

**PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
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**THE CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES AND BUDDHIST PRECEPTS AS
THEORETICAL TOOLS TO ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL AND
INHERENT PEOPLE'S RIGHTS ISSUES TO PROMOTE PEACE
AND DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR: A PROPOSAL**

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ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to address fundamental and inherent people's rights through the doctrinal (creedal) agreements of Christian Principles and Buddhist Precepts for peace and development in Myanmar. As Myanmar is one of the strongest Theravada Buddhist countries in the world, the contributions of Buddhist Monks and monastic order are effective to reform the community life. The Christian principles based on the commandments of Yahweh and the teachings of Jesus Christ could have the same effects in the life of the community in Myanmar as the Churches usually played the role of change agent. Theoretical tools to address fundamental and inherent people's rights can be formulated through the Christian principles and Buddhist precepts as similar teachings are found in both faiths.

Especially the Church as the divine agent on earth has divine mandate to be Ambassador of reconciliation and peace making. The Christian church has many good things to offer to the community as she represents Jesus Christ. The life of Christ is basic model for the Christian Church so that the Church may live Christ-like-life to bring love, peace, justice and freedom which are kingdom's components here and now. The Church may give hope to the world too. Christ came into the world to transform the lives of the people morally and spiritually so that the world may acknowledge God the Father through Him (Jesus). The same task is given to the Church.

On the other hand, Buddhist precepts are also to address the problems of the whole community as Lord Buddha left the Dharma (Law) to be the guides for the Arahats (monastic community). In the Dharma, the highest emphasis is life. The first precept of Buddhist is, not to take life it means not to kill any life on earth. Life actually is fundamental human right. Everybody in this world has right to life. It is, therefore, everybody must respect life. Rights to life is the emphasis of both Jesus and Buddha. Other teachings in relation to human rights are also found in both religions. It is possible to develop applicable theories to address human rights issues in Myanmar based on the selected Christian principles Buddhist precepts.

In Chapter II, the author introduced general background and the present situation of Myanmar. The historical facts with regarding to inherent people's rights in Myanmar and their claims to be acknowledged by current military authority are also major presentation in this chapter. The position of military government toward the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is also interestingly inserted. The contents of this chapter will help the reader understand the struggles of the majority for their rights being reflected and integrated by UN declaration of Human Rights.

In Chapter III, the author discussed about selected Christian principles in relation to fundamental and inherent people's rights in order to identify Christian doctrines and teachings to address human right issues. The positions of different Christian churches and organizations over Human Right issues are also a major contribution of this chapter.

Chapter IV is elaboration of selected Buddhist precepts which the author assumed directly or indirectly related to fundamental Human Rights issues. The author found out that some precepts are directly related to Human Rights.

In Chapter V, the author proposed his formulated joint forces to address fundamental and inherent people's rights issues in Myanmar for peace and development. The author found out that there are doctrinal agreements in both Christian Principles and Buddhist Precepts to address human rights issues.

Chapter VI is the summary, conclusion and the proposals. This study will enhance good relationships and mutual understanding between Christians and Buddhists through which people may cooperate each other to achieve a common goal of a peaceful coexistence with a free society. It is hope that formulating theoretical tools out of the Christian principles and Buddhist precepts may bring new paradigm shift in the Myanmar society today that peace, justice and freedom may prevail at the end.

May the reader be rejoice under the protection of:

1. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
2. Lord Buddha, Dharma and Sangha

Believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

Take refuge in Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.

In doing so, after all, peace, justice and freedom will surely be prevailed.

Amen, Amen, Amen..... Thadu, Thadu, Thadu.