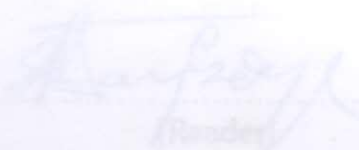


**A Study of Baptist Members'  
Expectations and Assessments  
Of their Ministers**

NBTS  
M.Div  
Ayo 61-S

Being a project submitted to the  
Faculty of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary,  
Ogbomoso, in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements of the award of the  
Master of Divinity degree.

By

  
**Samuel Olusegun Ayodele**

December, 2001.

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## *Abstract*

The study is borne out of the investigator's wish to establish what expectations the Baptist members have of their ministers, in the stark realization that Baptists are among the most critical of Christians. The study also intended to establish how the Baptist members would rate their ministers' performances on the pulpit and in life outside the church.

To establish these, a questionnaire was drawn by the investigator and was consequently submitted for comments and modifications by his colleagues on the staff of the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, the leading centre for educational research in this country. Thus severely critiqued, the instrument was modified for data collection in some churches in Oyo and Osun states. Consequently, a total of 240 respondents were involved in the study, each of them a recognized Baptist member.

From the responses, we find that the members expected an ideal Baptist minister to:

- a. possess a sound education, preferably a university degree;
- b. be trained in a Seminary and not one who just feels called without subjecting himself to a formal training;
- c. to be happily married rather than a bachelor, a monogamist or widower while a divorcee or a polygamist is considered most unfit;
- d. be supported by his/her spouse in his/her ministry;
- e. to have clearly repented of his/her sexual sin if such had been committed in the past;
- f. to preach actively with life, although without having to resort to raining hell fire on the listeners;
- g. to preach sermons that are lively enough to make one laugh and yet make one to examine one's ways;
- h. to master the Bible and cite it regularly in his/her sermons;

- i. to preach sermons which are short but sharp, without using confidential information about persons in the sermons;
- j. to use songs and choruses in sermons which are mostly about the kingdom of God.

When it comes to assessing their own ministers, the members returned responses that showed that their ministers:

- a. prepare thoroughly, resulting in perfect deliveries of effective sermons;
- b. deliver stimulating and moving sermons that challenge them;
- c. pray quite often and inspiringly;
- d. visit members sufficiently;
- e. counsel members effectively and professionally;
- f. support evangelism actively, and thus support outdoor preaching;
- g. support and encourage each of the major church activities such as the Sunday School, the Church Training Programme, the Choir, the Royal Ambassadors, the Men's Missionary Union, the Women Missionary Union, the Prayer Meetings, etc.;
- h. support and work smoothly with other officers within the church, such as the associate pastors, the deacons, the sexton, gardeners, counselors, etc., [where there are such other officers in the church];
- i. display a healthy attitude towards issues bothering on their salaries and those of other paid officers within the church;
- j. maintain a happy family life without engaging in acts that could implicate them and put their morality into question.

On the basis of these very great commendations by members, the investigator was able to conclude that our ministers in the field are doing a laudable job in the Lord's vineyard. For this, it was recommended that the churches should further encourage their ministers by criticizing them less while enhancing their financial status.

S. O. Ayodele.