

Guiding and Counseling Teenagers on Family Values in the 21st Century Church and World

AYANDOKUN, Esther Oluwafunmilayo, Ph.D

* Associate Professor in Christian Education, Department of Religious Education, Baptist College of Theology, Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria.

Abstract- This research work posits that there are family values that are cherished in each culture especially in Nigeria. Unfortunately, exposure to modernization and the influence of globalization are eroding many supposed cherished family values. Some teenagers on the pretense of accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour are also guilty of some acts of disrespect and disobedience to their parents. Many teenagers deliberately turned down their parents instructions even when it has nothing to do with what the Bible prohibits. This research therefore investigates into what led to Pentecostalism, who are teenagers and how teenagers, parents, teachers at school and church with other guardians and older adults can help create an atmosphere where teenagers can be better behaved and at the same time be acceptable to God, their parents and others in the larger society.

Index Terms- Teenagers, Family Values, Pentecostalism, Modeling, Educating and Counseling.

I. INTRODUCTION

The coming of Christianity into Africa and Nigeria in particular has made unique contributions and differences on the lives of many Nigerians. Christianity has replaced a lot of idolatrous worship and practices in many parts of the world where Christianity had penetrated. Christianity has changed faces with time: there is the Orthodox, Charismatic, Pentecostal, Evangelical, etc. Most of these Christian groups have their unique characteristics but this will not be covered in this work for purpose of scope and space. However, the work will examine briefly what Pentecostalism is and its unique traits and impact on family values as they affect the teenagers. The Charismatic Renewal in Nigeria emerged from inter-denominational student groups in different schools in Nigeria. To be pentecostal or to have pentecostal experiences is associated with Baptism in the Holy Spirit and certain manifestations such as speaking in tongues, seeing visions and interpreting such. This development was dated to January 1970. This religious awakening spread beyond the school into the families and the society at large. The aftermath was the birth of many new religious groups, organization and churches (Ojo, 2006).

This religious trend brought about break in some churches and homes where the new pentecostal tendencies were not managed well. It led to pooling out from the orthodox and mainline churches to form new ones which are believed to be more vibrant and lively. Most of these groups started as bible study centers but later emerged as churches and denominations of their kinds. Many families were also affected as many children and youths left their parents' churches to these new

establishments which preach holiness, sanctification, abundance, prosperity, uncommon favour and breakthrough and others that sound appealing converted teenagers and youths (Ojo, 2006). There were reports of supposed unruly attitudes of those with genuine conversion, one cannot but appreciate the salvation experience that transformed the lives of these younger ones for better. On a note of caution, one would state here that since Pentecostalism is scriptural, it has more positive impact than its supposed negative impact. Teenagers who on the platform of being pentecostal or charismatic become disobedient to their parents and who relegate family values should be handled with love, care and must be provided with guidance and counseling on what can contribute to fulfillment in their lives which is the focus of this paper.

Defining the key words in the topic, guiding is principally on providing advice, counsel and having strong influence on people. Counseling has the same idea of providing professional advice on different issues of life. Young Teenagers in this paper covers ages twelve to seventeen (12 – 17years). Family values on the other hand deal with norms which are cherished and that must be maintained in the home or family. Family values expose members of the family to rules on what is wrong and right about life. The 21st century is the present dispensation characterized with advanced technology and wider connections which has made the whole world a global village. The church exists in this world and cannot claim to be ignorant of the happenings around her.

II. LITERATURE REVIEWS

This section investigates into what authors have documented on the subject of focus with some interactions by the writer. This section covers Describing the Teenagers, The Bible as Basis for Counseling, Instilling Christian and Family Values Clarification, Guiding and Counseling Young Teenagers: Theoretical Perspectives and the Roles of Counselors in Counseling Young Teenagers.

