

On the connection between spirituality and sustainability of highly religious Christians using the example of the study "Glaube.Klima.Hoffnung."

This presentation is dedicated to investigating the extent to which spirituality and sustainability are related among highly religious Christians. Particular attention will be paid to attitudes, actual behaviour and the link between these two and their own theology. The newly published study "Glaube.Klima.Hoffnung." by the YMCA University of Applied Sciences, which provides empirical results on this topic, serves as a starting point.

The study surveyed over 2,500 Christians in Switzerland (German-speaking and French-speaking parts of Switzerland) and Germany about their attitudes and behaviour in regard to social justice and environmental sustainability, with a focus on the theological and spiritual dimension. The research question aimed to explore the influence of theology and spiritual life on the attitudes and behaviour of the respondents. The study sample consisted mainly of highly religious Christians, whose categorisation was based on Huber's centrality scale. For this target group, faith is the most formative element in their lives and has an impact on numerous decisions and their lifestyle. The study shows that among highly religious Christians, there is very clear support for the promotion of social justice and environmental sustainability. It also shows that believers who link their theology and spirituality to socio-ecological issues act more sustainable in their private life as well as they are more socially committed to social justice and environmental sustainability.

The theological justification and integration of socio-ecological issues into faith practice and spirituality are therefore crucial to motivate Christians to adopt more socially just and sustainable behaviour. A discussion about transformative spirituality and the practice of creation spirituality in the church, youth work and Christian education can help to win Christians over to socio-ecological engagement, promote resilience and support the necessary social transformation.

To summarise, the presentation will shed light on the importance of spirituality for the socio-ecological action of highly religious Christians and look at how this can be reflected in church and youth work as well as in the diverse Christian educational work.

Further information on the study can be found at: www.glaubeklimahoffnung.net