

ANGER: A CASE STUDY OF A PASTOR'S WIFE

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a research of "Anger": A case study of a Pastor's wife". It focuses on Pastors wife handling of anger. The study specifically looked into Personal and Interpersonal reasons for anger, direct provocation, frustration, lack of self cultural understanding of anger, Yoruba Cultural understanding of anger, Cultural approaches to anger, the Biblical understanding of anger as it relates to the Old Testament, the New Testament and Jesus Teachings on Anger, Paul's Teaching on Anger. The study also discusses why Pastors get angry. This essay looks into the consequences of expressing anger both positively and negatively, from family background and their problem, the effect of the pastor's wife anger on the church and the family.

This essay then look into the Pastoral care approach and the implication of anger for the Pastor and implication of the church. Because of the great realization of the effect of uncontrolled anger, ways by which Pastors and their Wives can handle their anger are provided to avert such effect now and in the future.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study has sought to find out the effect of pastor's wife anger in the church and on the pastor's ministry. The study was limited to a pastor's wife as a case study.

The research started by focusing on the conceptual framework of the study. It highlighted how anger is viewed through attracted comments, concepts, Biblical and Cultural points of view about anger.

The result of the analyses of this study was based on the case study. This conclusion can be reached; that every pastor's wife should realize that she is not only herself a pastor but a pastor's pastor. She is expected to be a symbol of the reality of pastoral ministry that her husband embodies.

In the case of Shade she failed to realize this and became careless about her husband ministry. She also allowed her personal and selfish interest go before every other person of any other interest. This should not be so with a pastors wife who should see herself too as co-worker in the vineyard with her husband. Shade also failed to realize that she is now married to a man of God and she is now dealing with the general public and not in her family house anymore. Hence her need to sacrifice her pride to move the work of God forward.

It was discovered from the study that because of the negative and uncontrolled use of anger by Shade and Oladele, their family was affected in many ways. One

that the children did not experience the harmony and love from both parents and the parental care that is expected in a family for children. The home also divided became as some of the children took side with their mother who they perceived as being right. While others were on the side of the father. This led to hatred in the family, lack of trust, and suspicion on the part of every members of the family. The effect on the family further made it impossible for Oladele to control his family as he lost grip on discipline and his authority at home. Shade on the other hand was being seen by the family of her husband. That is, the relatives saw her as "a bad woman" who is not wise to be a wife, therefore she is a bad omen then.

In summary because Oladele could not control his family any longer, which is in contrary to what the scripture says that a Pastor should be one who has control over his family, Oladele also lost his authority over the church of God. This affected his ministry negatively. He could no longer trust anybody in the church and he began start suspecting that church members were his 'perceived' enemy. The church members on the other hand did not see how Oladele could continue to be their Pastor. To them how could a wife beater, be a Pastor. How could a Pastor for whom fights be the pastor? His counselling programme suffered as no member was willing to go and they stopped coming to share their problem with the pastor for counselling. His sermons no longer had effect on members of the church. Therefore members started moving to other churches or

rather they stayed at home. Eventually he was force out of the church and this is likely to be an abrupt end to his ministry.

The causes of Shade's anger can be traced to the unbringing she has concerning her early life experience in which she was the pet child of the family. There she had the right to do things the way it pleased her. Unfortunately the responsibilities of being a pastors wife and the responsibilities and demands of ministry in which she was expected be a role model negated her idea to of a rosy bed. Her inability to have what she wanted led to frustration. Again, Shade wanted to be a boss even in the church, but the resistance she met by member formed a barrier between her and her wishes. Again this also led to her being angry.

The background of Shade had made her feel that she should always have her way in everything. For her whatever would stop her was to be met with serious force which often generate anger in her which has now become part of her daily life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is normal to see aggressive behaviour among social beings. However, when it becomes explosive in nature this should be a thing of concern to everyone. That anger could be exhibited between church leaders and their followers (church members) to the present state at which it is being seen in our churches today is sad.

It is therefore recommended that churches organize seminar on marriage and family management. They should be taught on how to make marriage work. Specialists, that is trained Pastoral care and counselors, should be invited to handle such seminars and most probably be invited from time to time to give talks about family problems and how to manage them.

Pastors' fellowship should organize retreat on associational, conference and convective level to deal with specific issues an anger and anger management, how not to use anger and how to handle them this will go along way in helping pastors to handle not only the anger at home but that which is likely to come from church members.

Shade and her husband need to own up their anger, approach a pastoral counsellor, most preferably, the pastor who has more idea about anger and aggression and be willing to start a new life by facing the reality life on how they have allow uncontrolled anger damage their life, family and ministry. They should also forgive each other and be ready to live together again, and to let love live among them and the children, this will go a long way in restoring Oladele's ministry and their family.

This is a family problem that only Shade and Oladele can decide either they still want to live together or they want to live separately. Any attempt by anyone to force any decision on them may further but the already bad situation worse.

