



The Urgency of Implementing Green Theology in Dealing with the Environmental Crisis

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Abstract. *This study aims to analyze the current environmental crisis conditions, analyze the urgency of the Application of Green Theology in Overcoming the Environmental Crisis, Opportunities and Potential of Green Theology in Overcoming the Environmental Crisis. This study uses a qualitative research method with a literature study approach and textual analysis. The results of the study indicate that: 1) Indonesia's environmental conditions are concerning, serious efforts are needed to overcome them through public awareness, law enforcement, and environmentally friendly technology, with the concept of Ecological Repentance as one solution, 2) Green Theology is very important in overcoming the environmental crisis because it provides a holistic perspective on the relationship between humans and the environment. The implementation of Green Theology can help increase awareness and sustainable behavior, as well as promote environmental justice and interfaith cooperation. Thus, Green Theology can be a solution to overcome the environmental crisis and create a more sustainable future, and 3) Green Theology has great opportunities and potential in overcoming the environmental crisis by increasing awareness and sustainable behavior, as well as promoting environmental justice and cooperation between humans and nature. The implementation of Green Theology can be done through environmental education, sustainable lifestyles, and real actions to protect the environment, so as to reduce negative impacts on the environment and improve the quality of life.*

Keywords: *Urgency, green theology, environmental crisis, challenges, opportunities*

1. Introduction

The environmental crisis is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity today. Climate change, air and water pollution, and ecosystem damage are some examples of environmental crises that have a broad impact on human life and other creatures. (1) reports that climate change affects global society in various ways such as the dangers of food production and human health, the spread of disease, death, and damage to ecosystems and infrastructure.

The causes of the environmental crisis are very complex and multifaceted, but one of the main factors is unsustainable human behavior and indifference to the environment. This behavior is often driven by the desire to improve the quality of life and meet economic needs, without considering its impact on the environment as found by (2) low public knowledge of environmental, social and economic impacts. (3) states that the causes of deforestation are agricultural expansion, poorly planned infrastructure and uncontrolled logging and harvesting of wood fuel.

Policymakers and those involved in risk mitigation and adaptation related to future modeling for climate change have also shown interest in addressing natural disasters and

threats to global security (4). According to (5) although we may have passed the tipping point of climate change, there is still important work to be done. Psychological and social challenges need to be addressed, while individuals, communities, and policymakers must continue to work to reduce the impacts of climate change. Hope, resilience, and collective cooperation are key to facing an uncertain future.

Clayton and Manning try to formulate three main focus areas related to the environmental crisis, namely how to view and understand climate change; how human behavior responds to climate change; and how climate change impacts human health and well-being (6). According to (7) the environmental crisis is a global issue that urgently needs to be addressed. The current environmental crisis has reached a serious stage and threatens the existence of planet earth where humans, animals and plants live and continue their lives. Based on the 2020 Indonesian Environmental Performance Report by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), several things that have not been fixed or still need to be improved are Pollution and Environmental Damage, which although control efforts have been made have not shown the expected results (8).

Given the speed of change that humans have made, the changes that occur are not only in physical or genetic aspects, but are more reflected in behavior, social practices, artifacts, institutions, and values and worldviews that shape society. Humans have created environmental and social changes so rapidly that cultural adaptation has become more dominant than biological change (9,4). This also triggers Christians to take part in overcoming the environmental crisis with a religious approach.

At this time, many Christian thinkers have called for a new theology of nature and a new ethic for the earth. The discussion of environmental issues has developed in such a way and continues to discuss the topics of ecology, justice, and Christian faith. Long before, (10) had discussed green theology and its relationship to the environmental crisis. Nash argues that the environmental crisis is a serious challenge to Christian theology and ethics because it is partly rooted in false beliefs about human rights and power in relation to nature.

(11) In God's Ecology: A Revisionist Theology of Nature offers a holistic approach to understanding the relationship between God, humans, and nature. In this context, green theology becomes important to implement in everyday life. Green theology offers a holistic perspective on the relationship between humans and the environment, and emphasizes the importance of protecting and preserving the environment as part of human responsibility as God's creation.

Green Theology becomes a relevant approach to dealing with the environmental crisis as part of human responsibility as God's creation. Thus, Green Theology can be a foundation for developing sustainable and environmentally conscious behavior and overcoming the challenges in its implementation.