III. DESCRIBING THE TEENAGERS

Everyone who grows to become an adult passes through the youthful years. There are a lot of fascinating happenings in the teenagers' life; it is a period of rapid changes in different ways. The most outstanding is the bodily changes that are glaring to all. Teenagers are more mature in their different areas of life: social, physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, more promiscuous sexually, less idealistic and more critical of the values and standard of the adult culture and more "disengaged"

from them. Other observers described teenage years as vibrant, brighter and better informed than any other generation. Some are considered to be “open, honest, tolerant, more serious, more loving and responsible” (Conger, 1977). Most teenagers are also characterized with the followings:

- i. They are growing up and experiencing changes all over
- ii. They want to be independent.
- iii. Profound physiological changes occur during this time.
- iv. They have concern about the future especially as it regards their education.
- v. They are greatly influenced by peers.
- vi. They sometimes have identity crisis, high self-esteem or sometime low self-esteem and inferiority complex.
- vii. They have problem of choice.
- viii. They face consequences of sin and rebellion.
- ix. They desire to make adjustment
- x. They want people to love, care and accept them (Makinde, 1983).

Barna (2001) revealed that the younger generations are easily influenced because of their person.

Those who are parents, teachers and counselors are expected to understand the complexities and challenges teenagers face in life. Sometimes the description of teenagers depends much on the observers' experience and the reality about teenagers' life. Young people have been described as “fickle, vain, unsettled, susceptible to peers' pressure, unreasonable, and unconcerned about the big questions of life” (Wright, 1987: 40-53). Whatever may be the description of teenagers; they have their lives and are accountable. This work is to help parents, teachers, pastors and counselors understand and learn some principles and modes that can guide them in counseling young teenagers (Ayandokun, 2013). This work will also assist to lead teenagers to learn how to clarify values, make right choices, direct teenagers' lives as models for their age mates and other growing boys and girls, help teenagers guide against actions that can inflict pain on their bodies and destroy their integrity and help teenagers learn to be source of joy to their parents and others who care about them.

IV. THE BIBLE AS BASIS FOR COUNSELING

The Bible admonished in Proverbs 29:17, “correct thy son and he shall give the rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.” While the Bible establishes the need to discipline without breaking teenager's spirit, there is need for balance in building self-discipline and self-esteem which starts from the early years of a child. Every person born of a woman has a sinful nature that must be cleansed and redeemed. As teenagers advance in years, they are expected to become mature, acting like man (I Cor. 14: 20). The command to honour one's parent is a clear instruction for all persons (Eph. 6:2, 3). Obedience on the parts of the teenagers is desirable (Col. 3:20). To be disciplined is a means or an avenue to know and understand God (Lamentations 3:27, 28). Parents must intentionally exercise their authority with their teenager's life based on love (Proverbs 13:24); for a life of hope (Proverbs 18:18); and by the use of constant discipline (Prov. 23:13). Any act of neglect may spell doom for parents as revealed in the case of Eli and his children (I Sam. 3:4, 5). The essence of discipline is to lead teenagers to properly relate with

God by learning to do what is right. Parents therefore are to display characters that comply with the authority they exercise (I Peter 5:2, 3). As much as parents are encouraged to exercise authority, they must not be violent or irrational to the extent of being wicked, selfish and harsh indiscriminately. As parents exercise authority, they have the responsibility of showing love and care. Parents who guide teenagers are to be motivated by love (Rev. 3:19); be patient (Prov. 15:18b); have self-control (Prov. 25:28); not be too angry (Prov. 29:22); have a soft tone of voice (Prov. 15:1) and always discipline with respect (Col. 3:21). Professionally,

Counseling is a learning-oriented process carried on in a simple, one to one social environment, in which a counselor competent in relevant psychological skills and knowledge, seek to assist the client by methods appropriate to the latter's needs to learn more about himself, to learn how to put such understanding into effect in relation to more clearly perceived, realistically defined goals that the client may become happier and more productive member of his/her society (Stone, 1971:182).

Despite years of training, parents, teachers, pastors, and counselors still need to depend on the biblical principles of counseling. This is when whoever serves as a counselor would need to depend on God-and who in each situation will ask, “Lord, what should I do now? What does this person need?” This step is to avoid helping people based on personal strength and knowledge; rather; the need to rely upon the power and wisdom of God. What then are the bases for counseling as outlined by the scriptures?

