

**PROBLEM OF MISDEMEANOUR AMONG PASTORS'  
CHILDREN**

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## ABSTRACT

Chapter one of this essay gives a general introduction to the research, highlighting the purpose of this study and its benefits. It also contains a description of research process and a precise definition of key terms employed by the writer. A brief literature review follows immediately, highlighting the findings of other researches on this subject. Attempt is made to contextualize the study as well as evaluate the relevance of other researches cited to the research question under consideration.

In chapter two, the emphasis is on laying foundation for the research. It opens with a biblical foundation in which a survey of the Old Testament canon and New Testament canon to find a basis for this study is done. A theological foundation is laid subsequently, and finally an ethical, social and psychological basis is established.

The third chapter contains the result of field research. A full description of population studied as well as a summary and analysis of data is presented. Analyzed results are thus related to the answering of research question.

The fourth and final chapter contains some recommendations of the writer and a general conclusion of the study.

## **B. CONCLUSIONS**

Misdemeanour among PKs is a source of valid concern. It passes a vote of no confidence on pastoral authority and threatens the life of the church as communo sancto.

From the foregoing research therefore, the following findings are evident:-

1. Misdemeanour among PKs can be caused by one or a number of the following factors:-
  - a. Inattention and inadequate parenting. To take ministry pressure as a alibi for inadequate parenting is a contradiction of terms. It is common knowledge that pastors are very busy people, as such their children are starved of paternal parenting.
  - b. Doubtless, Satan seeks every avenue to ruin pastoral ministry, and it seems the best foothold he has is in the PK. He ruins the PK and by implication falls the pastor.

- c. Church members doubtless spend more time criticizing their pastors and families rather than pray for them. This research reveals that PKs are not prayed for by church members.
- d. Peer pressure is admittedly a powerful agent of moral decadence. PKs are negatively influenced, and dared to become devils by their peers. The high moral demand exerted on them by society becomes a heavy load under which they groan only for their peers to dare them to let off the weight. In most cases the response is a sharp drop in moral values. PKs are exposed to these harsh realities most especially at public schools.
- e. The problem of sin makes it impossible for the unregenerated soul to be righteous before God. Misdemeanour can be a manifestation of sin, because sin distorts our moral judgement.

2. Effects of misdemeanour among PKs include the following:-

- a. Pastors' messages are watered down. This is especially true when the pastor tries to avoid confronting the scourge.
- b. It leads to a loss of confidence in the pastor's spiritual leadership being that his children are out of his control.
- c. The label "sons of Bellial" seems to be put on many a PK. Often times PKs are left to their fate under the pretext of leaving them to God's judgement. They thereby degenerate.
- d. Most church members do not confront their pastors with such issues, they would rather generate and spread rumours as well as gossip around.
- e. Church punitive disciplinary processes can become cumbersome because the PK is involved and the pastor may want to protect him/her.

- f. Pastor's wife loses her respect among women in the church, especially when her daughter is caught in shameful acts.
  - g. Other PKs, the good ones or so, would not be spared. They are usually severely criticized as well.
  - h. It is important to note that PKs' behaviour influence the behaviour of other children in the church. It may not be clearly established that there is a correlation, however, suffice it that other children model the lifestyle of the PK to a certain extend, and in certain respects.
  - i. We may not be able to ascertain that church crisis could result from PK misdeeds, but it behooves on us to assert that it generates tension that could be fueled through other extraneous factors.
3. Solutions to the scourge include:-
- a. Upgrading pastor's remuneration.
  - b. Equipping church members to understand and help problem PKs.
  - c. Establishing pastors' children fellowship in every neighbourhood.
  - d. Including courses on child rearing in seminary curriculum in order to equip pastors with parenting skills/techniques.
  - e. Pastors and church members should make praying for PKs a priority.
  - f. Organizing seminars and camp meetings for PKs regularly.<sup>1</sup>
  - g. Designing scholarship schemes for well-behaved PKs as extrinsic motivation.
4. Pastors and church members do not differ significantly in their perception of the causes of misdemeanour among PKs. The implication is that they can forge a

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<sup>1</sup> The first national pastor's kids camp in Costa Rica held from January 19-21, 2001. It was reported to be a tremendous success. The organizers say "we got to know many kids that will be key leaders in building a solid, grass-roots national ministry." (Information from <http://dah.lager.org/kids.htm> 12 October 2001). The organizers are leaders of the Assemblies of God Church. Plans for a similar camp meeting for NBC PKs are underway.

common course in dealing a decisive blow on this scourge, and the possibility of its causing a rift in the church in remote given their apparent expression of similarity of opinion.

### **C. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The welfare of PKs should be taken very seriously. Pastors should give attention to good and adequate parenting, and part of it is giving time to be with the family. Pastors should be disciplined in time management and ensure that time is budgeted to be with their children and spouses. The susceptibility of PKs to satanic incursions should not be treated with levity. Pastors must rise to the occasion of ensuring that their children enjoy an air of spiritual freedom, and this battle must begin before the children are born.
2. The church should encourage PKs to be worthy ambassador of Christ. PKs should be taken for the human beings that they are, and allowed to live normal lives.
3. A common forum for PKs to share their experiences is a welcome development.<sup>2</sup> As a matter of urgency, Pastors' Children Fellowship (PCF) should be supported by churches, associations, conferences, and the convention so that PKs will emerge as a powerful force in the dynamics of ushering in the kingdom of God through missions.

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<sup>2</sup> Preacher's Kid International was founded in 1993 by Chonda Pierce. (The researcher visited their website: <http://www.chonda.org/pk.html> 12 October 2001 in the course of this research.). Commenting on this innovation, Bryan Duncan, Allison Evans and Toledo, O. H. say: "Finally a place to talk about my unique position in life with people who understand what it's like to be introduced to faith through the back door;" "... very few PKs pass through the halls of the parsonage untouched by the strains of ministry. Most have happily ever after endings, but some do not. It is time to address some of the issues they have waited and waited to talk about;" "I have really wondered for a long time, why I am the way that I am. Finally, I have found a network of people that understood me best," respectively.

