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A PRACTICAL BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF SAEXUAL
IMMORALITY IN BAPTIST PASTORAL MINISTRY

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ABSTRACT

This essay, "A Biblical Response to the Problem of Sexual Immorality in Baptist Pastoral Ministry", tends towards assessing the moral uprightness of Baptist Ministers especially the Pastors. It also discusses the causes, the implications and possible solutions to eradicate the problem of sexual immorality in the Pastoral Ministry. Some Ministers have no genuine salvation experience before coming into the Ministry. Some indeed have genuine salvation experience, but due to complacency, wrong interpretation or understanding of some phrases like "Once saved always saved, security of all believers" etc., most of them are led astray. The essay revealed that sexual immorality exists in the Pastoral Ministry. The book of reports of the 98th Baptist Annual Convention Session attests to this. The Internet also reveals some astonishing sexual misconduct of Ministers with Church members. The study made use of Library and internet sources. The findings revealed that immorality in Baptist Pastoral Ministry is due to carelessness and misunderstanding of some biblical phrases. Conclusion of the work is that Ministers should know the will of God and avoid complacency. Partners should satisfy each other to great a harmonious atmosphere in the home and in the Church. Christians should know that one can still fall other be born. The pastoral ministry is a divine assignment and it should be taken seriously. A high level of discipline is required of a minister. This essay challenged the minister, church leaders and individuals to help minimize or educate the problem of sexual immorality the Baptist pastoral ministry.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Out of the many wonderful things good sex does, a very important one is the fact that it helps to reduce friction in the home by reducing minor invasions (Ola-Samuel, 21). A sexually satisfied man is usually a contented man, many wives have commented, "my husband is easier to get along with when our sex life is what it should be" My husband is a different man all together when we enjoy good sex life." All this does not affect the wife alone, even the children are able to note that Dad is a better person to relate with. And when Dad and Mum are passing through stressful sex life, you hear the children say things like "I don't even know what is wrong with Dad these days, he gets mad at everyone over every little thing."

Most men do not realize that some of their unexplained vitiations are traceable to their unsatisfied sex drive. Somehow the world looks better to a man, and his difficulties shrink when sexual harmony prevails in his home. It is as through his hard work and pressures of life are worth it all when he and his wife consummate their love through good sex. Therefore, every wife must ensure that she satisfies her husband sexually in order not only to show her appreciation of his contributions to the wellbeing of the family, but also to create a harmonious atmosphere in the home. Every women needs to know that when her man is sexually dissatisfied, frustration sets in. And this does not just affect his person in the home; it affects every area of his life, even his ministry. On the other hand, a sexually satisfied husband is a

motivated man. He is motivated to go all the way to achieve success in ministry (Ola-Samuel, 23).

Christians should know that one can still fall after be born again. No room for complacency. The following biblical passages testify to this fact: John 15:3-6 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me ... he is like a branch ... such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." These are Christians. Their sins are forgiven because Jesus said they are "clean". Yet Jesus told them that they will be cut off from the tree like a withered branch and cast into the fire, unless they continue to abide in him.

1 Cor. 9:27 "No, I beat my body and make it my slave that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize "If anyone was in "saved" condition, it was Paul. Yet he said there is a chance or tendency for disqualification if he does not continue to abide in Christ. Heb. 10:26. "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left."

This verse describes the condition of a careless Christian who keeps sinning, while believing that he is already saved. Jesus cannot come back to die for such a Christian the second time. There is no more sacrifice for sin. Ezekiel 33:13 "If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trust in his righteousness and does evil, ... he will die for the evil he has done." Here is a man who believes that his salvation is secured, which nothing can alter. He becomes careless and not continues in his righteousness. The text is clear, "he will die in his sin."

1 Tim. 4:1 "The spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits taught by demons. Because of the free will of man, he

can choose to abandon his faith and lose his salvation. Numbers 35:26-27 “But if the accused ever goes outside the limits of the city of refuge ...”

A Christian remains saved only when he remains in Christ our refuge. Mark 14:17-23, Matt 26:26. Here is a narration of how Jesus ate with the twelve disciples (the Lord’s Supper). Judas the Iscariot was there. He worked with Jesus for 3 years, he was given the Holy Spirit like the other disciples, yet he lost out at the end.

Therefore, if Judas could lose his salvation, any careless Christian can also lose his salvation. II Peter 1:9-10 “... For if you do all these things you will never fall”. Peter seems to be saying here that if the Christian does not give attention to his Christian growth, he could stumble and fall away. So there is a possibility for a Christian to lose his salvation.

Since Satan who was “second-in-command” could lose his salvation, a proud and careless Christian can lose his own salvation as well. I Tim. 4:10 “For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica”. “The Way to Heaven lies by the Gates of Hell” (Bunyan, 66). The world like Demas and be lost. It is possible for a Christian to lose his/her salvation. This should be made clear to prevent Christians from living a careless life. The teaching of “saved once saved” can allow a Christian to be complacent.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

The pastoral ministry is a Divine assignment and it should be taken as such. According to Peter White, “The failure to keep clearly in mind just what it is that we are engaged in can overtake any Christian worker” (White, 11). A high level of discipline is required of a minister. According to Abioye, “God does not pamper lazy people” and that “faith in God requires discipline” (Abioye, 115, 153). “It is very important and necessary to count worldly things as of less importance than godly

marital relationship” (Ayankeye, 45). This is true because the journey to heaven is not as smooth as some ministers take it to be. Ministers must not be careless or complacent in their ministerial duties. Remember the words of John Bunyan; “Thy way to Heaven lies the Gates of Hell” (Bunyan, 66). The ministers must therefore remain focused, steadfast and take the scripture as their compass.

Spouses should admire one another. According to Ijagbulu, “Men and women (Husbands and wives) appreciate admiration” (Ijagbulu, 001). They should be sensitive to each other’s mood and advances. They must avoid pretence. They should be ready to have sex on a very regular basis. Wife can make the first move. This is normal and acceptable. According to Ijagbulu; “Women has many signals that attract her husband for intimacy” (Ijagbulu, 005). Cultivate the habit of requesting for sex from each other occasionally. It boots the man’s ego to know that his wife enjoys his sexual performance.

Be considerate and caring if there is the need to turn down your spouse’s sexual request. Couples should learn the art of love-making to give each other maximum sexual satisfaction. This is achievable together with your spouse as you read books, attend marriage seminars/conferences, and discuss sexual matters together. Do not shy away from sexual discussions. Always encourage each other. Ijagbulu further affirmed this when he said; “Encouragement is powerful, a great weapon to change people, the more a woman is praised, the greater her efficiency and proficiency” (Ijagbulu, 012).

Couples should make themselves sexually attractive to each other. All these recommendations will not only make them to be sexually fulfilled, but will also drive them to greater success in life and ministry. Then, they can live happily together forever.