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**DIALOGUE AS EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR FAMILY CRISES
RESOLUTION: A CASE STUDY OF ITESIWAJU BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**

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ABSTRACT

This essay titled Dialogue as Effective Tool for Family Crises Resolution is aimed at finding out the effectiveness of dialogue and establishing the same in resolving conflicts in the family. In order to achieve this, a total a target population of one hundred and twenty families from ten churches were selected from Itesiwaju Baptist Association in Lagos East Baptist Conference. One hundred and twenty questionnaires were administered to randomly selected family members in each of the ten churches of the Association. The data were collected, analyzed and used to evaluate and establish the target of the work from the views of the respondents. The findings from the survey showed that people are aware of the inevitability of crises at the family relationships. Also that dialogue is efficacious when practiced shunning selfishness, anger, external influences, violence and unwholesome traditions. It also revealed that churches and pastors' involvement are useful in not only ensuring conflict settlement but by providing educative and family enriching programs. In view of these findings, recommendations were given, one of which is that instead of waiting for family crises to emerge counselors should include the art of dialogue in their premarital curriculum for about to wed couples and youths in order to develop a dialogue culture in the home front.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Based on the following findings 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 crises may not be the problem of concern as much as the way and manner in which such crises are handled. Interpersonal conflicts will not degenerate into violence, divorce or life threatening situations when dialogue is applied early

enough. Developing the culture of dialogue in resolving family crises is seen as a vital key in ensuring peaceful co-existence at home.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

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. Pastors, Christian youth workers and most importantly counsellors should include in their curriculum the art of dialogue for growing youths and during pre-marital counselling.
3. 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 and are harmful peaceful co-existence of families. They will further do well by offering good alternative which is dialogue. Bible teachings, family enrichment programmes and strong family counselling should be put up to help families.
4. Parents should be given orientation on the nature of youth and how to relate well with their children. More encouragement is needed for parents on the need to down play some traditional practices that prevents children airing their view to their parents.
5. Family members especially parents should be proactive in addressing frictions in relationship by creating an atmosphere of friendly communication in day to day

family life. This lifestyle paves way for smooth dialogue having been used to friendly interactions.

6. Parents should be educated to be fair in the way they share their wealth, constitution and of their Will in such a fair way to ensure peaceful co-existence amongst their family after their demise.
7. Further awareness should also be given to parents on harm and realities of gender discrimination among children. Also they should be educated on the harm of preferring a child above the other for whatever reason; this is because no two children will be the same.
8. Christian family members should be helped to develop a stewardship orientation. By this they can become responsible for their community by their daily living. Their contribution to building a peaceful and prosperous society can never be over-emphasised. Hence their daily interactions in their families have eventual consequence on the larger society.
9. 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.