In Psalm 1:1, the scriptures records that the person who does not follow the counsel of the wicked will be blessed. The implication is that there are different counsels and it is the responsibility of each person to make personal choice on matters of life. Parents and counselors are to guide growing girls and boys to make right choices. Isaiah 90:6b described Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and also as a wonderful counselor the world would ever have. He is the source of inspiration, insight, and wisdom for all who depend on him. Teenagers have the privilege of enjoying great peace if they allow the wonderful counselor to be their guide. Parents are to derive their strength for performance from the wonderful counselor who is readily available to help them provide appropriate guidance for their wards (Carlson, 2006).

Seeking for guidance, counseling, and direction could be seen all over the pages of the scriptures, it thus means from the Biblical basis/principles of counseling that the supposed counselor should learn to rely upon the power and wisdom of God. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Lean on, trust and be confident in the Lord with all your own mind and so not rely on your own insight or understanding. As you recognize and acknowledge Him, he shall direct your path.”; Listen: Many counselors find it difficult to learn to listen and keep quiet. Most counselors in counseling talk and offer advice or exhort from the scriptures. While giving advice may be necessary, the counselor must first learn to listen and hear what the clients have to share. God in Psalm 34:15-18; 116:1, 2; Jer. 33:3 taught the importance of listening. Listening is caring for and being empathetic towards others. Listening aids in understanding the feelings of the other person.

The counselor must know when to speak and when to be quiet: Ecclesiastes 7 emphasizes a biblical counseling which is

knowing when to speak and when to be quiet. Proverbs 10:19 provides caution to persons on multitude of words wherein sin can creep in. Showing genuine interest and love is the duty of whoever serves in the position of a counselor. Jesus modeled compassion on people as revealed in Mark 8:2; 6:34. The counselor must keep confidence: To keep confidence is to build trust and it means one can confide in such a counselor/person. Someone who is a trained counselor should learn to keep secret. Parents, teachers and counselor should live in such a way that teenagers can confide in them. Apart from the above, those who aim to provide counseling should also show genuine interest and love, consider the best timing, say the right words in the right manner, give proper advice, edify and help, encourage, empathize, confront when necessary, be adaptable, be honest and be accepting (Wright, 1987; Ayandokun, 2010; Ayanrinola, 2013).

V. INSTILLING CHRISTIAN AND FAMILY VALUES CLARIFICATION

Values are worthwhile things that are necessary in a person's life. Christian and family values add meaning to life when they are present in an appropriate proportion. Parents and Christian teachers should help to instill these values by way of teaching and modeling through exemplary lifestyles for teenagers to learn and emulate (McDowell, 1987; Ayantayo, 2016). The following values are worthy to be taught, learnt and practiced among the younger generations. These include: **Affection:** This is when a deep sense of emotional security, love, caring, congeniality, interest and friendship operate at all levels of human relationship. **Respect:** This is where parents provide an atmosphere where an individual can fully be recognized and respected for his/her worth. Respect unto others must be taught unto teenagers as an important family value. **Enlightenment:** This is an opportunity for "each child to learn, to inquire and to discover truth in every situation. Circumstances and issue while gaining understanding of social norms and the significant events of history (Brayer & Clearly, 1972).

Others include: Skill: God has bestowed on each person some potential that must be developed. To develop one's skill is to first discover the talents/potentials which have to be later developed in full capacity. God expects each individual to make meaningful contribution to the world. **Power:** "Power is the measurement of a person's participation and influence in the making of important decisions involving himself, his family and others." The use of God's endowed power to affect lives positively is a Christian value of appropriate use of power. **Wealth:** To the young person, "Wealth" applies to the "things" and services he needs and wants in his everyday life. Very early, the feelings of "economic security" arises in each teenager and refers to the degree of goods and services he feels he requires to maintain a desirable standard of living at the moment and as he matures for the future. Teenagers could be assisted to learn that it is God that gives power for one to make wealth (Deut. 8:18).

Well-Being: The plan of God is for each person to enjoy good health. It is in the well-being of life that one can serve God better. To be in condition of well-being is to attain and maintain a high degree of mental and physical health. Teenagers must be guided to avoid the intake of any substance that will temper with

their wellness. Getting involved in antisocial behaviours can endanger their wellness. Instilling these values can go a long way to curb indiscipline among the teenagers. **Rectitude...**"The personal recognition and individual commitment to such standard and ethics as will enable a person to develop, with the broad limits of his own and society's needs, an abiding sense of responsibility for his own attitude and behaviours a dedication to truth, honesty, justice, fairness and compassion" (Brayer & Clearly, 1972: 105-110, 117). **Etiquette:** There are rules that guide behaviour at home and in the society. Behaving right covers all areas of life that must be given attention to and these include residential, bathroom, toilet, dining table, personal hygiene, pedestrian, conversation, human relation, greeting, dressing etiquettes and so on (Ayantayo, 2016).

