

NEHEMIAH'S LEADERSHIP STYLE: A MODEL FOR NIGERIAN BAPTIST
CONVENTION LEADERS.

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A LONG ESSAY SUBMITTED TO
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ABSTRACT

The research methodology is based mainly on the Bible. Other sources are from Christian and non Christian authors that have dealt into details on leadership as a subject. Bible dictionaries, commentaries, articles from journals and newspapers were consulted.

The writer analyzed and synthesized the good qualities of Nehemiah in the Bible. However, servant-leadership style was finally identified with Nehemiah. It was also identified as the ideal leadership style that was used by Jesus Christ. Hence it was consequently recommended for the Nigerian Baptist Convention leadership in order to strengthen peace and harmony within the body.

The conclusion was drawn by reiterating the style of leadership that could soften the hard problems faced by the churches co-operating with the convention which is servant-leadership. The writer recommends and adds among other things that leaders that want to learn more on leadership styles are to study other biblical leaders. This to a larger extent will expose them to various leadership styles that will make them effective leaders that can yield good result.

To sum up, the process of great leadership is to tread the road to great leadership (Kouzes & Posner 2003: 120). Any successful leader has to challenge the process. The main challenge that stared Nehemiah on the face was the falling down of the wall of Jerusalem. He rose up to see the rebuilding of the wall.

A leader has to be preoccupied with any given situation that needs to be improved and set to work on it. If such challenge could not be physically seen, he can inquire from God and the people surrounding him.

Next is to share the vision with the people. The language to be used in sharing such a vision must be clear and understandable. The visionary must not be seen as a lone ranger or a singular person in charge of the vision alone. While doing this, the leader must provide tools with which his followers will work with. This includes the methods to solve the problems before them by ways of directives, advice or giving samples on how to go about the work. It is a way of modeling the way from others to follow. The method makes the assignment quicker to accomplish like heart-warming the led through series of encouragements. Even when a disappointment sets in along the way, the best thing for the leader is to keep the pains within him and keep on encouraging people to forge ahead.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The contents of this long essay reveal that leadership is paramount to the growth of the church. Leaders are to be versatile in series of styles found in the biblical leaders. In order to make this a reality, the writer recommends the following.

1. Further research to be conducted on the subject of the work in order to get more details on Nehemiah's leadership styles. This will widen the horizon of church leaders for an extensive leadership styles to work with.

2. The outcome of this research should not be limited to Baptist leaders alone. Efforts should be made to make it available to all other Christian leaders in other denominations.
3. Other biblical leaders could be studied in order for the church leaders to experience diversification of leadership styles.
4. The full text of the book of Nehemiah, as written in the Bible should be studied properly to get the first hand information before reading this research work to afford for good understanding.
5. Church leaders should take seminars more seriously especially the ones on leadership to expose themselves to leadership styles all over.
6. The curriculum of the seminary should accommodate studies on some biblical leaders at all levels of academic programmes because leadership skills are of importance to all church leaders.
7. Both leaders and the led should constantly renew and rededicate themselves to God to the leadership services to God and humankind

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