2. Methods

This study uses a qualitative research method with a literature study approach. This is related to the data used is secondary data. Secondary data is obtained from relevant sources, such as books, articles, journals, and other documents related to Green Theology and the environmental crisis. The data analysis used is textual analysis and qualitative descriptive analysis. Qualitative analysis aims to understand the current environmental crisis and the urgency of implementing Green Theology in dealing with the environmental crisis. As well as analyzing the challenges and opportunities in overcoming the increasingly serious

environmental crisis problem in today's era. This data analysis includes tabulation, reduction, presentation to decision making. Textual analysis is analyzing texts related to Green Theology and the environmental crisis to understand the meaning and implications of the concept of Green Theology in dealing with the environmental crisis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Current State of Environmental Crisis

The current environmental conditions in Indonesia are increasingly concerning. Data from the Environmental Quality Index (IKLH), the environment in Indonesia is increasingly damaged, with many parties being harmed, both humans and the environment itself. The changes that place industry and humans as the main destroyers of nature have caused an environmental crisis that began with a moral and ethical crisis from irresponsible human behavior towards the environment.

The development of industry and development activities driven by high economic demands have led humans to greedy behavior that has caused the environment to exceed its limits, so that Planetary Boundaries are no longer considered (12). The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (13) in a report entitled Indonesia's Environmental Status 2022 stated that the lack of public awareness and limited government budget in the development of domestic wastewater treatment systems, as well as weak enforcement of legal regulations in the disposal of domestic liquid and solid waste, have caused a decline in the quality of surface water. And human management activities that put pressure on land use also have an impact on public health (2).

The IPCC (14) report on climate change with a comprehensive assessment covering several important aspects explains the factors causing climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities such as fossil fuel combustion and deforestation, excessive land use for mining and plantations, has had a negative impact on public health and has become a trigger for disasters, causing conflicts between animals and humans. (15) reported that the area of land divided into extractive industry investment permits reached 159 million hectares, with the land area that is legally controlled by corporations amounting to 82.91%, while the sea area is 29.75%. Furthermore IPBES (16) every year, Indonesia loses 680 thousand hectares of forest, which is the largest in the Southeast Asia Region. Of the 105 rivers, 101 of them are in moderate to severe pollution conditions (13).

This environmental crisis has caused reactions from various parties and also caused responses from religious institutions, especially the Christian Church. Therefore, serious efforts need to be made to overcome this problem, such as increasing public awareness of the importance of environmental conservation, strengthening the enforcement of environmental laws, and developing environmentally friendly technologies. Thus, we can reduce the negative impacts of the environmental crisis and create a more sustainable future for future generations. Furthermore, (17) have offered one of the concepts of recovering from the environmental crisis caused by humans, namely Ecological Repentance. Ecological Repentance is a concept that refers to the awareness and recognition of environmental damage that has occurred due to human activities, as well as efforts to repair and restore the damage. Ecological Repentance involves changing behavior and mindsets to live more sustainably and environmentally friendly.

3.2. The Urgency of Applying Green Theology in Addressing the Environmental Crisis

Responding to the IPCC Report (14) on the impacts of Climate Change and Future Projections due to climate change helps us in planning and developing mitigation and adaptation strategies. As stated by (9,4) cultural adaptation becomes more dominant than biological change. Religion plays an important role in addressing the challenges of the environmental crisis thanks to its ethical authority and its great impact on billions of people. Supported by Michael Northcott (18) that the failure of political institutions, including national governments and the UN, in addressing climate change reflects the constitution of the modern state as a cultural and secular institution, not as an institution created and regulated by God. Northcott emphasizes that theology has an important role in understanding and addressing the environmental crisis. He argues that the modern state has failed to address climate change because it does not consider theological and spiritual aspects in decision making. This is the starting point for religious leaders in Indonesia and ASEAN countries as shown in the Conference on the role of religion in dealing with climate change which emphasizes the importance of awareness and interfaith cooperation in addressing the environmental crisis (19). The implementation of Green Theology is very important in facing the current environmental crisis because the environmental crisis is not only a technical problem, but also an ethical and moral problem. This is reinforced by the statement of the Minister of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia who invited theological colleges in Indonesia to develop an ecotheological approach that emphasizes the harmonious relationship between humans, nature, and God (20).

This invitation was conveyed by the Minister of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia in a meeting with the leaders of Theological Colleges at the Ministry of Religion's headquarters, Jakarta. This call was made by the Minister of Religion because of his concern for the current environmental crisis which is very critical. According to the Indonesian Minister of Religion, many social and environmental problems today are rooted in human relations that are increasingly moving away from spiritual values.

Green Theology has an important role in facing the environmental crisis by providing a holistic perspective on the relationship between humans and the environment. (10) emphasized several important things in natural theology, including the universal history of God, the role of humans, human limitations, community, and praise. (21) states that Eco-Theology is a theological approach that considers the relationship between God, humans, and the environment. This paradigm emerged in response to the increasingly severe environmental crisis and awareness of the importance of preserving nature. The implementation of Green Theology can help increase awareness and behavior that is sustainable and cares about the environment.

