

NBTS
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MATS

THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA.

PEER-GROUP PRESSURE ON CHRISTIAN YOUTH: A STUDY OF
YOUTHS IN OGBOMOSO NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Theological Studies
of the
Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the award of the degree

Master of Arts In Theological Studies

by

ADEKUNLE OLAYIDE ADISA
MATRIC NO 04/0093

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ABSTRACT

In the area of this study, the writer observed that there are bad habits being demonstrated by youths which are negatively affecting the society. Among one of the envisaging factors for the misbehaviour of youth is the influence of peer group. This identified problem is the focus of this work. The writer therefore aims of finding solutions to the negative influence of peer-group pressure on youth in Ogbomoso North Local Government, Oyo State.

In order to achieve the aim of this work the writer made use of the following methods, interaction with relevant books in the library, the use of questionnaire to collect current data about the influence of peer group pressure on youth. Also, the writer's experience as a guidance counsellor for the youth both at school and church level. These methods afforded the writer to collect primary and secondary information for this work.

From the findings of this work, contributions have been made to make the youth more relevant and useful in the society, thereby removing all negative influences. Based on the findings of this work. Therefore, the following were the major recommendations suggested:

- Youth must be taught to develop a personal walk with God.
- Young people must be taught to develop a standard of moral behaviour that is based on scripture and not on the world's standard.
- Young people must be taught to choose their friends carefully.
- Parents need to be accessible to the youth. Show love and acceptance to them.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has led to the awareness of the fact that the agencies that are connected with youth training and development need to do something urgently. Therefore, the home, the Church and the school, which are the important agents of socialization in the moral and spiritual training of a child, should be aware of their responsibilities in order to bring God's purpose to fulfillment in the lives of the young ones. As a matter of fact the society in which the youth grew up and develops is highly polluted and very corrupt with immoral behaviours such as drug abuse, sex scandal, cultism, examination malpractices, armed robbery, paid assassin and vandalization of petroleum pipelines. The youths are easily enticed by their peers in getting involved in such criminal and satanic activity. And, it must be noted than, the joys of living consistent Christian life is to be victorious over all the problems that Satan seems to throw on human way in life.

As Christians, we should realize that what is said and done matters with this is mind, one needs to realize that for the youths to achieve success in life, they must allow God to work in their lives, and this can be achieved if only they give their lives to Jesus. Also, the youths need to understand that their life as future leaders lies in their own hands.

The urgency of teaching and training the Christian youth of Ogbomoso North Local Government Area in particular and Nigeria in general could be seen in the non-challant attitude of Christian adults in the society to the vices being perpetrated by the youth. Sadly enough, most parents have left the

spiritual and moral upbringing of their wards in the care of Church school, neglecting the old adage which says "Charity begins at home." Similarly, the parents, the Church, the School, the Society, mass media and the government should rise up now in relation to all that have been entrusted to them in the training of the young ones.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are made which the writer believes will not only help the youth to live a fulfilled life and enhance meaningful participation of youth in the youth organization in the local churches and Nigerian Baptist convention, but with the desire to help each Church become effective and adequate in meeting the Spiritual needs of the youth in our challenging day.

Recommendation To Parents.

(i) Dedicate youth to the Lord to be used in His Service.

A good example for Christian parents to emulate is the case of Hannah, as it was recorded in the Bible, "So now I give him to the LORD, For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord" (I Samuel 1:28-29, NIV). Parents need to show Jesus to their children at an early age.

(ii) Express love and acceptance to the youth.

Parents need to be accessible to the youth. Show love and acceptance to them. Jesus Himself demonstrated this love to the children when he said "And He took the children in His arms, put his hands on them and blessed them" (Mark 10:16, NIV).

(iii) View discipline as an ongoing process of helping your children ultimately become self-controlled and self disciplined.

As parents, "proper discipline will help youth find acceptable kinds of behaviour and will teach them how to effectively incorporate such behaviours into their life-style "(Hester 1988:179).

(iv) Pray daily for your children

This is to save them from the stronghold of social vices which are readily available in the society.

(v) Parents should maintain family worship and Bible study in the home.

Teach your children how to lead the family worship and Bible study; this will go a long way in developing them spiritually and preparing them for future leadership.

(vi) Parents should involve their children in Church activities.

Parents should lay good example by attending Church regularly with their children. They should encourage them to be actively involved in the youth activities of the Church.

Recommendation to Pastors and Local Churches

(i) The Church should give a larger place in Church programmes to the home. The family now depends so much on the religions instruction of its members to the Church.

(ii) A Baptist Church should establish youth ministry which is an extension of the ministry of the local Church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ especially on the campus. Art Herron in his book stated that, "It is not a Church. It is not on campus to "replace the church. It does not hold services on Sunday. It

