

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji konsep *Civil Religion* (agama sipil) dalam pemikiran Robert N. Bellah serta implikasinya bagi refleksi teologi Kristen dan peran Gereja Masehi Injili di Timor (GMIT) dalam konteks kehidupan berbangsa dan bernegara di Indonesia. Agama sipil dipahami sebagai bentuk religiusitas publik yang menampilkan simbol, ritus, dan nilai-nilai transenden dalam ruang kenegaraan tanpa terikat pada agama formal tertentu. Bellah melihat agama sipil bukan sekadar alat legitimasi negara, melainkan juga memiliki fungsi profetis untuk mengoreksi penyimpangan moral dalam kehidupan publik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi tokoh melalui penelitian kepustakaan terhadap karya-karya utama Robert Bellah serta literatur teologi dan sosiologi agama yang relevan. Analisis dilakukan secara deskriptif-analitis dan kritis-reflektif untuk menilai kontribusi dan keterbatasan konsep agama sipil dari perspektif teologi Kristen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa agama sipil memiliki potensi positif dalam membangun nilai moral bersama dan memperkuat solidaritas sosial dalam masyarakat majemuk. Namun demikian, agama sipil juga mengandung risiko teologis apabila gereja terjebak dalam sakralisasi negara, nasionalisme berlebihan, atau kedekatan yang tidak kritis dengan kekuasaan. Dalam konteks GMIT sebagai gereja mayoritas di Nusa Tenggara Timur, agama sipil tampak dalam keterlibatan gereja di ruang publik, baik melalui ritus kenegaraan maupun peran sosialnya. Oleh karena itu, gereja dipanggil untuk bersikap kritis dan profetis, menjaga kesetiaan pada pengakuan iman bahwa Yesus Kristus adalah Tuhan, sekaligus menghadirkan nilai-nilai keadilan, kebenaran, dan kasih dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat. Penelitian ini menegaskan pentingnya refleksi teologi publik agar gereja mampu berperan secara relevan tanpa kehilangan identitas dan integritas iman Kristen.

Kata Kunci: Agama Sipil, Robert N. Bellah, Teologi Kristen, Teologi Publik, Gereja Masehi Injili di Timor (GMIT).

ABSTRACT

This study examines the concept of Civil Religion as formulated by Robert N. Bellah and explores its implication for Christian theological reflection and the public role of the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (Gereja Masehi Injili di Timor, GMIT) within the Indonesian socio-political context. Civil religion is understood as a form of public religiosity expressed through symbols, rituals, historical narratives, and moral language in national life without being bound to any particular institutional religion. According to Bellah, civil religion functions not only as a source of moral legitimacy for the state but also as a prophetic force that critiques political power when it deviates from values such as justice, freedom, and moral responsibility before God. This research employs a qualitative method using a figure-study approach through library research, focusing on Bellah's major works and relevant literature in theology and sociology of religion. The analysis is conducted descriptively, analytically, and critically from the perspective of Christian theology. The findings indicate that civil religion has constructive potential in fostering shared moral values and strengthening social cohesion within a pluralistic society. However, from a theological standpoint, civil religion also poses significant risks when the church becomes uncritically aligned with political power, engages in excessive nationalism, or participates in the sacralization of the state. In the context of GMIT as a majority church in East Nusa Tenggara, civil religion is evident in the church's active involvement in public life, including participation in state rituals and its influence on social and moral formation within society. Therefore, the church is called to maintain a critical and prophetic stance, grounded in the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord (Kyrios), while faithfully witnessing to the values of justice, love, and truth in the public sphere. This study underscores the importance of public theology as a framework that enables the church to remain socially engaged without compromising its Christian identity and theological integrity.

Keywords: Civil Religion, Robert N. Bellah, Christian Theology, Public Theology, Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (GMIT).