



The Relevance of Bride's Teaching of the Tabernacle Pentacostal Church Synod in the Disruption Era

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Abstract. The Bride's Teaching is a hallmark of the Tabernacle Pentecostal Church (GPT), which has been established for 52 years. The forerunner of Bride's Teaching was started by Pastor F. G. van Gessel in 1935 and later developed by his student named Ps. In Juwono as the founder of the Tabernacle Pentecostal Church synod. It is believed that the Bride's Teaching can answer various spiritual and moral challenges, so it needs to be exposed to be known more widely, especially in the current era of disruption. This research was conducted with a literature review approach through descriptive analysis to see the development of the Bride's Teaching. Based on the results of interviews and reliable sources, it was found that the core of Bride's Teaching is very important and relevant in the current era of disruption.

Keywords: Bride's Teaching, Disruption Era, GPT, Relevance

1 Introduction

The Tabernacle Pentecostal Church (GPT) is one of the 328 church synods in Indonesia that are members of the Indonesian Pentecostal Church Association (PGPI). Tabernacle Pentecostal Church was established 52 years ago on August 25, 1970. And received a decree from the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia in 1987 (SK. DEPAR RI NO. 58 Tahun 1987. Tanggal 30 APRIL 1987). Ps. In Juwono, the main founder of this church is a student of Pastor F.G. van Gessel. Among the Pentecostal churches in Indonesia, Pastor. F.G. van Gessel played a major role in the Pentecostal movement in Indonesia. The Tabernacle Pentecostal Church strongly adheres to the Bible as the Word of God and generally believes in church doctrine. However, the Tabernacle Pentecostal Church is unique in understanding Bible teachings through Tabernacle's Teaching and Bride's Teaching. These two Teachings are related to each other, in the Light of the Tabernacle [1, pp. 19–20]. In the discussion of this article, specifically about Bride's Teaching.

Pastor F.G. van Gessel first introduced the Bride's Teaching and then studied and taught by his student, Ps. In Juwono [2, p. 22]. Bride's Teaching is the main teaching and identity of the GPT synod, to bring, and prepares God's church for a perfect life as the bride of Christ. [1, p. 18]. The Bride's Teaching has received a good response

according to the vision of the GPT, namely Becoming a Blessing Without Borders. Data obtained from the GPT synod, the number of Members of the Grand Assembly (AMB) consisting of Pastors and Young Pastors was 812 people. There are 574 pastors in the congregation, with a total of 32,604 church members throughout Indonesia. To maintain the Bride's Teaching, GPT has established 4 Bible Schools with 1-year study programs and 2 Theological Colleges for undergraduate and postgraduate study programs [3].

The era of disruption is an era in which there are massive changes caused by innovations that change the order and system to a newer level. According to the analysis of several experts, Clayton M. Christensen is considered the originator of the disruption theory. The era of disruption has several characteristics (VUCA), namely massive and rapid changes with unpredictable patterns (volatility), which causes uncertainty (uncertainty), the complexity of the relationship between factors causing change (complexity), lack of clarity in the direction of change that causes ambiguity (ambiguity) [4]. Disruption is mainly stimulated by new innovations and creativity. There are several eras of disruption that have occurred in this world, starting with the Era of Disruption 1.0, better known as the Industrial Revolution 1.0 (18th century) to the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (2016) which was marked by the application of modern technology such as fiber technology and integrated network systems. The Industrial Revolution 4.0 is also known as the Internet of Things (IoT). The Internet of Things (IoT) is a technology that can revolutionize the way people live in various lines of life [5, p. 219].

