

**THE EFFECTS OF CHRISTIANITY ON TRADITIONAL
MARRIAGE IN OGBOMOSO:**

A CASE STUDY

NBTS
L 33-e
M-DIV.

BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO:

**THE FACULTY OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.**

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT TO THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF DIVINITY (DEGREE)

BY:

LASEHINDE, GABRIEL OYEGBOLA

JUNE, 2001

07-0243

ABSTRACT

The research work is designed to examine how Christianity has influenced traditional marriage in Ogbomoso. The reasons for this study came from the researcher's observation that Christianity is affecting traditional culture, and to put on record for in coming generation to know about traditional marriage customs. The opening chapter is the general introduction, where it was mentioned about the spread of Christianity in the last sixty years, and other protocols of introductory chapter were observed; like methodology, aims of study, delimitations and definition of some core terms.

Chapter two covers four types of marriage: Traditional, Christian, Muslim and Court Marriage. The chapter also explains the programmes of each marriage' before, on and after wedding day.

Chapter three covers the effects of Christianity on traditional marriage, as some topical issues on marriage were handled and the Biblical teachings on the topics. The topics include; choice of partner, articles of bride wealth, in-law relationship, wedding day, polygamy, divorce, cultural practices and rites. These effects do not only limit to traditional marriage but rather extends to other marriage types. As religion cannot be completely divorced from culture, Chapter four appraises the pro and con of Christianity on traditional marriage, and explains which part of our culture that should be upheld and which should be dropped, as it relates to the topical issues discussed in chapter three. Chapter five gives the summary, conclusion and recommendation.

The study discovered that:-

- (i) Christianity has not only affected marriage but also economic and spiritual level of the people.
- (ii) Wedding is an important day to everybody, especially the new couple.
- (iii) There are areas of differences within Christian sects in the use of articles of joining couples like the ring and the Bible.
- (iv) Both Christian and other marriage types have legal backing and recognition.
- (v) Finally, there are other areas in marriage for further research.

CONCLUSION

The principle of traditional marriage should be reviewed along with christian marriage culture. One of the main themes in marriage is love, but if the financial needs and other marital fulfilments are not met, the marriage may be tending towards divorce. To sustain a home or for a marriage to stay greater part of reasons (if not all) for marriage should be met. The marriage aspect of Ogbomoso people still remains the most challenging, because there is no discrimination; they show love to one another, there is always sense of blood relation.

They always sing:- Elebi o di ebi e mu o

E wo omo egbon

E wo omo aburo

Ebi wa dun.

Literal translation:- Each should hold his family

See the children of the seniors

See the children of the juniors.

Our family is good.

The people of Ogbomoso do spend too much when they are having marriage, naming and funeral services. The issue of wasteful spending should be addressed by our churches, in order to make a difference between christians and others. The wasteful spending on marriage, naming and funeral, has remained challenging to the researcher. Despite the differences in their religious beliefs, the people work as a team when it comes to ceremonies. Their respect for another cannot be evil spoken of. The daily life of the people has been a challenge to their gods and the way people are joining Christianity has been of great interest to the researcher.

A quality choice of partner can only be made when the would-be husband and wife agree and make a choice on their own. It is not good to follow the concept of old tradition "the extraordinary traditional protocol", the insufficient regard for the girls and boys choice of partner; as a strategic step towards forming a happy home, not necessarily Christian, Muslim, traditional or court marriage but of love. It would be a damaging fallacy to maintain that parents or church leaders should continue to make the choice of partners for our young ones.

More frequently, however, are changes in the wedding programme from one denomination to the other. The programme starts continue to fall short of standard in terms of wording of the programme which is closely linked with the diversity of denominations and their levels of diversity in doctrine. By contrast, christian marriage supurs people by different social programmes and large-size of people are adopting christian marriage culture, at least a greater part of Ogbomoso Community are now christians.

In this case, Christianity is displacing traditional culture either wholly or partly. Nevertheless, there are some areas where culture should be emphasized, despite the changes that Christianity has brought into the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

My working on the topic "Effects of Christianity On Traditional Marriage" has given me an opportunity to have greater insight into marriage problems, through books, projects and articles read, and interview the researcher had on marriage. As a suggestion for further research, the researcher recommends that "Marriage Superstitions" as they affected Christian principles of Scripture, should be considered for the next research. Also a further closer look should be given to some Christians who belong to the conservative Evangelical Community, who have seen marriage as the sole responsibilities of the church leaders and pastors, to choose partners for their church members. And some of these conservative groups do not allow their members to marry outside their church, especially girls. If a boy marries outside the Church, no member will attend, not even their pastor.

Some denominations emphasize the use of ring, while some have not seen the importance of ring in marriage. It is better therefore, to have further studies into these imported cultures like ring, wedding gowns, carrying of flower, the bridal train and the use of confetti in Christian marriage. In the times past, ring was the only article the of joining couple, why is the Bible is also used as one of the Christian articles of joining.

Finally, a study should be made into the effects of counselling on marriage; experience has shown that counselling plays a vital role in marriage. It is equally advised that all our marriages, birth and death should be registered, in order to have reliable daily population census of this Country. It will also help to plan for every Nigerian, when the actual population is known.