

AN EXAMINATION OF CHRISTIANS' CONTRIBUTIONS
IN NIGERIAN POLITICS AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR
GOOD GOVERNANCE

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ABSTRACT

Many Christians hold the view that Christians must do away with anything called politics because it is a dirty game. This misconception about politics has led to persistence calls unto all well meaning Christians for an active Christians' participation in politics. The problem is not that Christians have not been participating in the politics at all but their participation is at the minimal level. Christians should be ready to learn from the past, because without participating actively and being well represented in the politics, there is no assurance that the freedom to evangelise will remain secured. The political and social trends of the past generations should offer clear warning that freedom and liberty requires diligent care and attention especially by the Christians' community. Nigerian contemporary politics is examined in this project to elucidate the inherent problems in Nigerian politics in order to present a background from where a meaningful Christians' participation could be developed. This project work titled "An examination of the Christians' Contributions in the Nigerian Politics and its Implication for Good Governance" is a general awakening for Christians into an active participation in the Nigerian politics. The project employed both the primary and the secondary methods of collecting data. The primary methods involved the use of questionnaire and the secondary methods involved the use of textbooks, journals, magazines, encyclopedia and dictionary. This study has proved that if Christians are ready to get involved in the Nigerian politics there is no doubt that there shall be a great difference in the political system of this nation. Christians' involvement in politics does not make Christians unrighteous. It rather gives them opportunity to help in ushering a society where the fear of God, justice and fair play shall rule. Some of the recommendations made in this project work are as follows:

- 1 Christians are advised to hold sensitive offices in the political system. They are to participate actively in politics by running for elective posts as this will ensure godly leadership in the places of authority.
- 2 Spiritual leaders in churches should encourage members to belong to a political party. But it should be noted at this level that they should not belong to a group whose aims and objectives are in conflict with the Christians standard.
- 3 Participating in political events should also be ensured by Christians. They should not be cut off in the happenings around the nation but rather show interest that will arouse public interest.
- 4 Christians are to render selfish service and shun money politics. They should also respect the laws and oppose those attitudes in politics that do not guarantee human dignity.
- 5 An attitude of effective prayer towards a better Nigeria should be cultivated by Christians.
- 6 Voting wisely during elections should be encouraged among Christians and they should be encouraged to write, call and visit the elected representatives on important issues of interest.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This study has proved that if truly the Nigerian politics will experience a change then the Christians also have great roles to play. Though it is true that many Christians have participated creditably in the Nigerian politics, but the concern is that there is need for improvement. For all Christians, the challenge to work harder is an indubitable fact which must be faced. Opinions of certain men of Godlike such as Pastor Tunde Bakare of latter Rain Assembly and Pastor Chris Okotie concerning the involvement of Christians in the Nigerian politics can be considered being helpful.

Pastor Tunde Bakare challenged Christians to take their rightful place in the ruling of the country. He said that it was because God fearing and honorable people stayed away from politics that all sorts of character had continued to increase in Nigeria, leading eventually to debasement of the nation's resources and populace. Pastor Chris Okotie in his own view supported that Christians should go into politics as God Himself established politics and governance.

Christians and churches should arise and take their ground in politics. They should do their duty to their country as part of their duty to God. Though it may not be all that easy for an individual to feel that he or she can have an influence on national politics but it could be wrong for people to overlook the influence they can make in their own town towards achieving a more just and godly society.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

There are so many ways through which Christians can contribute positively towards good governance. For the purpose of this study, their responsibilities shall be vividly described under headings of the church and the members.

THE CHURCH: God has endowed the church greatly in order to move the nation forward. The church has powers and goodwill that will make it easy for her to ascertain positive changes in the political system. Some of these responsibilities are as follows:

- 1 The church should embark on evangelical teaching on the effect of Christians' contributions in politics.
- 2 They should educate her members on the evil of tribalism
- 3 They should encourage her members to register and cast their vote wisely
- 3 They should work tirelessly ensuring religious freedom i.e working towards making available a conducive environment in which religion and religious activities can flourish well.
- 4 They should present and support capable members for politics.
- 5 They should be an advocate for moral standard and uprightness in politics.

THE MEMBERS: Individual Christians also have roles to play, most especially the members of the Christian community except those called unto the gospel ministry on full time basis. Some of these responsibilities are as follows:

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- 2 Spiritual leaders in churches should encourage members to belong to a political party. But it should be noted at this level that they should not belong

to a group whose aims and objectives are in conflict with the Christians standard.

- 3 Participating in political events should also be ensured by Christians. They should not be cut off in the happenings around the nation but rather show interest that will arouse public interest.
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