

**EVALUATION OF THE PASTOR'S ROLE IN  
HANDLING TEENAGERS' PROBLEMS IN  
OGBOMOSO NORTH-WEST BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION CHURCHES**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This essay is titled "Evaluation of the Pastor's Role in Handling Teenagers' Problems in Ogbomoso North-West Baptist Association Churches." The work examined the activities of teenagers that leads to crisis and then tried to evaluate the pastor's role in handling these problems.

Pastoral role is very vital in handling teenagers crisis. It is another means of evangelizing the teenagers for Christ. Though they are rebellious in attitude and hard to deal with, still with the use of counseling, care and paying much attention to them, they can be reached and ministered to.

This work is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the introductory matters, which includes the statement of the problem, purpose of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, methodology and definition of terms. The second chapter deals with the review of related literatures. This talks about teenagers stage and characteristics, some contemporary socio-moral problems associated with teenager stage, causes of problems and different problems among the teenagers and the effect on them and the role of pastor in handling teenagers problems. The third chapter is about the methodology used for the work. While the fourth chapter is for data analysis and discussion. The final chapter which is the fifth chapter is on summary, conclusion and recommendations.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

Many of the pastors have described the teenagers as being inquisitive, stubborn, interesting, impatient and zealous. Therefore they are difficult to handle. This is due to their transitional stage of development. Notwithstanding, they must be handled properly with a lot of love and care because they are the tomorrow leaders of the church and the society at large. The Bible says "if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Therefore, the churches/pastors must arise to their responsibilities in molding the lives of these youngsters.

Teenagers can become business venture for the church. This means that teens should be an investment in which we must be interested in. Therefore, the church/pastor should invest interest in the teenagers. This is because the teenagers are the fertile ground (just as an adage goes "catch them young") upon which all kind of seeds can be sown with the confidence that they will germinate. According to Adedokun "The teenager is one who, can be expected to accept most ideas, practice all suggestion and participate in all adventures (29).

Therefore the pastor must be willing to devote quality of time for attending to these teenager with love and care, so that they will be drawn to him and expose their secrets/problems that has been



weighing them down. The pastor must be ready to build a good relationship with the teenagers paying attention to them both physically and spiritually.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings from the research carried out, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. The church pastor should see the teenagers as part of his congregation that he should minister to and not only the adults.
2. The pastor must understand every teenagers to be a potential crisis/problems carrier because of the stage they are passing through. This will help in treating them with understanding. Pastors should discover their needs by talking to them about their concerns. They should find out what's bothering them, what they're struggling with and their questions. Then they can address those concerns in a Christian context.
3. The pastor should be willing to come down to the teenagers level i.e. he must be involved in their activities. A Yoruba adage says "Eni ti yo ba mu obo gbodo se bi obo" that is, anybody that wants to arrest a monkey must behave like a monkey. Although not necessarily becoming a monkey.
4. There must be genuine love for the teenagers and not equating them with rebellion. If possible visit them at home i.e. be friendly with them. Although loving them will not be

easy because when you think they're coming around, you may find them heading the other way. Pastors must just take the risk of building relationship with them.

5. The pastor and his family should live a transparent life worthy of emulation.
6. The routine programmes for the youth/teenagers should be reviewed to match the current technological development in the society. When teenagers are spiritually engaged the chances of their falling as easy prey to crime, crisis and problems becomes a bit remote.
7. The pastor must pray for the gift of discerning of spirit to know when these teenagers are in crisis.
8. Church/pastor should create a separate group (i.e. a standing ministry) for them (e.g. teenager group or fellowship), where various educational and inspirational programmes will be introduced to them. This will help to reduce the influence on them by the society.
9. Pastors should create time to lead the teenagers in the truth of the word of God. They should preach sermons appropriate to their experiences e.g. family, relationships, graduation, friendship and the future. In this way they will communicate awareness of them. They should show that they care and they should encourage the whole congregation to keep teenagers needs in mind.

10. There should be a proper discipleship programme in place for them. Pastor should also enhance adult-teenager relationships. Some adults who don't naturally get along with the teenagers think the generation gap is unbridgeable. So they maintain their distance from teenagers and never build relationship with them.