



Research Paper

Religious Exclusivity in Modern Christian Orthodoxy

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Abstract

Modern Christian orthodoxy is a trend that emerged in the new era in reaction to the flow of free thought that was the product of the Age of Enlightenment and modernity. Modern orthodoxy, as its name suggests, emphasizes the fundamental teachings of Christianity, although it offers a new expression of it. Emphasis on fundamental Christian teachings is necessary for religious exclusivity; this means that the only true religion and the only way to salvation is Christianity, and the followers of other religions have no way to salvation. The intellectual roots of this school go back to Kierkegaard, but its founder is Karl Barth, whose expression of the new Christian orthodoxy has led to extreme exclusivism. People like Emil Bruner have continued in Barthes' footsteps; but even though they have confirmed the principle of Christian exclusivity, their position is a bit more moderate. This research describes the intellectual foundations of this trend that led it to exclusivity, as well as examines the type of this exclusivity. The question that this study tries to answer is whether religious exclusivity of the type of modern Christian orthodoxy can be rationally defended. The answer to this question, which is the hypothesis of this research, is that the foundations and results of this theory are shallow and have many intellectual problems.

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

John Hick, the philosopher of contemporary religion, divides the attitudes to the problem of the conflict of religious claims into three categories: exclusivism, pluralism, and inclusivism. An exclusivist is someone who considers only his religion as the right and the way to salvation, a pluralist is someone who considers many religions as the right and way to salvation, and an inclusivist is someone who, although considers only his religion as the right, defines the way of salvation in such a way that salvation is possible for all people.

As in other religious traditions, Christianity has been dominated by exclusivity. In the new era and after the age of enlightenment and the flow of historical criticism of the Bible, some people tried to save the Christian faith. One of these people was Søren Kierkegaard, who separated faith from reason and science with his extreme belief system, and said that man has no way of knowing God, his reason is incapable of this reason, and God must reveal himself to man, which he has done so in Jesus Christ. The requirement of Kierkegaard's theological system was religious exclusivity, although he did not specify this requirement.

In the 20th century, Kierkegaard's ideas inspired Karl Barth, who founded a school called the New Christian Right. He also saw an infinite gap between God and man, which caused man to have no way to know God with his intellect, and the only way was for God to reveal himself to man. This self-revelation happened only once and

for all in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the only way to save and redeem a person is to believe in Jesus Christ, and there is no other way. Thus, Barth reached a very extreme religious exclusivism. Another person who continued Barth's path and created a theology similar to him was Emil Bruner, who reached a slightly more moderate exclusivism than Barth.

New Christian right-wing exclusivism, like exclusivism of any other form, has many problems, and four important forms have been explained in this research. This study, which is the result of library and personal research, explains the exclusivism of the modern Christian right religion and its problems.

2. Method

The analytical-library method was used in this study.

3. Findings

The new Christian religious right has led to extreme exclusivism.

4. Result

The exclusivism of the type of modern Christian religious right has many intellectual problems.

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