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THE IMPACT OF THE CHURCH IN CURBING
MORAL DECADENCE AMONG TEENAGERS IN
OGBOMOSO NORTH-EAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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ABSTRACT

The research titled “The impact of the church in Curbing Moral Decadence Among Teenagers in Ogbomoso North-East Baptist Association.” The study was embarked upon because of the lamentable state of morals among teenagers these days and the impact of the church in arresting the situation. It also attempted to look at the causes and effects of moral decadence among the teenagers and what further could be done to arrest the situation.

Questionnaire was maximally explored for data collection. The sample used was the Ogbomoso North East Baptist Association in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference churches where selected out of the twelve Baptist Churches in the Association.

The study concluded that in deed there are cases of moral decadence among teenagers, both male and female. This as a result of many factors such as: Poverty, ignorance, lack of parental care, lack discipline in school and government attitudes toward moral related issues.

The findings from this study showed that the church can still do more in curbing the menace of moral decadence among teenagers by giving regular and adequate counseling, vocational training and carrier talks to the teenagers. The church must make special budget provision for the upbringing of teenagers.

It was also discovered through this work that Government should complement the effort of the church by becoming more practical in her poverty alleviation programmes such as creating more employment opportunities and creating enabling environment for local and foreign investors so that life can be more comfortable.

Conclusions

Based on the findings in this research the following conclusions were reached. Because teenagers love to be in the church with their friends, therefore, the church has more opportunity to minister to them; and because of their interests in computer and internet facilities the church can employ computer and internet to impact more on the teenagers. Media and print can also help in complementing the efforts of the church in this regards.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made.

Teenagers

Teenagers should know that it is sinful and against the will of God to be immoral and following what self wants rather than what God wants leads to future problems therefore, they must be submissive to all the moral instructions either in the home, school or church. They should understand the imperativeness of Romans 12:1-1. which says.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to rest and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Teenagers should also consider James 1:21-25 "therefore, get rid of all moral filth and evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." Teenagers should learn to shun bad company and be resolved early enough to be good examples for others, they should be open to training, they should be self controlled and should not conform to any evil desires. Above all, they must surrender their lives to Jesus Christ, their maker Lord and Saviour and be prayerful always. It will help them to flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith and to live self controlled, up right and morality lives.

Teenagers are the future leaders. Hence, there is need to give them true sense of direction with all the relevant tools to work with and with divine guidance of God. They must be helped early enough to believe in God and in themselves as good

instruments in the hand of God, to the glory of God and for the betterment of humanity.

Home

The home as the cradle and the first point of call for the child's formal and informal training should be properly secured. The home should be re-oriented toward inculcating good morals into children. The homes should not slack in the provision of the first contact or basis for moral instruction and therefore create a good platform for church since "charity begins at home."

Parents should be of good examples to their children since children learn first by what they see their parents and siblings do. Therefore, concentrated effort should be made for total upbringing of children in all ramifications. Discipline must be properly employed in nurturing the children. Issues that demand immediate attention either to rebuke or correct should be done as at when due. Parents should be aware of the company their wards keep and proper censor must be given.

Church

The impact of the church in curbing moral decadence cannot be overstressed. As reflected in the opinions of greater percentage of the respondents that the church is a formidable agent of reformation and transformation. It is, therefore, recommended that the church should have "teenager's" church where concerted effort will be made for total growth and development of teenagers. Pastors and other trained and qualified personnel should be prayerfully called to handle teenagers so that the church can make more impact.

Church leadership should be by example, discipline should be employed appropriately in the church. Regular and adequate counseling, vocational training and career talks should be part of church programmes for teenagers. Adequate space, facilities equipment and materials should be provided for the teenagers they must be included in the budget provision of the church. Above all, teenagers should be equipped with the word of God and effective prayer life. "With God all things are possible." (Luke 1:37).

School

If the impact of the church in curbing moral decadence will have more positive result, then the school must play its role. The school should make provision for moral education in its syllabus teachers should be encouraged to be good models in speech, action and dressing. They should discourage examination mal practices by encouraging hard work they should do their work diligently.

Government

Findings showed that poverty was a serious contributing factor to the causes of moral decadence in the society, government should therefore be more practical in her poverty alleviation programmes such as more employment opportunity and creating enabling environment for local and foreign investors so that life can be more conducive for the masses.

Government should also endeavour to promote all what it takes to empower teenagers for future and self reliance. Government should censor media to reduce crime, and promoting of sex abuse. The media should also be effectively used to complement the effort of the church in curbing moral decadence.