

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT ON CHRISTIAN  
PRACTICE: A CHALLENGE TO THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## ABSTRACT

This essay is titled the impact of technological advancement on the Christian practice a challenge to the Nigerian Baptist Convention. This work examines the place of technology as it affects the Christian practice of the Nigerian Baptist family and then tried to encourage the positive impacts of technology and as well discourage the negative impacts. The purpose of this work is to examine the importance of technology in the Church services, to evaluate the experience of both the pastors and the Church members on the use of technological devices, to provide necessary information on the state of Baptist Church members on the use of technological equipment and the impacts it has made on Nigerian Baptist Churches, and to suggest ways on how to tackle the challenges that may have emanated through the use of technology in this present time and future in the Baptist setting. To achieve these, the researcher made use of relevant Text books, Journals, Magazine, and other materials in J.C. Pool Library and some libraries in Nigeria plus the Internet facilities that deal with the impacts of technological advancement. In addition to these, an interview was conducted with the aid of questionnaire which was distributed to the pastors and Church members in order to sample their opinion on the subject matter. The empirical method was adopted for the analysis of the data collected from the survey or the interview conducted for the research. From the findings, it was discovered that both the pastors and members of the Church were aware of the technological advancement, and they made use of them. It was also discovered that technological advancement has both negative and positive impacts on users including churches. Pastors have roles to play to their members on check before they go out of hand. This work therefore recommends that; Baptist family should be prayerful and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading on the use of technology. Pastors and Church leaders should have adequate knowledge of the various technological developments. They should enlighten their parishioners and also be a role model to them in usage. Also, proper monitoring of young adult and Children on the use of technology should be put in place by the parents. Theological schools should include computer literacy and the use of information technology into their curriculum while Churches should not down play the role of technological advancement in worship of our contemporary time. Sanctions should be placed upon members whose phone rings during the church programmes/services. Baptist members should take delight in watching the Nigerian Baptist Channels which has just been currently launched- New frontier Channel.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

From the critical examination through research work carried out in some churches of The Nigerian Baptist Convention one would believe that technological advancement has great impact on the Christian practices of our current generation. The impacts of technology on Christian practices could be examined in the following areas: It

1. Makes the church evangelism easier
- (2) Aids the counseling and follow up of young converts and members.
- (3) Exposes young adults to social vices
- (4) Promotes comfort ability during service
- (5) Sometimes create distractions during church programmes
- (6) Promotes absenteeism and absent mindedness in the church programmes.
- (7) Promotes spiritual laziness on the part of church leaders and pastors
- (8) Promotes the infiltration of false doctrine into the church
- (9) Makes skepticism and mind dullness during service to be wiped out.

Pastors and church leaders should not therefore forget their position as the head by helping the church to harness some attitudes that can lead to the positive usage of technology and at the same time discourage the negative impacts in the life of the members.

All churches should know and understand that the characteristic feature of this 21<sup>st</sup> century church is computer and electronic and embrace it if gospel is to be taken to where the unreached can be reached. Therefore, technological advancement should be carefully handled in our churches so as to enable it to maintain its positive usage position without element of negative implications.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the findings from the research carried out, the following recommendations are suggested.

1. Baptist churches should give themselves more to prayer and the Holy Spirits leading on the use of technology.
2. Pastors and church leaders should have adequate knowledge of various technological developments.
3. Enlightenments and campaign should be made on the proper usage of technology in Churches.
4. Pastors should serve as a role model for the church in the use of technological devices.
5. Young adults and children should be monitored and guided properly on the use of technological devices.
6. The curriculum of our Baptist Theological Seminaries should include computer literacy and the use of information technology.
7. Baptist Churches should not down play the role of technological advancement in church worship in the contemporary period.
8. Sanction should be placed upon members whose phone rings during the church programme/services
9. Members should be exposed to the usefulness of technological advancement and how not to abuse it.
10. Members (youths especially) should take delight in watching the Nigerian Baptist Channels which has just been currently lunched-New frontier Channel.