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Theological Education and Neo-paganism Among Christian Clergy in Nigeria

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Abstract

The practice of neo-paganism among Christian clergy in Nigeria is a troubling reality that is ubiquitous and beyond contention. The roots of this phenomenon which foreshadows a new age and postmodern spirituality can be traced to the biblical narrative of the temptation and fall of Adam in Genesis 3. Here Satan, the tempter, refocused the attention of Eve from the tree of life to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden, a portentous development in which man transited from man, made in the image of God to man wanting to become like god himself. This occurrence reflects the essence of neo-paganism as a revival of a spirituality coming from the corruption of the inner being of man, wanting to become god himself. It is, indeed, the foundation of which all human spirituality in its pagan, neo-pagan and occult origin would eventually develop. Theological education is seminal in unearthing the genesis, the trajectory and the eventualities of this phenomenon in the Nigerian church. This paper employs the historical and analytical methods to critically reflect on how theological education is invaluable in helping to understand and to checkmate this downward spiral among God's servants in Nigeria.

Introduction

The White Missionaries used derogatory description and condemnation of some traditional African religious beliefs and practices as "pagan", "heathen", "animistic", 'witchcraft', 'occult', etc. on their initial encounters with Africans in general and Nigerians in particular (Luka 2019, p. 42). However, the persistence and/or resurgence of such beliefs and practices in modified forms among Nigerian Christian clergy after more than 100 years of the missionary enterprise is a phenomenon that needs critical reflection to comprehend its roots, its biblical and historical trajectories. And thus to seek remedies for this malady. Neo-paganism manifests in diverse forms, including religious syncretism, secret cults, witchcraft, occultism, and 'new age spiritual practices' which are forbidden in the Bible (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-14). They are also contrary to mainstream evangelical doctrinal orthodoxy (Nwosu, 2021). This paper employs the historical and analytical methods to demonstrate how theological education helps to unearth the roots, the biblical and historical courses through which neo-paganism has developed, its damaging consequences and the remedies thereof.

Definition of Key Terms

These terms neo-paganism, theological education and Christian clergy are defined as follows:

Neo-paganism

Neo-paganism which literally means new paganism or revised paganism has many definitions emphasizing on different aspects of ancient pre-Christian and pre-modern religious beliefs and practices in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa. Boudmann's (2022) definition has been found to be quite intriguing. He says neo-paganism, "Is an umbrella term, covering a widely varied set of spiritual practices typically adapted from pre-Christian or anti-Christian religions. Neo-paganism includes various forms of *new age* beliefs, *Wicca*, versions of Greek and Roman *polytheism*, and Celtic *druidism*." This study investigates how neo-paganism affects the Christian clergy in today's Nigeria. Fontaine and Otlet (2020, p. 1), render the connection most aptly:

> There are also cases in which the Christian faith is found contaminated with a new form of paganism, even though some religious sense and some faith in a Supreme Being persist. A religious disposition can exist far from the influence of the word of God and from the practice of the sacraments, but be nourished by the practice of superstition and magic; moral life can fall back into pre-Christian ethics. Sometimes elements of nature worship, animism, and divination are introduced into the Christian religion, and thus in some places a lapse into syncretism can occur. Moreover, religious sects are being propagated which mingle together the Christian mysteries and elements of fables from antiquity.

Ferreira (2019) traces neo-paganism and its derivatives: occult and syncretism, to the first Temptation as narrated in Genesis 3. He says the refusal of man to limit himself to the "tree of life" at the centre of the garden, which guaranteed access to the free eternal life given to him by God, man fell for the temptation of Satan to eat the fruit from the 'tree of knowledge of good and evil', which made man wanting to be like god himself. So man, who was made in the image of God (imago Dei), settled to become like god in himself. This striving to be like a god is the root and the essence of most paganistic, occult, and new age spiritualities. This insight is intriguing and will be probed further in this study.

