

AN EVALUATION OF CHILD'S NURTURE AMONG CHRISTIAN PARENTS
IN BENIN EAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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ABSTRACT

This study is an evaluation of child's nurture among Christian parents in Benin East Baptist Association. It has compared how Christian parents and non-Christian parents and non-Christian parents nurture their children ages one to eleven. It has also investigated whether length of marriage affect the process of nurturing children in homes in Benin East Baptist Association. The used prepared a questionnaire and gave it to sampled respondents. Percentage calculations were used to analyze responses.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the child's nurture among Christian parents in Benin East Baptist Association. A total number of one hundred and fifty questionnaires were administered on Christian parents in the research are and only one hundred and forty five were returned. The results are grouped on the basis of Gender, marital status, marital age range, educational qualification, position held in the church and number of children. Report of responses to the items on the questionnaire was presented.

My recommendations are:

1. Minister of God should used their preaching, teaching, counseling ministries to improve the physical and spiritual states of children and equip parents with parenting girdly skills.
2. Government should establish children centres where children can be furnished with modern and effective nurturing skills and strategies.
3. Christian parents should be encouraged by the church, government and media to visit child specialists like counselors, psychologists, pediatricians etc. when professional ideas are needed.

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Conclusion

It is pertinent to conclude that the issue of child nurture is a must for all parents, more demanding still is when it concerns Christian parents, and it becomes a task that must never be compromised. The behaviour of children in the society may not be completely unconnected to be influenced that such children have received from the home, on such if one must emphasize the need for a healthy peaceful and balanced

society, the issue of child nurturing among Christian parents must be a matter of high priority.

In addition, parents must be aware of the relative importance of male and female children and must treat children, so never to see anyone as being less important in comparison with the other. The African mentality emphasizes the education of the male child over the female child, but care must be taken so as not to deemphasize the huge importance the female child would play if educated and the evil the same will perpetrate if left uneducated and unattended to.

Christian parents have a noble task of inculcating godly virtues in to the nurturing of their children and living godly lives that their children can emulate. The Scripture says that the children should be trained in the way that they should go and they will not depart from it (Prov. 22: 6), depended upon the instructions that is what this paper is geared towards. Proverb 13: 24 provides a necessary platform for discipline. Child nurturing does not exclude the discipline of an erring child. Without discipline, the child's future is endangered and untold pain and regrets befall the family. Ultimately the society suffers because a lot of juvenile delinquent activities would bedevil that society.

Christian parents must brave up and face the challenges of child rearing which far outweighs child bearing and on such necessary guideposts must be set on motion to ensure that the parents give birth to the number of children they can adequately take care of and not to be giving birth to children without making necessary provisions for them. Discipline is a proper way to nurture a child, but this can only be effectively done when the one to be disciplined has been properly provided for.

Recommendations

From the result of data collected, there are some problems. These problems are as follows:

Christian parents do not know their core responsibilities in bringing up a child in they way of the Lord. It is accepted that the kind of nurturing a child get is determined by the sex of the child in question. Therefore, it is reasonable that the kind of relationship maintained between parents and children directly affect the kind of nurturing a child has.

In order to improve the state of child nurturing in Benin East Baptist Association, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government should establish children centers where children can be furnished with modern and effective nurturing skills and strategies.
2. Ministers of God should use their preaching, teaching, counseling ministries to improve the physical and spiritual states of children and equip parents with parenting girdly skills.
3. Christian parents should be encouraged by the church, government and media to visit child specialists like counselors, psychologists, pediatricians etc when professional ideas are needed.