

Title: The Relation of Church and State from the perspective of Reinhold Niebuhr: A case study of Northern Shan State, Myanmar

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ABSTRACT

As a Christian living in Myanmar I am always wondering about the nature of church and the nature of Government. The title of this research is the relation of Church and State. In this research I try to understand the theology of Reinhold Niebuhr who was a twentieth century theologian and ethicist and apply his theory to the context of Northern Shan State. There are three main parts in this research.

The first part is about Reinhold Niebuhr, his life and his theology. In order to understand about the theology of Reinhold Niebuhr, it is good to know about his life and time. Therefore I will describe the life of Niebuhr. He was not interested much about the nature of God or Jesus Christ. Instead he was most interested about the nature of human being. His understanding of human being shaped his theology. So I will explain about his understanding of nature of human beings. And I go to the relation of Church and State. The existence of the State is to restrain or reduce injustices from society. The responsibility of the church to the state is to help in this process by revealing the sinful nature of human being.

suggested certain terms which should be avoided such as *born again*, *born anew*, *reborn* or *rebirth*, and highlighted the need to use certain terms with clarification such as *from above*, *enlightened* or *awakened*.

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