

INFLUENCE OF MARITAL CRISIS ON CHURCH GROWTH IN ERUWA EAST
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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ABSTRACT

This research was designed to study marital crisis and its effect on church growth in Eruwa East Baptist Association. The fundamental nature of marriage is “till death do us part,” but the occurrence of various marital crisis that at times and in broken marriages is so alarming that is called for attention among Christians. The research work disclosed that the problem of marital crisis was so vital to spiritual growth of the church at large. Questionnaire was designed to carry out the research work within the analysis was done with simple percentage to reach reasonable conclusion on the subject matter. There were several findings include emotional challenges such as sexual abuse, incompatibility, physical abuse, financial problem and several others brought about marital crisis. It is thereby recommended that pastors should endeavor to do their best in teaching, preaching the biblical standard of marriage and praying for peaceful co-existence among Christian homes in their churches. At the same time, pastors’ homes should be a role model to the church members and people around.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the researcher, the following conclusions were reached: interpersonal frictions are inevitable in human relationships hence the family as a type of human relationship cannot but have its own share of crises at one point or the other. However, the crisis may not be the problem of concern as much as the way and manner in which such crises are handled. Marital conflicts and crisis should not degenerate into violence, divorce or life threatening situations if the church rises to curb it through dialogue on time. Developing the culture of dialogue in resolving marital crisis is seen as a vital key in ensuring peaceful co-existence at home.

To reduce marital crisis however, couples must prepare to meet their marital challenges, either socially, financially or culturally; find a way of enriching their marriage by way of good communication, expression of agape love to one another, submission of wife to the husband, sleeping together, planning the future together, playing together and studying the Word of God and praying together.

It is also concluded that there must be tolerance among the couple; encourage forbearance for each other since no two people are the same and in marriage where the couples came from diverse background – possibly difference in culture, tolerance in this wise come to play if they must live together harmoniously. In every marriage, adjustment must be made to ensure success in life in the area of life style, eating habit,

style of dressing and many other areas of life that needed adjustment to ensure a happy home.

5.3 Recommendations

Having examined Marital Crisis as Barrier to Church Growth in Eruwa East Baptist Association, and based on the findings of the study elucidated so far, the following recommendations are made:

- 1) Dialogue culture must be developed and encouraged in the family. Each member of the family should be allowed and encouraged to air his/her view and pain on issues of concerns at home.
- 2) Churches and social organizations should not only speak against domestic violence, abuse, divorce, polygamy and some other traditional practices that run contrary to Scriptural principles which are harmful to peaceful co-existence of families; they will further do well by offering in their Bible teachings, family enrichment programmes and strong family counseling put up dialogue, a good alternative as a way of dispute resolution to help families.
- 3) Parents should be given orientation on the nature of youth and how to relate well with their children; and parents should be proactive in addressing frictions in relationship by creating an atmosphere of friendly communication in day-to-day family life.
- 4) Christian family members should be helped to develop a stewardship orientation on how to have prudent spending. By this they can become responsible for their

community by their daily living and their contribution to building a peaceful and prosperous society can never be over-emphasized. Hence their daily interactions in their families will have eventual consequence on the larger society.

- 5) Churches should equally help Christian families to see that their actions and inactions as potent enough to positively or otherwise affect the evangelistic witness of the church and the emphasis on some Bible verses and dangerous prayer points should be discouraged.
- 6) Christian artists through their songs and plays should teach families on peaceful living and the correct way to resolve crises in homes which will eventually bring harmony in the society.