Theological Education

Theological Education basically means the educational training one receives from the discipline of Theology. It is related to Christian Education but different in the sense that Christian Education, involving Sunday School and Bible Study, normally takes place within the church and for lay members, while Theological Education takes place outside the church but in Bible Colleges or Theological Seminaries and mainly for the clergy. Marbaniang (2017) defines Theological Education as, "The discipline that aims at an appropriate understanding, interpretation, defense and application of the Christian Faith in the world. Thus it is the Christian faith that lies at the heart of Theological Education." This is what this study attempts to do, to apply appropriate theological understanding, interpretation and defense of the Christian faith to tackle the challenge of neo-paganism among Nigerian Christian clergy. Both formally and informally,

Theological Education has been a main ingredient of the preparation of God's ministers throughout all the ages and, indeed, forms the foundation for the establishment of many of the leading universities in Western Europe.

Christian Clergy

Christian clergy means all those who are set apart and involved in leading the church, preaching and teaching the word of God and engaging in practical Christian outreaches and missions, within or outside the church walls. The clergy also involves all those who may have no formal theological training but involved in leading and teaching the scriptures in the church. It also involves those who are theological educators and scholars, and may or may not be involved in preaching and teaching in the church, and may also not be formally ordained. So then in this paper, Christian clergy means priests, pastors, missionaries, evangelists, Sunday School and Bible Study leaders, seminary educators and educationists.

The Root Causes of Neo-paganism

Neo-paganism in its original form predates pre-Christian religions and can be traced back to the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis chapters 2 and 3. When God created man in His image and likeness to dominate his creation (Genesis 1:26), He put the man in the Garden of Eden, where he also created, among other things, two trees in the midst of the garden (Genesis 2:9). The tree of life was a 'symbol and memorial" of the life man got from the Creator and was meant to be the focal point of man's eternal life-receiving relationship with God (Ferreira, 2019 and Calvin, 1981). This tree was also meant to guarantee man's access to immortal life (Genesis 3:22).

But there was another tree in the Garden called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:9). God specifically forbade man from eating this tree because according to Ferriera, 2019, p. 2), 'This tree would not sustain man's life, but will destroy the very life that man received from God. Eating this tree would also be an act of rebellion against God". Interestingly, the focus of man shifted from the tree of life and all the other abundant provisions in the Garden, to this tree that man was forbidden to eat. And Satan, God's adversary

appeared at that point in time, and engages Eve on discussion about this tree that God had forbidden. Here Satan uses a '*hermeneutic of suspicion*" and a narrative full of half-truths to question and create doubt about God's revelation to man. Ferreira (2019, p.3) contends that this engagement with Eve is a temptation that facilitates a theological shift from man created in the image of God (*imago Dei)* to man becoming "like God" (*sicut Deus*). A shift from man, made in the image and glory of God, entitled to share in the goodness of God's being and doing, to man wanting to become "like God", in rebellion and in competition with God himself, a "self-serving" knowledge (Arnold, 2009, p. 66). So then Satan was luring man into the apostasy domain in which he and his fallen angels had committed in Isaiah 14: 12-14.

Ferreira (2019, p. 3) posits that Satan's temptation was an invitation to the *occult,* which he defines as clandestine, hidden, secret-knowledge of the hidden. The occult is associated with secret knowledge and practices dealing with the supernatural or psychic phenomena, for the purpose of obtaining personal power. It is the secret knowledge that is independent of and in opposition with God. When man succumbed to the quest of this knowledge he submitted to the domination of Satan, who then substituted man as the ruler of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Thus there was a shift of "religion as a life-giving eternal relationship with the only true God, becomes a 'spirituality' coming from the inner being of man, seeking to be a god himself. This is the 'spirituality' proceeding from the corruption of man, the source from which all human spirituality in its pagan and occult origin would eventually develop" (Nygren, 1949, pp. 108-109).

This in effect means that human culture starting from the narratives of the Flood, Tower of Babel and the formation of tribes from Genesis 4-11 shows the progression of this human corruption developed into pagan and occult practices and continued to spread through the Bible and human history. Ferreira (2019, p. 3) believes Romans 1:21-25 summarizes this point very well:

> Although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an

> image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen (Rom 1:21-25 NKJ).

Let's consider how this progressed through Biblical and human history to what obtains among the clergy today.

