**Traditional Understanding of Theological Student (Study)**

What comes to your mind when you hear the word theologian or theological student? Who are they? What are their roles and professions? What are they studying? Are they only reading the Bible and praying? Is it very easy to earn theological degrees? How theological institution would be? Why study theology? These are some of the basic questions which people usually asked.

Personally, as a theological student has had experienced people asking me different questions. Some are interesting but some are disgusting. Some consider theological studies as one of the highest and respected professions, but to some, it is the least option. Some believed that theological institutions must be filled with rejected and dejected people from families, colleges, and societies. They equalized/consider Bible Colleges as a rehabilitation center. But to some, theological students are called by God to serve the people. Those people consider Bible Colleges as a training ground.

Some people even think theological students must be thorough with the Bible from cover to cover as they think they only read the Bible. But, in reality, it is not! Some assume theological students must be good like angels with different gifts and talents. Sadly, it is not! Some people presuppose theological trained must not involve in businesses, politics, and any other professions, except living on the Bible and doing God’s work. They are bound with rules and regulations and with fixed salaries from the Churches, organizations, or any other individuals. Therefore, most of the people struggle to sustain their families and even ministries. They are restricted to exercise their other talents apart from service to God.

There are also certain sections of people who regard theological studies as nothingness. They think as cheap as buying a duplicate mark sheet from the market. Whereas in reality, it is a holistic study that includes a duration of time, a huge amount of money, academic pressure, moral and spiritual disciplines, etc. Many people find it hard as it is an explorative study that requires dedication, discipline, and sincerity. Some laypeople think that theological study is a waste of time and money because they preach the Bible as if they are the authors. They are even ready to defend believing that they are always right. Personally, being a theological student for several years, it is eye-opening to see the beauty of the Bible and the world. I feel that I know nothing! Therefore, a theological study is very essential to understand the depth of the Bible and not what you presuppose the whole day and night.

I believe it is the right time for us to change our traditional mindset of understanding theological studies. Rather we must encourage, make way, and leave a space for the people to study, train up their minds to serve the Church, society, and God. One must not limit and confine within the four walls of the Church forgetting the outside world. Society is corrupted fills with injustices, bribery, killings, hatred, rape, adulteries, and all sorts of ism, etc. Are we not responsible?