the whole household of God” (Conradie 2020:115). Andrew Warmback (2020) explains that it is from Oikos that we derive the English words economy, ecumenics, and ecology.
- The use of the phrase Oikothology drives us to see the interrelation between ecology, economy, and ecumenics in the same Oikos (household).
- This starting point in the study of oikothology shows that we cannot divorce the unity of Christians and churches (ecumenics), economy, and the environmental conservation. Without environmental management, the entire household falls down.

## ENVIROMENTAL THEOLOGY

- Oikothology is one of the contemporary theologies that seeks to address myriads of problems facing our contemporary world.
- Theological themes (doctrine of creation, doctrine of humanity, evading another fall of humanity, the unity of the God-head and others) and Biblical readings (Genesis 1:26, Psalm 24:1, Rom 8:22-24 and others) have been used to justify this.
- In Psalm 24: 1, it says, “The earth is the LORD’s and all there is in it, the world, and all who live in it.” In Romans 8:22 says: “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”
- With a lot of environmental degradation in Africa, one wonders whether it is the course of poverty in Africa.
- Oikothology helps in both the preservation of the environment and the eradication of poverty.
- Issues that we pay more attention on include: poverty, environmental degradation, justice, reconciliation and peace among others (Warmback (2020) and Alokwu (2020)).

# Discuss how to preserve environment

- Give specific ways you environment is destroyed in your traditional setting.
- Whom would say is the worst enemy to environment in your area.
- What are the major issues resulting to degradation in environment
- Whom would you blame most.

# LEARNING OUT COMES.

- Understand the meaning of Environmental theology
- Understand the term Oikotheology in the contemporary society.
- Learners are able to discuss ways of eradicating environmental degradation.