According to (11), an overly functional and manipulative approach to environmental management does not allow believers to respond to the earth and the entire cosmos with respect and awe. This means that this approach does not consider the intrinsic value of nature and tends to treat it as an object that can be utilized. (22) the anthropocentrism of most Christian theologies, which focus on the superiority of humans over all other forms of life, human salvation without reference to other creatures, and the accompanying idea that non-human nature is a resource for humans to use and enjoy, or to be treated as an inferior "other".

Theology that focuses anthropologically on ethical issues remains anthropocentric (human-centered), not theocentric or christocentric. This means that this approach prioritizes human interests over the interests of nature or God. So a better approach is theocentric (God-

centered) or christocentric (Christ-centered), which considers the spiritual values and meaning of nature in the context of faith. Thus, this approach can better respect and appreciate nature as God's creation.

(23) also emphasizes the importance of environmental awareness in a Christian context, which is in line with the principles of Green Theology. And also became the basis for the (19) in the Conference of religious shops for concern for the current environmental crisis of humanity. In addition, Willis Jenkins (24) the importance of considering the role of religion in overcoming the environmental crisis. Jenkins emphasizes the importance of environmental ethics and the role of religion in promoting environmental justice and maintaining ecological integrity. He also emphasized the importance of spiritual awareness and environmental ethics in understanding and overcoming the environmental crisis.

3.3. Opportunities and Potential of Green Theology in Addressing the Environmental Crisis

The current environmental crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. By studying the scientific basis of climate change (14), there needs to be awareness of human responsibility for current environmental changes. So that the application of the concept of Green theology is not just a narrative but a real action as a noble creation of God. Green theology encourages humans to understand their role in maintaining ecological integrity and promoting environmental justice through collective action. (22) states that it is necessary to engage with the traditions, texts, and practices of our own religious communities, as exemplified by many who have explored questions about God, Christology, creation, and planetary well-being in the Christian tradition (25-28).

The importance of collective action to address climate change. This is in line with the concept of green theology which encourages cooperation and solidarity between humans and with nature to achieve environmental justice. The integration of science and spirituality such as the IPCC report shows how science can be used to understand climate change and develop strategies to address it. Green theology can complement this scientific approach by emphasizing the importance of spirituality and ethics in understanding and addressing climate change. The opportunities and potential of Green Theology in addressing the environmental crisis are enormous. By increasing awareness and behavior that is sustainable and caring for the environment, we can reduce negative impacts on the environment and improve the quality of life.

Green Theology can be a foundation for developing sustainable and caring policies and programs for the environment by implementing religious values can be a foundation for healing the wounded earth through reflection on the word of God. (29). Humans are entrepreneurs and heirs who continue without limits, and in managing them, humans must look to God as the creator and source of everything. Supported by Northcott (18) who offers a new political theology, which recognizes the role of state boundaries in the constitution of nations and their providential duties under God.

According to Erari (21), Eco-Theology encourages changes in lifestyles that are more environmentally friendly, sustainable management of natural resources, and increasing spiritual awareness of the importance of preserving the environment. (30) stated that religious teachings and practices can contribute to environmental awareness and spiritual values can encourage more sustainable actions. Thus, the implementation of Green Theology is very important in facing the environmental crisis and can be done through environmental

education, sustainable lifestyles, and real actions to protect the environment. The positive impacts that can be generated from the implementation of Green Theology include increased public awareness and participation in protecting the environment, changes in behavior and lifestyles that are more environmentally friendly, and increased environmental quality and sustainability of natural resources.

Conclusions

Indonesia's environmental conditions are concerning, serious efforts are needed to overcome them through public awareness, law enforcement, and environmentally friendly technology, with the concept of Ecological Repentance as one solution. Green Theology is very important in overcoming the environmental crisis because it provides a holistic perspective on the relationship between humans and the environment. The implementation of Green Theology can help increase awareness and sustainable behavior, as well as promote environmental justice and interfaith cooperation. Thus, Green Theology can be a solution to overcome the environmental crisis and create a more sustainable future. Green Theology has great opportunities and potential in overcoming the environmental crisis by increasing awareness and sustainable behavior, as well as promoting environmental justice and cooperation between humans and nature. The implementation of Green Theology can be done through environmental education, sustainable lifestyles, and real actions to protect the environment, so that it can reduce negative impacts on the environment and improve the quality of life.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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