The Trajectories of Neo-paganism through the Scripture and Human History

The path that neo-paganism has developed and progressed from its roots in Genesis 3 through biblical and human history and has cascaded down to our clime and time is being studied in this section of this paper. From the Tower of Babel God dispersed humanity to cover the face of the earth with their cultures and religions that were already anti-God (Longman and Garland, 2008, p. 92). The expressions of the cultures and religions of the Egyptian, Canaanites and Babylonians which followed were pagan and occult. According to Hiebert (1994, p. 204) these are part of the Indo-European myth that spread from inside Asia to Europe. "This myth formed the basis of the religions of Babylon, Sumer, Canaan, Greece, India and Germany. All these primitive cultures were very religious but they were not definitely focused on the true God of creation. That is the reason why God called Abram (Genesis 12) from out of this fallen humanity". God's intention of calling Abram was to make him a missionary to reach not just his people but the peoples of the whole world, with the knowledge of the true God. A cursory look at the Old and New Testaments of the Bible reveals how this was done.

Briefly put Abram, later Abraham, and his family, the Patriarchs, went everywhere of the known world of their time and settled in the Promised Land of Canaan, surrounded by nations that did not know God. They were to serve as a light to these nations, whose cultures and religions were anti-God. And God warned the Patriarchs not to copy the religions and cultural practices of those nations. But scriptural history reveals that they were tempted by the religions of the heathen nations. They fell into the temptation, and were ultimately

dislodged from that land into captivity. They were to return to the Promised Land but only a remnant were able to do so, as the vast majority of the Israelites perished. Thus, the repeat of the temptation of Genesis 3 was manifested there.

The New Testament opens with Jesus Christ, the "second Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45) coming to triumph where the first Adam failed. The beginning of his success started at the wilderness of Temptation, where Satan tempted Christ in similar ways as he tempted the first Adam. The essence of the temptation (Matthew 4, Mark 1 and Luke 4) was that Satan tempted Jesus to shift focus from the revealed will of God to focus on his own needs and desires. He even tried to quote the scriptures in a deceptive way to try to convince Jesus to depart from God's command. But Jesus overcame the devil's temptation by focusing and relying on God alone. He obeyed God to the point of dying on the Cross and as a result he because the victorious second Adam, and also became the tree of life, which man forfeited in the Garden of Eden. He also became the head of the redeemed community, called the church.

The rest of the New Testament depicts a cosmic battle with Satan, in which he engages the church in battle to thwart the power and the effects of the death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross to set man free but Satan fights man to prevent him from accessing the salvation secured for him and to prevent him from proclaiming this message of salvation to the whole world (Clowney, 1988, p. 216). He fights the church through persecution and false teaching, through which he manifests and perpetuates the temptation narrative he started in the Garden of Eden.

The first major attack of the early church after Jesus ascended to heaven was through Gnosticism, which has remained a challenge to the church to the present day. Gnosticism was an occult group which first manifested in the scriptures by Simon Marcus (Acts 8:4-25). Its main teachings were the proclamation of 'inward spirituality', or 'higher wisdom', a 'divine spark from within which would enable those 'enlightened' to find true salvation (Johnson, 2004, p.30). The early church fathers responded to Gnosticism by emphasizing on the Creed, the Canon of scripture and apostolic authority. Johnson (2004, p. 28) holds that this Christian self-definition was a defense

mechanism that was effective throughout the church age up to the 20th century.

A perfunctory look at human history from the Indo-European period, through the Middle ages (or the Dark ages), and through the Enlightenment to the Modern age, shows that the pagan religions of barbarian tribes, the Goths, the Vandals and the Huns, that flourished during the Roman empire, which in fact, led to the destruction of the Roman Empire, never died with the rise of Christianity in Europe (Campbell, 1978, p. 61). These barbarians' cultures and religions were pagan and occult. And they have survived all through the ages and are responsible for the de-Christianization of Europe.

