

NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**AN EXAMINATION OF MORAL DISCIPLINE IN SOME
BAPTIST CHURCHES IN OGBOMOSO**

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Abstracts

In this study, the important factors associated with moral indiscipline in some Baptist Churches in Ogbomoso have been vividly investigated. The main purpose is to find out some of the ways in which pastors and leaders and church members contribute to indiscipline among the congregation.

With this in mind, an instrument informs of a questionnaire based on the factors associated with moral indiscipline in some Baptist churches were designed to collect data for the study. Data were collected from six Baptist churches as sample for the study. Further informations about acts of indiscipline in Baptist churches were collected through oral interview. The data collected were analysed according to the responses of church leaders and church members to each statement on the questionnaire.

Therefore, the following findings were deduced from the research study: Parent's attitudes to their children contribute to incidence of moral laxity. Pastor and leader's attitudes contribute to moral indiscipline in the church. Peer group contribute to moral indiscipline in the church. Some influential and untouchable members also contribute to moral indiscipline in the church.

B. Conclusion

Going through the people's opinions and examining the interviews, one needs to emphasize the signification of church discipline on every church member as well as the pastors. The time has now come to purge the impurities in Baptist churches to meet Jesus' expectation. He had died for the church and cleansed his church. (John 13:2-15, Matthew 21:12-13; 26:17-2a)

Since, the opinions and interview agreed together that some church members are not really converted, the pastor therefore need to buckle up their belt to face the challenges a head. They need to preach good sermons (i.e Sin- touching sermons) and at the same time exposing the covered secrets of all kinds. The rent-cause of most indisciplined lives are attributed to lack of salvation or ungenune conversion. Pastors should rise to meet these needs.

Reverend S.A Adeniji lamented over the state of spiritual depression in Baptist churches of today. According to him, church members need total transformation, otherwise the church is going nowhere ¹⁰.to him, no pastor should condone any sin no matter how little it may be.

¹⁰. A.A. Adeniyi, Interviewed; Caretaker B.C. Ogbomoso 6th October, 2003.

While contributing to this issue, Reverend Titilade Adetayo of Gaa-lagbedu bemoaned the rate of moral indiscipline in Baptist churches nowadays¹¹

The ugly incidence, he said, moved him to organize a programmes which caters for young ladies so that they might keep themselves virgin till their marriage day. To him, programme has began to yield good fruits which motivated the women to participate. Those who found themselves in fornication and adultery have now realized their inguities.¹²

The need of exemplary lives by the pastors is very much important, having seen the cases of pastors involvement in adultery and fornication among the member of Lydia auxiliary and women's choirs.

The time has come for Baptist churches, especially in Ogbomoso, (the "Jerusalem" of Nigeria Baptists and of some west African Baptist Nations to meet God's expectation and that of Reverend T.J. Bowen (a God sent mission arley to west Africa) by rising up to sanitize the church of God and redeem the society, government institutions inclusive. The present president of the Nigerian Baptist convention (Rev. Dr. Ademola Ishola is trying to make spiritual improvement and every church is being expected to follow suit.

¹¹. A.A. Adeniji, Interviewed; Oja-oba. B.C. 10th November, 2003.

¹². A.A Adeniji, Interviewed Oja-oba B.C. Ogbomoso. 7th November 2003.

The Nigerian Baptist convention has enough material for teaching correct doctrine be it for enquirer's class or discipleship programmes. Reverend Titilade Adetayo emphasizes the use of teaching in Baptist churches so that member might meet God's standard.¹³ Lectures and seminars or workshops should be organised periodically for different group like Lydia, R.A; YM, S.S. C.T.P, Ruth association (widow/windower) unemployed, business men/women/students, G A. sunbeam, M.M W.M.U .He said further that, "this is what the Pentecostal churches are using to over take us (Baptists) by producing refined Christ's followers". To him Baptist is full of raw Christians without Christ and it is time to check this through various disciples' programme.

The place of prayer needs to be emphasized here some Baptist church members are weak in term of prayer. Even with the acceptance of night vigil, more than a half of the members of each. Church have not participated in Baptist prayer hours. Jesus went to the wilderness for forty days and nights to pray hence he had successful ministry (Matthew 4:1-2) Reverend A Adeniji observed that unless the prayer life of every Baptist member is improved, moral decay will continue to exist in the church¹⁴. He went further that God has helped him to organize a monthly "prayer programme targed " Fi ona re le Oluwa lowo" meaning (commit your way to God). To him, the programe has been yielding fruitful results

¹³. Titilade Adebayo, Interviewed Gaa-lagbedu B.C. 7th October, 2003.

