

ABSTRACT

This study is a constructive and critical attempt to correlate and synthesize the biblical and Wesleyan doctrine of holiness (text) with the Filipino world-view (context). In the process of correlation, both the Christian message and the Filipino world-view are significant. The authoritative Christian message and the selective indigenous context are synthesized resulting in a Filipino theology of holiness.

There are two tendencies in the biblical concept of holiness. During the pre-prophetic period, holiness is a cultic term which means "to set apart" persons, objects, and places as God's possessions. During the prophetic period, holiness became a moral precondition and a determining factor in the maintenance of divine-human relationship. Basically, holiness is the existential, moral, and relational foundation of relationship between God and humanity. The Wesleyan view modified the biblical concept of holiness in terms of linear progression. Christian perfection is both a crisis and a process, dynamic rather than static.

The Filipino world view is composed of three major domains: Filipino popular religion (religious world-view), Filipino values (moral world-view), and Filipino kinship and society (social world-view). In the Filipino religious world-view, there is no radical separation between the sacred and the profane, or transcendence and immanence. The Filipino moral world-view is

considered ambivalent in nature and at the same time teleological in intent. The Filipino social world-view is centered on the reference group which determines every individual member.

In the correlation and synthesis, the concept of holiness is correlated with the Filipino world-view. Its aim is to construct a contextualized view of holiness. The Christian message is then *enfleshed* in the Filipino context and the ethic of holiness becomes a transformative principle in Filipino culture and society. The Wesleyan linear concept of spiritual progress and the Filipino cyclical view of history are synthesized to form a helical and holistic view of holiness. Holiness is not an individual achievement, but culture and society are integral components in reaching higher levels of Christian perfection.