The Enlightenment period in the 17th and 18th centuries saw a further move away from Christianity; with the movement of nationalism gained currency and individual rights and personal freedom became the buzz words of the period. It also entailed an intellectual period in which reason and the scientific method and progress gained traction. There was belief that science would bring better society and better people. With this came a distrust of the old order including religion, and Christianity was limited to the individual's personal space. And the Bible was subjected to critical examination as its divine authority was jettisoned. As the Enlightenment philosophy encouraged everyone to look away from God and look 'inside themselves' Gnosticism found itself in traction again. Gnosticism then had an appeal because it was not about religion or redemption but about 'self-discovery', discovering the 'divinity' in oneself (Pocock, 2008, p. 84).

Despite the resurgence of Gnosticism, the Christian church had a special place in the emerging new western culture, it was the same culture that would later suffocate it. By the 20th century, comfort and prosperity became the preoccupation of Western society and science was seen as the means to acquire it. The individual 'self' became a god and self fulfilment was the salvation to pursue (Hiebert, 1994, pp. 221-222). Christendom was dying as the new modernist philosophy gained traction. Thus a 'new age' was emerging (Ouweneel, 1988, p. 397).

The Enlightenment emphasis on reason and the scientific procedure and not revelation and the authority of the scriptures led even the church to overlook the spirit world. Mbiti (1976) says that the "Cognitive, analytical and critical approach to reality that came with the Enlightenment has resulted in theological impotence within the Western culture". This means in effect that the Western theologians failed to provide a biblical worldview about the spirit world. The church bought into the worldview of secular science that denies the reality of sin and spiritual realities. This created an atmosphere for the new age movement, a new way of thinking that originated in Western society in the late 20th century, characterized by a focus on alternative approaches to spirituality, health, right living and beliefs that are outside the mainstream Christian faith (Jones, 2015). Some features of the new age include mysticism, holism and environmentalism (nature). The challenge then before the church today, especially among Nigeria's clergy to understand the nature, roots and trajectories of how paganism started in Genesis 3 and has travelled through the scriptural narrative and through human cultures to date and transforming to neo-paganism and then how to contain it.

The Consequences of Neo-paganism among Nigerian Clergy

The resultant effects of neo-paganism among the Christian clergy in Nigeria needs to be examined.[1]

1. Acquisition of Occult Power for Miracles

The craze for spiritual power among pastors to draw unsuspecting members, which in turn would bring pecuniary gains is becoming phenomenal. A great man of God told a story he personally encountered in one of our Nigerian cities. He was scheduled to travel by air from that city. However his flight was rescheduled to the following day. So he had a free evening in that city. One of the young pastors he had helped to disciple got to know he was in town. So he

[1] Some of the anecdotes cited in this section are contemporary cases, some of which this researcher has personally come across in his over 40 years of doing ministry in Nigeria. They have not been published anywhere, so we cannot cite scholarly sources here.

reached him and persuaded him to minister in their church's midweek service holding that evening. He said since he had nothing doing he accepted the invitation. But when he got to the venue of the programme he was shocked by the large crowd he saw. So he thought maybe the young pastor upon knowing he was coming had done some quick publicity to gather such a large crowd. But when he got up to preach he asked how many new comers were there in the meeting. Hardly any! He said he suspected something was wrong somewhere! Anyway, he preached and went back to his hotel room. Later that night the young host pastor brought a huge amount of money in a "Ghana must go" bag as his honorarium, obviously containing millions of Naira! This further confirmed to him that something was fishy.

So he confronted the young man on what he had used to gather such a crowd at such a short time, since he knew when he started the church in that city. Of course, the young denied doing anything extra-ordinarily to gather the crowd. He said he was only using the principles of church growth that he had taught them! Not convinced, the man of God asked the young pastor's wife, whom they came together with, what was happening. She opened up. She said, "Sir, I told him not to do it but he didn't listen to me! There is a witch-doctor in a certain city (name withheld), that he went to, to do some rituals and gave him some charms, including a special microphone that only he can use! When he uses that mic to preach everyone passing by upon hearing his voice would forget where he or she was going and would enter and sit down to hear what he was saying! And no matter what he is saying the person can't leave again! And anything he asked them to do, they couldn't resist it! The rituals include the pastor sucking her breasts!" This was the secret of his explosive growth and prosperity!

