

Christianity in China:

Challenge Vs Opportunity

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1, Outstanding achievement

- (1) Great mass
- (2) Broad distribution
- (3) Younger age
- (4) Better education
- (5) Big social capital & moral resource
- (6) Unprecedented & improved positive impact

2, Serious problems:

External
Internal
Special

External :

- (1) Disharmonious & strained church-state relations
- (2) Unclear and uncertain social status
- (3) Lack of rule of law to protect “Religion freedom”
- (4) Widely political & social discrimination
- (5) Traditional cultural conflict
- (6) Unequal access to public square

Internal:

- (1) Shortage of qualified pastors
- (2) Rapid growth & Superficial theological foundation
- (3) Nonstandard church governance

Special :

- (1) Old image as “Foreign religion”
- (2) Two systems: Split churches (Three-self church & House church)
- (3) Negative impact of Fundamentalism & Charismatic
- (4) Disturbance of heresy and cults

(5) No social responsibility of citizen, nor concept of civil society, political and legal rights as constituency in a modern country with democracy and constitutionalism.

(6) Corrupted by secularism, consumerism and post-modernism before getting full sanctification

3、 The factors to the development of Christianity in China today

- (1) Political trance since 18th CPC Congress:
Patriotism + nationalism + Maoism +
populism + totalitarianism
- (2) The change of religious policy
- (3) The Legislation and legal construction
on religion
- (4) Religious competition: Confucianism,
Buddhism, folk beliefs & New religions
- (5) Philanthropy service: huge new approach
- (6) Social infrastructure: Growth of civil society
- (7) Globalization and informatization

4、 Conclusion:

More challenges with
opportunities; key is in
Christianity itself

Thank you !