

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH: A CHALLENGE TO CONTEMPORARY
OGBOMOSO BAPTIST CONFERENCE

N.B.T.S.
M.T.H.S.T.
AK — 313

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A Thesis in the Faculty of Theological Studies
Submitted to the School of Post Graduate Studies
The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary
Ogbomoso. In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Award of the Degree
MASTER OF THEOLOGY

2013 — 0747

JUNE, 2013.

ABSTRACT

The Church is the gathering of the believers in Christ Jesus and very special unto God. It is an extended family of God on earth because the members of the church are the children of God. The Church is the largest extended family of God in the world. In the Church, different kinds of gifts are used in the work of the Lord. However, unity is essential to harmonize church existence on earth. It is of great value to know that the unity of the church is indispensable to the expansion of God's Kingdom on earth. However, disunity ensues among the church members of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference and other context as a result of careless attitude and ignorance of the biblical position on the unity of the Church. Indigenization sentiment, academic and theological institution dichotomy, unregenerated church members are also responsible for this problem. Therefore, this study - The Unity of the church: A challenge to contemporary Ogbomoso Baptist Conference examined Biblical and theological supports of unity in church among Pastors and individual member of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference. This study is descriptive in nature and researchers employed historical and thematic descriptive method to analyze the biblical bases for the unity of the church and encourage its adequate implementation and practices in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference and in other contexts to forestall the menace of church disunity. The reality of destructive impacts of the Church disunity which truncates the growth of Church not only in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference, but in the contemporary society is of great motivation for this work. Based on the examination, certain implications of the unity of the church were deduced and used as means to curb the menace of church disunity which Satan is using to frustrate divine purposes of the church. This is to promote unity of purpose in diversity among the extended family of God. The unity of the church among Ogbomoso Baptist Conference local churches will enhance the growth of mission activity of the Conference. On the basis of this, it was recommended among others that the church should educate her members on the strength of unity of the church. Any kind of sentiment and dichotomy should be discouraged among the family of God.

5.2 CONCLUSION

From what has been said so far in this paper, one is bound to make some conclusive remarks. This remark will lean on the subject addressed in the work, namely, The Unity of the church: A challenge to Contemporary Ogbomoso Baptist conference.

of Ogbomosho Baptist Conference. The following are recommendations with the hope that if properly and strictly implemented, further abuse of the unity of the Church will be stopped.

Individual Christians

1. Every Christian should see Church as divine body which Christ bought with his blood and obey his commands.
2. Every Christian should be agent of Church unity at all cost

Church

1. The Church should educate her members on the doctrine of Church unity. Proper and adequate education on the divine mandate of the Church will curb if not totally eradicate disunity among the Church.
2. The Church should avoid sentiment and bias regarding the choice of offices among her members.
3. The Church should discourage self-interest on matter of faith and practices.
4. Any tradition that is not biblically and morally supported should be renounced. Christ Jesus should be above traditions.

Pastors

1. Indigenization sentiment among the Pastor should be discouraged. Any Pastor that is qualified for any position should be allowed to serve.
2. Academic and theological institutions dichotomy should be discouraged among the Pastors. All Pastors who are called of God should see themselves as one.
3. Pastors should not put academic competence above spirituality