Another pastor told the story of a barren woman desperate to have a baby of her own, went to a meeting of a man advertised to have power to make barren women conceived through prayer. She went, and part of the prayer was for her to drink some "holy water" which the man of God brought. She collected hers but didn't drink it there. She felt restrained from drinking it. So she brought it home and kept it in a bottle. After some days she checked the bottle, and lo and behold,

a little snake was growing inside the water in the bottle! That's what would have been growing in her womb, if she drank it! There are uncountable verifiable other stories that are going round in our country what pastors are doing to connect to occult power to perform "miracles" in our churches today. Some have specially prepared handkerchiefs, mantles, special anointed oils, soaps, towels, rings, wrist watches, powders, perfumes, etc. Apart from charms and amulets some wear on their bodies or buried in strategic places! All happening in the house of God!

2. Exhibition of Fake Spiritual Gifts

This is related to the first point but different in the fact that while those seeking occult power do go out of their way to acquire the power they use, the ones with fake spiritual gifts are more subtle in the way they go about theirs. Without sound biblical knowledge and spiritual discernment it would be nearly impossible to detect the heresy in what they are doing. This is especially in the realm of the manifestation of the gift of prophecy. They actually use the demonic spirit of fortune telling, divination and exorcism to overwhelm their captives. Examples of these abound when the Apostles preached the gospel in Acts 8:9-24, the story of Simon the sorcerer; Acts 13:6-12, the story of Elymas the sorcerer; and Acts 16:!6-19, the story of the slave girl who was a fortune teller! There are many "prophets" today that are actually using sorcery and fortune telling to overwhelm the people of God.[2] Through the spirit of fortune telling and divination they can access certain information about people supernaturally. But it is not from the Spirit of God. It takes spiritual discernment to uncover and debunk what they are doing!

3. Syncretism and Polytheism

While syncretism has to do with blending or synthetizing doctrines and practices from more than one religion, polytheism refers to the belief and worship of more than one deity. Both are aspects of neo-paganism. There are elements of syncretism among come clergy in

[2] The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) ran a television series on the fake miracles performed by the late Nigerian preacher, Prophet T. B. Joshua, in January, 2024.

Nigeria. This happens in both doctrine and praxis. Pascoe (2014) has remarked about the progression of Christianity in history from inception and said that "Christianity started in Palestine as a fellowship of followers; it moved to Greece and became a philosophy of thinkers; it moved to Italy and became the institution of an Empire; it moved to Europe and became a cultural ethos; and it came to America and became a business enterprise." The current craze by some clergy, indeed theologians, to equate Christology with ancestor veneration can be seen as an aspect of neo-paganism. There are clergy that have dabbled into questionable traditional herbal medicinal healing practices, in which they prescribe certain herbs as cures for certain sicknesses. Prescription of herbs is not the problem *per se*, but the healer may instruct that the herb should only be carried by certain fingers of the *left* or *right* hand and the soaked water from the herbs can be used to take bath only on a certain time of a particular day of the week! If you ask why so they will tell you it is to synchronize with the laws of Nature! That borders on New Age religion (Jones, 2015).

4. Religious Rituals

There are rituals and ceremonies that existed in paganism as practiced by the adherents to African Traditional Religion (ATR) but which have found their way into Christian practice by some of our clergy. Some of these practices include:

A. Exorcism

This has to do with removing evils spirits that may be troubling persons possessed with them! This abounded in ATR practices even before the coming of the gospel. For example, the ***bori*** cult which existed in many Northern Nigerian communities. The people possessed often "spoke in tongues" and even "prophesied" apart from other gymnastic displays! We must admit that much of this is being practiced among the Christian clergy in Nigeria today! I am not denying or belying the scriptural provisions for these gifts, but we

cannot deny that some who practice them today are not Christians in the evangelical sense, in fact, some are not even church goers at all![3]

B. Angel Worship

Angel worship was condemned in Colossians 2:18, and was discouraged by the angels themselves in Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9, who then directed those attempting to worship them to worship God rather. In ATR belief and practices spirits serve as mediators between man and the Supreme Being and are worshipped. Among some clergy today angel worship is promoted. Some are even tempted to worship their human heroes and leaders, wherein they print their pictures and situate them in certain places or wear them as protective charms! These are all manifestations of neo-paganism.

