

AN EVALUATION OF SOCIAL CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PREMARITAL SEX AMONG THE YOUTHS OF
ZION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF
OGUN STATE BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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ABSTRACT

This research work was aimed at evaluating the socio-cultural implications of premarital sex among the youths of Zion Baptist Association of Ogun State Baptist Conference. Both primary and secondary methods of data collection were used in gathering the necessary pieces of information needed for the work. To hundred questionnaire forms were produced and distributed out among members of the five churches chosen from the Zion Baptist Association. Out of this number, only one hundred and fifty questionnaire forms were retrieved. Related literatures were also reviewed and the insights gleaned were also incorporated into the work.

The findings showed that the causes of premarital sex among youths of Zion Baptist Association are many and varied. It ranges from sinful, selfish and lustful desires to the influence of Television, reading of romantic novels, home videos, influence of the media, poverty, et.c. the findings also revealed the terrible consequences and implications of premarital sex such as loss of fellowship with the Almighty God, eternal destruction, sudden death, contracting of the deadly disease (AIDS), unwanted pregnancy, exposed to demonic attach, social stigma, et.c. It was also discovered that much has not been done by the society and the government to address this ugly trend among the youths.

In view of the above findings the following recommendations were made, that the youth should repent of their sins and seek for forgiveness and sanctification from our Lord Jesus Christ. The scripture says that anyone who covers his or her sins shall not prosper but he that confesses and forsake his or her sins shall have mercy; paint a clear picture of the terrible consequences and pain of premarital sex; and also they should have spiritual accountability partners.

It must be noted that the youths are the backbone of both the church and the society and as such tomorrow leaders. Against this background a concerted effort should be made on the part of the church and the government to salvage the future of the church and our society by educating the youths about the serious consequences of premarital sex.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION, OBSERVATION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 CONCLUSION

In this work, the researcher tried to look at the socio-cultural implications of premarital sex among the youths of Zion Baptist Association of Ogun State Baptist Conference. From the literature review and data analysis the researcher concludes that there is a high rate of premarital sex among the youths of the Association and this has not only reduced their spiritual life and fruitfulness to the barest minimum but also that of the witness of the Association to their immediate neighbourhood.

Socially, it has brought shame, disgrace and insult not only to the offenders but also to the church in general.

In order to confirm these conclusions, one hundred and fifty questionnaire forms were distributed to members of the Zion Baptist Association. The result shows that the above conclusions are well founded. In summary therefore, though these problems exist and are on the verge of scattering the church, it must be understood that there are possibilities and prospects open to the youths. Rather than condemning and chasing them out the church the researcher suggests that they should be discipline and then restored. Moreover, the church should give the necessary help needed for healthy spiritual walk with God.

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7. The researcher also observed that the sexual freedom enjoyed over a couple of decades has not in any way been accompany with corresponding happiness and joy but instead tales of woes and misery.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having observed the causes and effects of premarital sex among youths in Zion Baptist Association, the following recommendations were made:

1. Each youth should have a spiritual accountability partner, somebody he can confide in, be transparent to and be able to share every secret with, no matter how grievous and painful it might be. This might serve as a check to him or her.
2. The youths should pain a clear picture of the consequences of premarital sex in their minds.
3. They should make a list of what they stand to lose if they indulge into such a practice and what they stand to gain if they remain pure.
4. The youth should avoid their sin partner.
5. Confess their sins to Jesus and ask for forgiveness and cleansing. In confessing to Jesus, they should be open and see him as the only solution to their problem (John 8:1-11).
6. Both parents and the church should embark on sex education teaching for youths. Ignorance is very dangerous. We are where we are because of what we know and what we do not know.

Prophet Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 6:4).what we do not know may be very killing to us. Sex education begins with the word of God. This is important because it influences all areas of life, our attitude, the way we think and feel. Many people are tempted with sex sin and they fall victim to it because they have not been prepared or educated by their parents and churches.

7. The youths should always remember that sexual sin is a pleasurable ride to the land of destruction. Therefore, flee premarital sex.
8. Never think that sex is nothing but a physical act to be enjoyed with whoever you want and whenever you want it. Sex is more than physical; it is a sharing of body and soul and it has lasting effects on one's life.
9. Do not be friend opposite se unbelievers because they can tempt you to sin.
10. Avoid social functions that are not Christian oriented especially where alcohol is available with sexually promiscuous undertones.
11. Pursue healthy, mental, emotional life-style. Life has many worthwhile cultural interests and activities that do not revolve around sex.
12. Occupy yourself with Christian musics, messages and videos that exalt Jesus Christ Our Lord.
13. Make prayer and fasting your life-style.

14. Anticipate and prevent sexual temptations.
15. Think of what premarital sex will cost you before you decide to indulge into it.
16. Be sober and vigilant; always alert and watchful; being able to pick the signals from heaven or hell. They should be ready to discern the voice and work of the Holy Spirit and those of the dark Kingdom. Those who neglect this spiritual principle do so at the risk of their own lives.