

PASTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY AS A MORAL AGENT IN CHOSEN
GENERATION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, OGBOMOSO BAPTIST
CONFERENCE, OGBOMOSO.

NBTS

M. DLO

Ene - 27

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY
FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO,
OYO STATE, NIGERIA

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY IN THEOLOGY

2014- 0102

ENEJOJO AUSTIN OKEME
MATRIC NO 11/0146

JUNE, 2014

ABSTRACT

This research is titled, Pastor's Responsibility as a Moral Agent in Chosen Generation Baptist Association, Ogbomoso. The reason for this study is to assess the effectiveness of the responsibility of pastors in entrenching moral values in the church and the society. The study is basically an empirical research, and through the use of questionnaire which was developed by the researcher, positions of various men and women in the study area were observed, considered and analyzed. This was made the parameter to assess the responsibility of a pastor as a moral agent as presented in this study. It has revealed clearly that pastors are called and charged with the responsibility of entrenching moral values in the society. It is no news that human society from ages is plagued with diverse unethical practices both by members of the Christian community as well as those outside the church, hence the calling and commissioning of pastors for the task of rescuing the situation of moral decadence in the society. The study also revealed however, that there are several recorded failures identified with pastors in the discharge of such an important task. In other word, the moral state of many pastors in the church and the community is not worth the call and as such it has become difficult for pastors to impact the world with the principle and possibility of standard moral life. Pastors are involved in diverse shameful immoral acts such as sexual misconducts, financial misappropriation, fighting and quarrelling, pulpit misconducts, vulgarism, cultism, abuse and misuse of power, divorce and remarriage, indecent appearances and irresponsible family life of which they are called to make a change. In fact, the research revealed that the problem of immoral practices in the society today and its attendant consequences on the church and the society has been aggravated by pastors rather than solving it. The lifestyles of some of the pastors are so bad that many members of the society have categorically declared their disgust of the gospel message. Therefore, it is recommended that the lifestyle and character of a Christian pastor should be without blemish. Godly lifestyle is expected of all servants of God. Also, every pastor should see the call and the ministry of reconciliation as a sacred one that must not be taken with levity. No pastor should be found wanting in effectively causing a moral change in the society to the glory of God.

5.2 Conclusion

There is a big challenge before every one called of God as a pastor. The challenge to live up to the demands of the call. The challenge to teach and influence the world around him/her with the gospel message of holiness and righteousness, to be faithful ambassador of Christ in modeling the attitude and character of God to humanity, to be a shining light in the environment where darkness dominates, to be an example of godly parents with a decent Christian home, good administrators, leaders of churches, and reputable members of the society wherever they found themselves, to be an example of believers in all forms of godliness and to strive to render their ministerial duties in the light of an ideal morality, which is normative for impact of lives in the community of men.

The damning consequences of pastor's unethical failure in entrenching moral values can be conquered. Thus, there is a serious need for pastors to wake up to the task of learning to know more about the one who called and assigned the pastors with the ministry of reconciliation of men to God and then by fervent and faithful preaching and teaching of the word of God and through exemplary lifestyle, the pastor can influence the world around him for a better church and society.

Finally, the fact that a pastor is entrusted with the orientation and principle of morality, it is thus required of him to be found morally upright at all times in the discharge of pastoral ministry both within the sphere of the church and without. As discussed extensively, a pastor has the responsibility to impact the world around him with ethical standard that is required of God for all His human creatures. This specific call to holy and moral living upon the lives of pastors is a mandate that no pastor must be found wanting in striving to accomplish.

5.3 Recommendations

Considering the outcome of the assessment of pastor's responsibility as a moral agent, the following recommendations are made to pastors in all regions of the society as an aid to fulfill the mandate of entrenching moral values:

1. Pastors should see the call and the ministry of reconciliation as a sacred one that must be received as a privilege to be part of God's agenda for man's salvation. The ministry must not be taken with levity.
2. The lifestyle and character of a Christian pastor should be without blemish. Godly lifestyle is expected of all servants of God. In other word, a pastor must be an example of believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4: 12).
3. Pastors must endeavour to live out what is being preached on the pulpit for others to see. It is not enough to preach and teach correctly, but to do exactly what the pastor preach and teach.
4. The love of money is the root of all evils, so ministers should not develop any love for money but rather seek to be moderate in their desire for it and also the skills required for proper management of money. Every unethical means of getting wealth should be discarded by the pastors.
5. Pastors must flee lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life for these are the main spectrum of worldliness. The problem of sexual misconducts must be avoided through the grace of God that is at work in the life of the pastors.
6. The ministerial code of ethics for ministers must be strictly adhered to for the effectiveness of the pastors as moral agents. The code is a special regulation that is carefully designed to assist pastors in living a moral life.