C. Abuse of Anointing Oil

Some churches make their members drink anointing oil to receive healings, miracles and deliverance. This is quite an abuse because the oil is never made to be ingested and there are health risks if such continue. The use of anointing oil was instructed in both Old and New Testaments of the Bible. But was to be used by designated clergy or elders for specific purposes, which in the OT were mainly to consecrate designated persons or places for holy usage (Exodus 40:9-12; Leviticus 8:30). In the NT James says, the elders of the church could use it to pray for the sick (James 5:14-15). But today some use it as charms for protection, for good luck and miracles.

Remedies Against the Continuous Spread of Neo-paganism among Nigeria Clergy

In the light of all that has been discussed in this paper, the following are proposed as remedies to alleviate the situation:

1. A Contextualized Theological Education without Syncretism

According to Danny McCain (2000, p. 2), contextualization means applying biblical principles in a particular cultural context. But he

[3] I have met even Muslims who claim they can speak in tongues. And there are Muslim groups in certain Nigerian cities who conduct deliverances, where they cast out devils, heal the sick, speak in tongues and prophesy!

says this contextualization should not become a license to all syncretism. He says further that:

> The revival of African culture in the church which has allowed traditional African instruments to be used is positive. However, there are also dangers associated with it. Many of the African independent churches have imported into the church such 'African' practices as polygamy and an overstress on visions and dreams. Other churches have given to angels the same status as the spirits who were the intermediaries between mankind and God.

These in essence means syncretism, which is the gate way to neo-pagan practices. A very timely warning is also brought by Musopule. In the process of urgent and needed theological contextualisation, the Christian church must be very careful for an 'extreme theological syncretism', that he calls 'Christo-Paganism' (Musopole, 1993, p. 348). Also, the late Byang H. Kato (1975, p. 15) lamented the future rise of "theological universalism', meaning syncretism that would afflict the African church due to "biblical ignorance" and 'inadequate theological education."

2. Standardize Theological Education With Evangelical Emphasis

It is a positive development that Theological institutions are bourgeoning all over Nigeria, with most churches having their own Bible Schools and/or Theological Seminaries. With this comes the challenge of maintaining both academic and spiritual standards. Theological education accrediting bodies like Accrediting Council of Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA), and Association of Christian Theologians (ACTS)[4] should double up their efforts to ensure global best practice are maintained in Nigerian Theological institutions but also to ensure the main objective of these institutions as the training arms for pastors for missions and ministry should not

[4] Both ACTEA and ACTS are located at the following addresses: ACTEA's offices are located on the sixth floor of the AEA Plaza on Valley Road in Nairobi, Kenya. ACTEA's postal address is PO Box 49332-00100 Nairobi, Kenya ACTEA can be found online at https://acteaweb.org/.; ACTS 36/38 Yakoyo Road, Ojodu-Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria. +234810-828-9886

be compromised. To this end the efforts of organizations like the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) are highly appreciated.

3. Christian Organizations Such as CAN and PFN should Oversee Churches to Check for Excesses

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and subsidiary bodies like the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN)[5] should be empowered by government to play more supervisory roles in establishing and running of churches in Nigeria. The registration of churches by the Corporate Affairs Commission should be left for CAN and then the government can hold CAN responsible for the excesses observed. This will curtail the uncontrollable proliferation of churches and the bizarre practices in some of these churches in the name of Christianity.

Conclusion

This paper has discussed the phenomenon of neo-paganism among Christian clergy in Nigeria. In it the historical and analytical methods were employed to dig into the roots and the trajectories of neo-paganism, the consequences and the remedies were also discussed. Through the framework of theological education we studies how neo-paganism started at the Garden Eden when Satan tempted the first Adam to shift focus from the "tree of life" and other trees freely provided for their abundant living, to the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil", which promised to make man to become like God. This satanic strategy was found duplicated throughout the Old and New Testament narratives and through church and human history. The consequences were discussed and the remedies were also discussed.

[5] Both CAN and PFN are Christian pressure groups, founded in Nigeria to play advocacy and intervention roles in Nigeria, due to much ethno-religious crises and conflicts that often arise.

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