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THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR AS CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR  
IN A LOCAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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## ABSTRACT

This study is titled *The Role of the Pastor as Christian Educator in a Local Baptist Church*. It is aimed at establishing and enhancing the role of the Pastor as Christian educator in a local Baptist Church; discussed the all-encompassing parameters of his role as Christian educator; and proffered suggestions on ideals to be put in place in order to impart sound Christian education to the people in the local Church; and the skills required for this and the attention it deserves.

A questionnaire specifically designed for the purpose of the research was administered using stratified sampling technique to ensure that only Baptist Christians ages 18 and above were administered the questionnaire. The data collated from the questionnaire was analyzed by the use of simple percentages.

The study revealed that religious education has a great role to play in the life of a local church. It further revealed that the relationship between the pastor and his members is good and greatly enhances Christian education. The results also showed that the pastor should carry other members along in executing his assignments as Christian educator and that there should be a conscious effort in the pastor to conduct leadership training to advance Christian education.

Chapter five of this study presented the summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations arising from the research work, to enhance Christian Education in a local Baptist Church.

## Conclusion

From the results of the findings of research question one, it was concluded that religious education affects the life a local church positively. Religious education leads to spiritual maturity, brings about numerical growth of members, makes a Christian a better member of the church, the society, and a better home maker. The research results showed that the relationship between the Christian educator and the members should be cordial. The pastor should be a mentor, a teacher, facilitator, counselor, and a team-member.

The research further revealed that there is a relationship between the pastor's training and his performance as a Christian educator. The findings showed that a pastor's performance is directly proportional to his level of training, and there are indications that pastors who are trained in Religious Education perform better than one who studied theology or missions.

From the research it is revealed that it is very important for the pastor to carry members along in executing his role as a Christian educator. He does this by being a team-member, a good listener, and should delegate duties. The results further showed that there should be a conscious effort in the pastor to conduct training to advance Christian education.

Education is the pivot of every church. This is so because whatever needs to be done in the church is done through the act of teaching and learning. The Bible buttresses this in Romans 10:17—"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (KJV). This makes education stands very prominent in the life and carrier of the Church, and the pastor as the Church overseer.

The pastor does more than being the church overseer and preacher, he has the major role as Christian educator to administer the study of the Word, teach the people to know and understanding God; life in the world, and training for Christian living – such as impartation by teaching, the obedience of the Great Commission into the people.

Also, it is important that the Christian educator should be vast in ideals that will aid his duty and enhance Christian education as he teaches the people. This calls for further training and self development. 1 Timothy 4: 16 says, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shall both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (KJV). This is in line with the view of Berkowitz (1999:12), teachers must take heed of their spiritual and intellectual qualifications in such a measure as to warrant a rational hope of their giving correct instructions to their hearers. It is absolutely



needful that the Christian educator knows Christ personally and with passion. Boa (2007: 26) opined that Christian educator take heed and be trained.

Much as the roles and expectations of the pastor in a local Baptist church are numerous, tangible, and required, these must be harnessed and summarized as educational ministration to the church. The role of a pastor as Christian educator in a local Baptist Church includes, and sums up to a deliberate effective teaching.

For his teaching to be effective and dynamic is dependent on the parameters of the perspective of his role as Christian educator, his person, training and qualifications, his character and methods, the Pastor as a team member, his goal as pastor-teacher, and the results of his work. All these are relevant in the discus of a pastor's role as Christian educator.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Christian education affects positively all other aspects of church ministry. In order to achieve the objectives of Christian education, the pastor needs to recognize and take his responsibilities seriously.
2. The Church also needs to improve on Christian education and concern itself with how Christian education can be done better. The church should view and understand Christian education as a totally pragmatic and practical activity (Lines: 1987, 34). It is more serious when Christian education is seen as a

command from God, to the church and to individual minister of the gospel in the light of the Great Commission.

3. To start off in this Great assignment and profession, a Christian educator should know the Bible intimately, and teach the Bible passionately. Let Christian educators create hunger for God in his members by the method they use and the personal life and testimony they lead; helping members to apply the truth of the Bible to their lives, emulating the life of the pastor, and the pastor as a matter of resolution walk in Christian integrity.
4. It is important that the Christian educator builds a strong relationship between himself and the people and among the people. Taking serious cognizance of the vertical and horizontal relationships of man with God and man with man, respectively. The work of Christian education is enormous and demands great determined and selfless service. Only then would ministers of education be able to prayerfully affect the people with impact and hope to reap bumper harvest for the Kingdom. Mayer says, unless we could transform the lives of adults and reforms our community life; our other educational efforts were limited.
5. Care must be taken to consider that education, even Christian education does not end in a formal method. Education can be deliberate, subconscious and even consciously. But most importantly, a pastor as education minister must be a praying person. The Bible admonishes Christians in the book of Psalms 37:4 and 5 that we should delight in the Lord and also commit our ways unto Him, and He

shall bring the desire of our hearts to pass. Prayer in whatever a Christian does is very important. This is to drive home the injunction of the Bible that whatever we do should be done to glorify God.