Modernization in the field of technology (Industrial Revolution 4.0) brings positive and negative impacts on everyday life, including in socio-cultural and religious matters. Some of the negative impacts of technological advances are dependence on existing modern tools (mobile phones, laptops, smart tv) which causes God no longer be the main one, eliminates vital functions from the family, the level of social inequality is getting further, increasing deviant and unbiblical behavior in adolescents and parents, making individuals who tend to think and be pragmatic, arrogant and selfish, lack of privacy in one's life [6, pp. 109, 138–139]. From some of the impacts of technological advances (Industrial Revolution 4.0 - IoT) above, it can be concluded that technological advances harm morals and spirituality both individually and in groups (family or community). This is where religion is needed to suppress the negative impact of technological advances.

With the negative impacts of the era of disruption, the love of most people will grow cold (Matt. 24:12), both for God and others. The Bride's teachings are centered on the love that restores relationships, both love between God and humans, as well as between humans and within the marriage relationship. Therefore, this article was written to describe the relevance of the Bride's Teaching in the era of disruption.

2 Method

The writing of this article uses a qualitative research method with an interview [7, p. 84] and literature review approach [8, p. 2] to obtain data and explanations about the Bride's Teaching of the Pentecostal Church Synod Tabernacle. The data obtained will

be analyzed using descriptive analysis techniques [9, p. 89] which describe and summarizes various explanations about the Bride's Teaching and then briefly presents the main points of the Bride's Teaching. From the results of the descriptive analysis, the author interprets to see its relevance to the current era of disruption and ends with a conclusion.

3 Findings and Discussion

3.1 The Relationship of Christ and the Church

Based on sources from Kompasiana, one of the negative impacts of technological advances (internet) is that it makes people lazy to carry out their duties and obligations, including worship [10]. This means that most people are complacent and care less about their relationship with Christ in the era of disruption. In Bride's Teaching, apart from understanding Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, it also emphasizes the relationship between Christ and His church. The Lord Jesus Christ as the Bridegroom of Heaven and the church as the Bride of Christ [11, pp. 5–6]. In this sense, the church is a group of believers who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This understanding first states that the relationship between Christ and the church is wholly the work of Christ. Christ has justified, sanctified, reconciled, and will perfect His church through His sacrifice and death on the cross. This relationship is not a human effort, but is entirely the work of God in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). The Bride's Teaching prepares the congregation as a body of the bride of Christ which continues to be purified to perfection without blemish, which at the end of its journey can meet Christ as the Bridegroom of Heaven [12, p. 4]; Second, the church as His bride who has been redeemed by His blood still maintains its relationship with Christ through a life that pleases God [12, pp. 17–18].

As the bride of Christ, the church is obedient and lives according to God's word, worships and serves God, and keeps a holy life until the second coming of Jesus Christ to perfect it [13, p. 164]. In this concept of thinking, salvation is an intimate relationship between Christ and the church. Someone who has confidence that he has been saved, then it is real in his relationship with God, as conveyed by Marantika that salvation cannot be separated from spiritual life [14, p. 5] This means that people who have been saved will bear fruit and actions in real life. From the explanation above, the Bride's Teaching is very relevant and very important to be taught continuously amid a world that is experiencing spiritual decline by leaving the basic teachings of the Bible truth. Through this teaching, believers are reminded and guided to return to their nature as worshipers of God in Spirit and Truth who are prepared to become the bride of Christ (John 4:23, 2Cor. 11:2).

3.2 Relationships with the Body of Christ

The internet, which is a form of technological development in the era of disruption, can bring those who are far away closer and distance those who are near. People who use social media too much tend to lose empathy and ignore the life that is happening in the

real world. Be individualistic or antisocial, and prefer spending time on your phone to family or friends. yet God commands us to love one another and help one another [10]. The Bride's Teaching emphasizes Christ as the Head and the church as the body of Christ [15, p. 4]. In this sense, firstly, the life of the church is determined by Christ as the Head. Then the church as the body of Christ is seen as a unified whole, caring for one another, needing one another, supporting one another, and building one another up in truth. In implementing this understanding, the Tabernacle Pentecostal Church emphasizes the importance of fellowship among the members of the body of Christ. This fellowship was first conducted through joint worship in each local church, but also through national and international crusades (KKR) held in several big cities in Indonesia, namely Surabaya, Solo, Malang, Banyuwangi, Yogyakarta, Semarang, Bandung, Jakarta, Denpasar, Manado and Manila-Philippines [16, pp. 76–100].

