

CHALLENGES OF CHRISTIAN PARENTING IN CONTEMPORARY  
FAMILIES IN VICTORY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, LAGOS

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigated “Challenges of Christian Parenting in Contemporary Families in Victory Baptist Association, Lagos.” More than ever before, the challenges Christian parents are facing in the process of bringing up their children in the contemporary times have become a thing of great concern for families, the church and the society. This is due to the fact that the rate at which many children from Christian homes are getting involved in all forms of moral decadence and vices is too alarming for comfort. This is a problem because some of these children constitute nuisance and menace to the family, the church, and the society. This study therefore, is aimed at educating and encouraging Christian parents on the need for effective parenting in order to protect their children against the prevalence of social vices and moral decadence in the contemporary society. Also, to awaken the church to see the challenges of Christian parenting as very serious crises that demands her urgent attention and intervention. Having reviewed some of the related literature to the study, the researcher used descriptive survey to carry out this investigation. Two hundred Christian parents were proportionately selected from Baptist Churches in Victory Baptist Association according to the strength of their members who are literate which consisted of 113 males and 85 females, while two of the respondents did not indicate whether they are male or female. A questionnaire with a reliability correlation coefficient of 0.91 Cronbach’s Alpha method was used to obtain data from the respondents to determine the extent to which these challenges are affecting Christian parenting in contemporary families in Victory Baptist Association. The questionnaire consisted of two sections labeled A and B, and six research questions were drafted for this study. The data collected were analyzed into tables and figures with mean scores, standard deviation and percentages of mean. The findings from the study indicated that Christian parents in Baptist Churches within Victory Baptist Association are well acquainted with the enormity of the challenges facing Christian parenting in the contemporary times. Again, the study revealed that family crises, electronic and print media, social media, social vices and criminalities pose very serious challenges to Christian parenting. However, the opinions of the respondents on the response of the church to parenting crises showed that the church is not doing enough in her programmes and activities in helping to solve the problems facing Christian parents in the upbringing of their children in the contemporary society. Furthermore, the study showed that there was no significant difference between the views of male and female on family crises, electronic and print media, social media, social vices and criminalities. On the other hand, there was a significant difference between the views of male and female on the church response to parental crises. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made. Parents should endeavour to spend quality time with their children to enable them inculcate godly values and virtues in the lives of their children. Also, parents should acquaint themselves with what goes on in the media outfits, the pros and cons of their programmes and activities in order to be in a better position to educate and counsel their children on the benefits and dangers these media outfits pose to their lives. Moreover, the church should have well-planned and structured programmes and activities that would impact more positively on parents and their children in the discharge of their parental responsibilities.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

The findings in this study have proved that Christian parents are facing daunting challenges in the upbringing of their children in the contemporary families. This in turn has led to parental failure in the home. However, the outcome of this study revealed that there is high degree of knowledge among Christian parents that these challenges exist and that they are having adverse consequences on Christian parenting in the contemporary times. With this high degree of knowledge about the existence of these challenges and their negative impact on Christian parenting, it is expected that this could have provoked a more positive response from the church on parenting crises in contemporary families.

Unfortunately, the findings indicated that when the mean score of the variables under church response to parenting crises in the contemporary families were aggregated, the percentage of the mean scores is 61.1 percent which represented an average level of performance. This is not a good performance expected from the church, since the church based on the response of Christian parents who are members of the church was adjudged to have a high degree of knowledge of the existence and severity of these challenges on Christian parenting. Also, it could be inferred from the opinions of parents under the church response to parenting crises that the little above average performance of the church on the three out of six variables tested were more of a coincidence than a well-planned and structured programmes and activities geared toward playing a vital role in leading parents to experience effective parenting of their children. On the other hand, the areas in which the response of parents showed below average performance by the church in responding to parenting crisis is an indication of insensitivity on the part of the leadership of church to the plight of the severity of the challenges Christian parents are facing in the process of rearing their children in this bedeviled society.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings of this study and with the knowledge that these challenges affecting Christian parenting are global problems, the researcher hereby makes the following recommendations.

1. Since one of the greatest challenges bedeviling Christian parenting in this contemporary times is parents not spending quality time with their children, it is therefore, recommended that parents should strike a balance between the time they spend in their businesses and jobs, and that of the

children in order to have enough time to be with their children to inculcate the needed godly values and virtues in the children..

2. It was also observed from the findings that another very serious challenge facing Christian parenting is the negative impact of mass media (electronic, print, and social networks). Therefore, it is recommended that parents should acquaint themselves with what goes on in these media outfits, the pros and cons of their programmes and activities in order to be in a better position to educate and counsel their children on the benefits and dangers these media outfits bring to their lives.
3. Again, since the outcome of the study revealed that the prevalence of social vices and criminalities poses very serious problems to Christian parenting, the researcher hereby recommends that parents should be ready to educate their children on the kind of friends, association and company they keep. The Bible says “evil communication corrupts good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). This is also, corroborated by the adage that says “show me your friends and I will tell you who you are.”
4. The church through the Pastorate and Marriage Committee should have well-structured pre-marital counseling programmes that will cater for the needs of intending couples in order to curb the increasing incidences of divorce in the church today and that of unresolved conflicts between husband and wife.
5. Also, the church through the pastorate should have well-planned pre-parenting counselling programmes that will meet the needs of newly

- married couples in order to prepare them for the challenging task of effective parenting in the contemporary society.
6. Pastors should structure their messages, bible studies and prayer meetings in such a way that they will accommodate parenting issues.
  7. The church through Couples' Fellowship should organize enrichment programmes such as seminars and workshops for parents from time to time to acquaint them with the skills and styles of effective parenting.
  8. The church through the Welfare/Benevolence Department should organize from time to time welfare programmes that will assist parents who are experiencing financial challenges especially the widows.
  9. In addition, the church through the Mission and Evangelism Department should have well-packaged programmes geared toward the rehabilitation and restoration of delinquent children.
  10. The government at the Federal, the State and the Local levels should make sure that all forms of corruption and criminalities ravaging the nation are decisively dealt with. The Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies should see to it that justice is done in all corrupt and criminal cases brought before them. There should be no sacred cow in the enforcement of the law and in the dispensation of justice.