

MOTHER-DAUGHTER-IN-LAW RELATIONSHIP AMONG YORUBA

CHRISTIANS IN ONA-IYE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, IBADAN:

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study Mother/Daughter-In-Law Relationship Among Yoruba Christians in Nigeria is in no doubt a vital aspect in Christian family that is crying for attention and solution considering its total effects on the society as a whole, both Christians and non-Christians alike find themselves in this problem of mother/daughter-in-law relationship as a result of various causes discussed in the body of this essay. As a result of these struggles, many marriages have hit the rock, some homes have scattered and some have turned into battlegrounds. Such struggles did not exclude Christian women. Relationship is vital to mankind and it is important to the growth of the home and the society. Marriage cannot be void of relationship between the husband and wife, relations and especially the mother-in-law and her sons' wife.

The study focused on problems that are common in almost every culture of the world based on relationship between the mother and her daughter-in-law struggling and contesting for a place of special treatment with its implications on the home setting and family ministry of the church among Yoruba Christians in Nigeria.

It was discovered from the findings that problems do arise due to the unwillingness of parents to totally let go of their children and lack of understanding about in-laws and how to handle problems that may arise. Wrong teachings before marriage are a problem because of old traditional beliefs that mother-in-laws are wicked to their daughter-in-laws. In some cases delay or lack of child bearing causes problems in mother/daughter-in-law relationship because of priority placed on child bearing as the reward of marriage and acceptance of western culture that is ignorant of Yoruba existing social order is also a cause of problems. Traditional values have been eroded from marriage procedures.

The study therefore recommended that couple should give consideration and respect to each other's culture, have heart to heart dialogue on how to allow their culture to find proper meaning in the word of God by making the bible their basis.

The importance of mother/daughter-in-law relationship should be included in ministerial training to equip ministers for the ministry, church should promote family ministry. Christians should do away with presuppositions that in-laws are evil and wicked and every form of carnality associated with mother and daughter -in-law relationship. Pursuit of peace must be an uncompromising goal for every relationship. The standard of God cannot be lowered or compromised. Thus, every mother and daughter-in-law must have the mind of Christ in order to relate successfully.

6.2 Conclusion

Thus far, in the light of the findings of this essay, it has been established that problems do ensue in mother/daughter –in-law relationship. There is need to recognize this and the Church is expected to live up to the task in helping to bring solution to the aftermath results of mother/ daughter-in-law relationship as spelt out by the scripture

Having recognized the causes of the problem of mother/ daughter-in-law relationship and the forms it takes and more so that Christians are not immune to it,

each Church should develop programmes to teach and equip members on mothers and daughters in-law relationship. Marriage does not exist without in-laws relationship. The best way is to bear with, and accommodate in-laws and develop skills to manage them for the family's advancement and unity. Only those who are committed to doing this will be at peace and enjoy happy home. Hold firmly to the vision of keeping Christian testimony at all costs and also to reach the unreached. Such a vision will attract grace from God because vision attracts provision.

6.3 Recommendations

There are fundamental truths that both mother and daughter in-law should know and this truth will be of tremendous assistance in order to develop appropriate mechanisms to successfully cope with one another.

Marriage contains unique and interesting potentials which can be tapped in in-laws relationship.

First, Mother and daughter-in-law should be proud of one another, accept each other, appreciate each other and play maturity to improve their relationship.

Second, Christian in-laws should do away with presuppositions that in-laws are evil and wicked, women are necessary evil, mother-in-laws are wicked, Carnality, Immaturity, and Selfishness etc. From such presuppositions, prejudices are developed and thoughts are polluted. Certainly, thoughts have direct effect on action. Thought also act like a magnet. What is dominant in thought will get attracted and one then act what she believes. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come". This is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:17-19 NIV).

Third, Consideration and respect should be given to each other's culture.

Fourth, Church should promote family ministry.

Fifth, Importance of mother/ daughter-in-law should be included in the ministerial curriculum.

Sixth, Couples-to-be should have heart to heart dialogue of the limitation of the involvement of their parents based on their culture and not hinge on Western that exclude parents from their children's family affairs

Seventh, Pursuit of peace must be an uncompromising goal for every relationship. The standard of God cannot be lowered or compromised. Abraham sacrificed what he needed to sacrifice to ensure peace with Lot (Gen13:5-12, 14:8-12). God sacrificed Jesus to establish peace with humanity. Thus, every mother and daughter-in-law must have the mind of Christ in order to relate successfully.