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AN EXEGETICAL STUDY OF JOHN 10:10-14 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PASTOR AND THE CHURCH

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ABSTRACT

There is no escape from the problem of leadership. This is because, leaders are points of contact in any given society, the life and actions of a leader largely determine the success or failure of the society. There is no society that can become effective except through the right kind of leadership and since the church is also a group of people, this problem is also eminent.

The wrong kind of leadership in the church has played a terrible role in history. There is no way the church would live its life and fulfill God's purpose without the right leadership. In recent time the church has seriously adapted to the world's pattern of leadership, which has done more harm than good to the church.

This work highlights on what leadership meant in the non-biblical literature. It also examines what it meant to the various biblical scholars and what it meant in the bible by exegetically looking at patterns of leadership as portrayed by Jesus in the discourse of the sheep and shepherd in John 10: 10-14. The writer, as much as possible, provides some implications through an exegetical study for pastors who are the leaders in the contemporary churches.

5.2 CONCLUSION

God has always shown displeasure over a worldly attitude towards leadership. Jesus Christ disagrees with the uncaring attitude of the Pharisees and, therefore, provides the kingdom leadership pattern in which the Christian leader is expected to be a servant leader, who is concerned more with what he can do in the ministry than what the ministry can do for him. The pastor must be fully committed to the cause of Christ and be such a person that will offer sacrificial, selfless, and humble service to God and humanity.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The pastor in a local Baptist church is called to shepherd the church. The church should understand and believe that, the pastor is acting on behalf of Christ who is the Chief Shepherd of the church. The pastor should be given the authority of leadership to administer the church.

The pastor must understand that one major role expected of him is to guide the church. In order to do this effectively, the pastor must be ready to lead the church by example. Tidwell says leadership implies “going ahead of those who are being guided”

(28). The best way the leader can show the way, is by going ahead of the follower. Therefore, the pastor must make deliberate effort to lead the church in the right way, and this he dose by leading by example.

Training is needed for effectiveness in any profession and the pastoral ministry is not an exception. Tidwell says “leaders make the difference and training makes the difference in leaders” (202). There is the need for training and re-training of pastors so as to enhance both physical and spiritual growth of the church.

Both vertical and horizontal relationships cannot be over emphasized in Christian leadership relationship. Wright says, “Leadership for Christians starts with a vital relationship between the leader and God” (7). It will go a long way at creating a better relationship with those the leader seeks to influence. Therefore, the pastor should seek a better relationship with God and the people that God has called him to lead. John 10: 14 say “I know my sheep and my sheep knows me.”

The leader must not be autocratic. He should welcome the views of others. In other words, the leader should be accessible. Although, the literal sheep may not be able to counsel their shepherd, but the metaphorical sheep in the church, could be as intelligible as the pastor or even more, therefore, the pastor should have a listening ear and should not be “mister know all.”