

Review of: "Ecotheology: missiological perspective in awareness"

Mark Siddall

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I would like to thank the authors for what I sense is a helpful and contextual contribution to this essential topic. I would like to rank my comments as 'major' and 'minor'. You will see from my comments below that this paper, though helpful has a feeling of 'work in progress' rather than something more complete. That may well be a good thing in itself. There is indeed more work to be done in this area, geographically and in terms of the topic.

MAJOR SUGGESTIONS

1. Although the main argument comes across well and is well structured, the paper would benefit from a careful review of grammar and vocabulary. To be clear, I am not meaning particular 'turns of phrase' employed by second-language authors, rather that in several instances the grammar and vocabulary risk leading to ambiguities in meaning. These issues are extensive enough that I will not list them in detail in the MINOR comments section below.
2. There are places where concepts are significantly under-developed. For example, the attribution of historical emissions to industrialised countries is just mentioned in passing. No reference is given to the significant amount of theological work which gives a background to colonial politics and exploitation. Michael Northcott has done important work on this, as has Ellen F Davis. Laudato Si gives a good introduction to this topic. The concept of 'violation' is also underdeveloped and would benefit from specific biblical verses comparing the misuses of land to violation.
3. Alongside these concepts which are under-developed, aspects of the paper are under-referenced. For example, regarding Indonesia-specific data.

MINOR SUGGESTIONS

Given the MAJOR changes, some of these more minor issues may well be addressed as the major issues are. They are also not very specific in the light of the MAJOR suggestions which should be addressed before specific comments can be made.

1. Please pay particular attention to the grammar and language of the first paragraph, which draws strongly on hyperbole, without really giving me a sense of where you are headed.
2. Please draw on Laudato Si, which draws together many of these concepts in a similar fashion to that you are attempting. In particular, you need to draw on the concept of 'integral ecology'
3. In a similar vein, you are approaching aspects of Systematic Theology here. It may be worth considering theologians who have taken such a systematic approach as 'Systematic Theology and Climate Change' by Northcott and Scott

4. 'Christian civilization' and other terms throughout need careful consideration and clarification.

Thank you for a great paper and the chance to review it. I hope these comments are helpful.