

IMPACT OF PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELLING ON CHRISTIAN HOMES
IN BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF OSUN CONFERENCE

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ABSTRACT

The title of this study was the impact of pastoral care and counselling on Christian homes in Bethel Baptist Association of Osun Conference. The general purpose is to investigate the impact of pastoral care and counselling on Christian homes and suggest ways of refining the homes. The descriptive survey research was used and this aids the researcher to critically analyze and interpret. The sample population that was used was one hundred married men and women from ten churches within the association out of which only ninety-five returned the questionnaire. Questionnaire designed by the researcher and validated by experts in the field of Christian home counselling was used for the study. The data was analyzed by using simple calculation of averages and percentages. It was found that pastoral care and counselling had greatly influenced many Christian homes in the association spiritually, financially, in term of communication, inter-personal relationship, role play and sexual intimacy. It is recommended that pastors should teach Biblical principles about marriage teach principles of communication and adequately follow up the couples to enhance harmonious living. The church should assist the homes through religious training, moderate activities and by setting standard library where the couples will have access to materials that will stabilize their homes. The couples should build their home on Jesus Christ who is the corner stone of the home, respect each other's views at all times, spend time together and they should create mutually satisfying love and friendship rituals.

5.2 Conclusion

This essay has been able to inform the readers about the effects of pastoral counselling on Christian home in Bethel Baptist Association. The contents of this essay will enable Christian homes to become a better place to live and make the purpose of God for creating families come into fulfillment according to God's standard. In line with the opinion of the writer, there is no hundred percent perfect home in the world. The challenge of each home may not be the same. Each home has its period of crisis and tension. However, there is necessity to strive for perfection. The rate at which some Christian families are separating or divorcing in the contemporary age is highly disheartening. The factors that are responsible for separation and divorce can be

managed effectively if there is adequate orientation through pastoral counselling. The Bible said my people are perishing for lack of knowledge. Inadequate knowledge about the effects of pastoral counselling on Christian homes is one of the major factors that are causing commotion in Christian homes nowadays.

It is concluded that pastoral counselling has great impact in Christian homes of Bethel Baptist Association of Osun Conference. The effects of pastoral counselling have helped the stability of many homes that complied with the directives given. At this juncture, the essay writer is of the opinion that the findings are within the scope of Bethel Baptist Association of Osun Conference can be generalized to Christian homes.

5.3 Recommendations

The writer has presented and recommended some of the vital tips that can be of assistance for the Christian homes, pastors, churches and researcher. In Christian circle today, marriage has not been harmonious as God planned it due to inefficiency from the end of some couples.

The following pastoral approaches may be taken and there is optimism that they will positively influence Christian home.

1. Pastors should teach Biblical principles about marriage, stress the importance of marriage, and organize marriage enrichment programmes for couples to have better understanding of what Christian home is.
2. Pastors should teach principles of communication, conflict resolution and encourage couples to always come for counselling when needed in order to facilitate harmony.
3. Churches must not so overloaded their members with meetings to attend and services to an extent that they have scarcely any time left to be with their families.

4. Churches should set standard library in the church premises and fill the library with books related to family among others and should include in their calendar of activities Christian home week which may be seminar or workshop on family so as update knowledge on what Christian home entails.
5. The couples should build their home on Christ; Christ should be the corner stone of the family so that whirlwind will not be able to blow it.
6. The couples should respect each other's views at all times, give particular attention to what their spouses want, believe and like; give priority to themselves over everything else in their lives after God and create mutually satisfying love and friendship customs to enhance harmonious living.
7. Couples should create a safe place to discuss issues openly and honestly; use good communication skills to resolve hot issues; find ways to spend time with one another and they should not forget to do little things that will make the partner smile and feel loved so that there will be resolution to conflicts.
8. Husbands and wives should try as much as possible to satisfy their partners sexually in order to avoid illicit affairs and they should jointly share responsibilities at home so that partner will not be overloaded.