This spirit of fellowship aims to embrace as many of God's people as possible regardless of church denomination to strengthen and build each other up in the Bride's Teachings. The concept of fellowship in the form of the Crusades is slightly different from the Crusades carried out by other organizations whose main goal is to reach out to people who do not believe in Christ. Although this fellowship also has a purpose for unbelievers, it mainly aims to strengthen and build the faith of those who already believe in the teachings of God's word. This crusade activity is specifically referred to as the Faith Refreshing Fellowship (PPI) by the vision of Ps. In Juwono, holding the crusade was for the building up of the body of Christ [12, p. 76]. It can be concluded that this concept has significant relevance in answering and providing life solutions that tend to be individualistic due to the era of disruption [12, p. 121].

3.3 Application in Marriage Relationship

One of the negative impacts of the era of disruption is that it can destroy the foundations of Christian family life [17, p. 23]. One of the indicators is the increase in divorce cases. This is because in a Christian marriage there is a crisis of love. One component of family resilience is having divine support or the Love of Jesus [17, p. 21]. Based on the results of interviews with Dr. Pundiono as a Chairman of the Teaching Bureau of the GPT Synod, stated that the Teaching of the Bride teaches God's self-sacrificing love as the standard in marriage. Where husband and wife must be able to sacrifice one for the other. As revealed in the marriage vows, the husband and wife must love each other under any circumstances (Interview, March 31st, 2023).

As is the relationship between Christ and the body of Christ (the Church), so is the relationship in marriage. Marriage is God's work that is highly respected and appreciated. Marriage is a lifelong bond, so it must continue to be kept in harmony with the love of Christ. About marriage, Christ as the Head means Christ is the leader of the Christian family. One of God's attributes as an omniscient One is a very strong reason for Christian marriages to have Him as the head of the household [2, p. 33–34]. Ephesians 5:22-24 concerning Christ as the Head of the church shows a clear position in marriage which describes the husband as the head of the family and the wife as the body. This must be clear in the household, so that husband and wife can carry out their duties properly and maintain harmony in the household.

Based on an understanding of the relationship between Christ and the church, the Bride's Teaching emphasizes the sanctity of the husband and wife relationship, which is evidenced by mutual love and loyalty to one's partner. In this era of disruption, this teaching is very much needed amid a world that currently does not value marriage and has lost true love meaning so divorce is considered a common thing. 155]. Ephesians 5:25-27 explains how Christ loved His church as a bride. The form of Christ's self-sacrificing and never-ending love becomes an example for believers to love one another in married life. Seeing yourself imperfect, but God still loves you perfectly. Therefore, the husband and wife in the family need to realize that there is an obligation to reflect Christ's love and fidelity in domestic life [16, p. 30, 34].

4 Conclusion

The era of disruption brings both positive and negative impacts on human life. The negative impact makes love even colder. Meanwhile, God is the source of love, so we need God's presence in all aspects of life, both in religious, social, and household life. In the teaching of the Bride, Christ emphasizes the love of Christ for humans, and how humans respond and apply it in everyday life. Based on the results of the research above, the authors conclude that Bride's Teaching is very relevant in the era of disruption where there are significant changes in the order of human life, both morally and spiritually. Therefore, strong teachings are needed that guide humans to return to the right relationship with God and, others, and in the marital relationship between husband and wife.

Research Contribution: Theoretically, this article is expected to be a reference material for the development of theology, given the lack of teaching in various Theological Schools. Practically speaking, the results of this research are expected to help Christians deal with the era of disruption that impacts human morals and spirituality in the era of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

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