

COMMUNICATION IN THE PASTOR'S HOME AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR  
EFFECTIVE PASTORAL MINISTRY

An Essay Submitted To Department Of Theology The Faculty Of Theological  
Studies The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso In Partial  
Fulfilment Of The Requirements For The Award Of  
Master Of Divinity In Theology

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12/ 0106

JUNE, 2015

## ABSTRACT

This study, "Communication in the Pastor's Home and Its Implications for Effective Pastoral Ministry" examines the pastor's home in the aspect of communication in order to motivate harmony, love and peace that will bring success and fulfilment in pastoral ministry. Gone are the days when pastor's home was not considered part of the ministry, contemporarily it is no longer so. In fact now, the status of the home is used as the yardstick to measure the effectiveness of ministry especially in the area of communication. So, inter alia, essentially, this study establishes the fact that communication in the Pastor's home and effective Pastoral ministry are inextricable. The methodology adopted for this material gathering is library research. Secondary sources such as textbooks, dictionaries, commentaries, concordances, encyclopaedias, lexicons, journals, periodicals, and other related resources (such as internet) were consulted for the study. The findings in this work certainly challenge pastors to learn and communicate effectively thereby enhancing stable pastoral ministry. It also reveals the need for conscious effort of pastors to maintain stable homes which will be a basis for effective pastoral ministry, otherwise crash homes and failed ministry will be imminent. Effective communication is not a gift; it is a skill to be learned and improved upon.

## Conclusion

Asharatha's definition of communication shows what communication in a Pastor's home should be like. He sees communication as motivating, informing, suggesting, caring, changes behaviour and establishes better relationships. Communication makes interaction meaningful and makes oneself understood. Communication is effective when the communication exercises the skill of oral; gestures and writing to be simple, clear, sincere and dynamic.<sup>86</sup> Every Pastor must learn this which is very imperative to the effectiveness of their pastoral ministry. It is not innate, neither is it a gift. It is a skill to be learned like driving a car.

One of the very important ways of effective communication is active listening. Active listening entails good sense of judgement, articulation of ideas, digestion of information, synthesizing of opinions and development of critical minds. The maxim of manners is even stronger in relationships than other forms of communication. Spouses should be courteous, not ill-tempered or lousy; sharp arguments ensued when voices are raised. Pleasant with appealing manner of speaking attracts attention and commitment.

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<sup>86</sup> D. Ashalatha

The implications for effective pastoral ministry where effective communication is mastered and practiced can be summarised as follows:

1. The Pastor's home would be a standard home for parishioners to emulate.
2. The Pastor's home would be an ideal in terms of serenity, understanding, unity, love, peace and tranquillity.
3. The unity experienced in the Pastors' home would show forth the effectiveness of communication. Example, communication would make the Pastors' home to be peaceful: fighting, quarrelling and arguments would be minimized as a result of effective communications.
4. The Pastors' home would be able to demonstrate understanding when emotions are wounded, feelings are bruised, thoughts are provoked, pains are inflicted and joys are exhibited. This implies that a pastor would be able to communicate his/her emotions, feelings, thoughts, pains and joys as well as understanding these psychological indices being demonstrated by others.
5. When the pastor's home becomes effective in interpersonal communication; applying the verbal and non-verbal nature of communication, the implication to effective pastoral ministry can be deduced to the extent that the church would be grounded in understanding various personality traits in the assemblage. The same understanding will rob on the church that she will have less crisis.

### Recommendations

Having gone through this work, the writer makes bold to say that indeed communication in the Pastor's home and effective Pastoral ministry are inextricable. The quality of the earlier determines the later. Pastors should understand and live by

this consciousness. The thought of Wale Olajire about the Principles of communication are hereby reiterated as recommendations for Pastors who must be effective communicators at home, where it matters most.

1. Pastor should cultivate openness in communication. He/she should be willing to discuss any issue with the spouse.
2. He/she should learn to listen and listen well (without bias)
3. No Pastor should raise his or her voice when speaking with the spouse. Rich communication is not in loudness, but in a pleasant mood which is appealing to both the mind and the ear.
4. Communication in Christian home, especially pastor's home, should be undergirded by nothing but the truth.
5. Communication should not be in an abridged manner in Pastor's home.
6. Pastor should learn how and when to communicate difficult emotions.
7. Pastor should make Bible his / her standard in the home and in the church.
8. Pastors and their families should live what he or she preaches and teaches.
9. Pastor should know that his or her family is the first church/ congregation, whereas ministry in the church should not be endangered.
10. Pastor should work together in love with his or her family. He or she should also know that parishioners are watching and expecting to see the family's impact in the spouse or parent's ministry.
11. Pastor's family should see themselves as number one citizen in the church. It should not be done in the spirit of being the best but in initiating mode, as well as model for the church and society to emulate.

12. Pastor's family should see their spouse/ parents ministry as a God-given assignment and so, should be a collective responsibility, bearing in mind that they will be accountable to God and be rewarded as well.
13. Let there be a serious and regular devotional period in the home of the pastor in order to instil God's fear and character in his or her spouse or children.
14. Pastor's family should maintain peace within and outside the home.
15. The Nigerian Baptist Convention, Conferences, Associations, should organize programmes, like seminars, training for pastors' families.
16. The congregation should see it as a responsibility to pray for the pastor's family.