

NBS 15
M. DIV. TH.
IL - 27

SERVANT LEADERSHIP STYLE: A MODEL FOR CONTEMPORARY CHURCH
LEADERS IN CHARLES JEMIRIYE II BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IGEDE EKITI

BY

EBENEZER ILESANMI
(MATRIC NO. UJ/09/NB/0112)

An Essay in the Department of Theology
Faculty of Theological Studies

Submitted to the Faculty of Theological Studies
Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary
In Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of
MASTER OF DIVINITY (Theology)
UNIVERSITY OF JOS

2013 - 0578

JUNE, 2012

ABSTRACT

This research work focuses on servant leadership style. Leadership is a vital issue because it affects nearly every aspect of human society. Many people are suffering in our world today because of bad leadership. This issue of bad leadership has not only affected our society; it has also affected the church system. Our contemporary church leaders (pastors) are now copying the political leaders and other secular leaders in terms of power, authority and acquisition of wealth. They are not ready to serve the people; but want to be served. They see the work of ministry as a way to enrich their pockets. They see themselves better and higher than the people they are leading. They measure their success in ministry with the amount of wealth they have been able to gather. i.e .the number and quality of cars they ride, the number of houses they built, the number of accounts and the amounts of money they have in such accounts and the hectares of land they acquired. This issue of bad leadership has also affected the system of Baptist churches. The Baptist churches that have been known quite long as the people of the word, the Bible, with good leadership system is now turning away from their foundational system to the one flowing in their neighbourhood. It is obvious to say that nowadays Baptist pastors are agitating to be the most superior of the people they are leading. They are not ready to serve their members again. They put on carefree attitude towards their members spiritual and physical welfare. They do not give respect to the elders in the church; which is contrary to the practice and teaching of Jesus Christ on leadership. This issue of bad leadership among the pastors has greatly affected the growth of their churches both spiritual and numerical. These lapses in leaders roles has motivated the researcher to examine the effect of servant leadership style of the pastors in Charles Jemiriye II Baptist Association Igede-Ekiti; in order to check the excesses of the leaders and to raise their awareness about the style and command of Jesus Christ the Chief Shepherd; so as to correct their past mistakes. The research is carried out with the use of two sets of questionnaire designed for church members and pastors. They were personally handed over to the pastors and members; respondents that were randomly sampled from six churches out of nine churches of the Association. The results of data obtained from the questionnaire administered were scored and analyzed according to statistical method using frequency and percentage. The overall result of the findings showed that the pastors of the sampled churches are not weak in any area; which suggested that the questionnaire may have been subjected to series of biases which may be because of in-sincerity of the respondents, fear, influence of the church pastors, ignorance, cultural influence etc. Although, the questionnaire may have been subjected to biases, yet the result of the questionnaire cannot be totally rejected; the result still shows that servant leadership style is getting a kind of sunshine or breakthrough among our contemporary pastors especially in Charles JemiriyeII Baptist Association. Notwithstanding, there are still lots of lapses in the way these pastors discharged their leadership roles; because the growth of the church will show the level of the influence of the pastor. Therefore, pastors are encouraged to pay more attention to the use of servant leadership style in discharging their ministerial roles; lead by example; look unto Jesus for all their financial needs; churches are encouraged to meet the needs of their pastors; seminars are to be organized to teach the pastors more on the servant leadership concept and principles.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Having gone through this research it can be concluded that servant leadership style is getting a kind of sunshine or breakthrough among our contemporary church leaders (pastors) especially in Charles Jemiriye II Baptist Association. Although there were hindrances in getting the accurate result in the process of carrying out this research especially in the administration of the questionnaire, however, the result still showed that the pastors in the chosen Association are improving on the use of servant leadership style in carrying out their ministerial roles.

Notwithstanding, there were still lots of lapses in the way these pastors discharged their leadership roles; because the growth of the church will show the level of the influence of the pastor. Some of the churches in this association – Charles Jemiriye II Baptist Association are not growing as expected. So, the pastors of these

churches should put more effort to improve their leadership roles by learning and practicing more of the concept and principles of servant leadership.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the fact that most of our Baptist Church leaders are not practicing servant leadership in the discharge of their ministerial roles which have affected the growth of the church both numerical and physical, the writer hereby recommends:

1. That the pastors should be encouraged to pay more attention to the use of servant leadership style in discharging their ministerial roles because servant leadership style is very essential especially when we are talking about the church growth. This style will help the pastors to have a good relationship with his members thereby influencing them to serve God better. Servant leadership helps the leader to identify with his follower. He will know them, know their plight and he is ready to minister to their needs. Servant leadership encourages co-operation among the members. It strengthens unity among them.
2. The pastors should try to visit their members regularly because visitation enhances good relationship between the pastor and the members. They should drop the idea that pastoral visitation cannot work in our contemporary time; that it only worked in the ancient time.
3. That pastors are encouraged to lead by example. The best way to minister is to practice what is being preached or teach such that the followers can see the practical example in the life of the leader.
4. That pastors are encouraged to look unto Jesus Christ who has called them into the ministry for all their financial needs that their prosperity and wealth can only be guaranteed by the one who has called them. They should not be motivated by what

they will gain from the ministry but what they can contribute to make the betterment of the life of the members.

5. The churches are encouraged to try to meet the needs of their pastors financially such that he may fully concentrate on his duty as a servant of God.

6. Seminars are to be organized in both association and conference level to teach the pastors more on servant leadership concept and principles.

7. Finally, pastors should be encouraged not to use any other method than the one used by their master, Jesus Christ, who is the Chief Shepherd and to whom they are going to give account of their leadership/ministerial roles