Teenagers should be assisted to clarify their values, clarifying values means given consideration to choices and what are the reasons behind what they choose to do. Values clarification should involve examining possible consequences of options before actions are taken. Values clarification would help teenagers to better plan for how to spend their time, energies and money. Judicious use of time and energies would help to conserve young lives from unnecessary danger (Ayandokun, 2015). Many teenagers enter into problems today because it is difficult for them to choose what is helpful and valuable. Getting involved in activities that can endanger lives must be avoided by teenagers. It has been observed that many teenagers face the consequence of their choices and actions because they failed to clarify values. Something may be free but such often poses danger to person(s) involved. This should be the reason why parents, teachers, counselors and pastors should help teenagers to make value clarification; something that is important along life's decisions. To make free choice may be dangerous for both the teenagers and their parents or ward (Kuzma, 1989; Brooks, 1996).

Choosing to do what is right would earn teenagers credibility. It will make them to escape many errors or mistakes that lead to discipline or sometimes punishment. The choice to be honest, to say the truth, work upon the truth and maintain the truth would be very necessary in life. The family occupies a unique and strategic position to help teenagers clarify values by providing appropriate guidance and counsel. Pastors and teachers at church should also accept the challenges to provide the necessary guidance. When these opportunities are provided, it is now the responsibilities of teenagers to choose to do what is right and valuable. In values' clarification, parents and older adult cannot neglect guided discipline for teenagers. Parents have the responsibilities of disciplining their teenagers which sometimes is a difficult task. However, when healthy discipline is provided, "it is part of a comforting family environment." (Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS), 2003). As much as possible, parents should analyze the goals of discipline, as this makes discipline effective and help parents prevent behavioural problems among teenagers. Parents should protect their teenagers by providing guided self-control and self-discipline and also develop a sense of responsibility by instilling Christian and family values in teenagers.

Parents and teenagers are to note the following in the process of instilling family and Christian values: **Respect:** Teenagers are assisted to learn to respect their parents' authority and the right

of other people; **Consistency:** Parents must be consistent on rules for discipline and what they expect from their teenagers; **Fairness:** Teenagers must be treated fairly. The consequences of their actions should be related to their behaviour and **You:** parents play vital role in maintaining discipline and this calls for parents' attention to do all within their reach to help discipline and guide their teenagers properly (Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS), 2003).

Parents can prevent behavioral problems by following these guidelines: Allow time for play and relaxation, give opportunity for making choices, learn to redirect or distract with more meaningful activities, provide necessary materials for the age group, learn appropriate age-level behavior, learn to be patient a times with your teenagers and ignore little things. It would be important to also promote good behaviour as parents spend time with their teenagers each day, be comforting to their teenagers, respect feeling and try to understand the situation teenagers are, create time to make fun and play with their teenagers, keep promise made to teenagers to earn their trust and appreciate their teenagers for good behaviour. Parents must work very hard to assist teenagers in their choices. Christie Morrison, author of *Discipline Secret* talks on the need to be loving in the process of discipline which when handled rightly would produce well-behaved child and a responsible happy and successful adult (Christie Morrison; Wilhoit, 2008).

VI. GUIDING AND COUNSELING YOUNG TEENAGERS: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Counseling is often a suggested solution to get out of many problems of life. To counsel with people is to assist them know they have problems that must be solved. In matters of counseling teenagers, parents, pastors, teachers or older adults must accept this challenge and work on how to meaningfully assist teenagers overcome their stressful conditions. Providing counseling that is God-centered and love-oriented is to show the sovereignty of God in all matters of life. When human power is exhausted, there begins the manifestation of God's greatness to speak to people's life situations. Teenagers who have behavioral and other problems must not be pegged; there is always room for change and bringing about the dawn of new day in the lives of the teenagers in this 21st century world (Collins, 1980; Ayandokun 2010). This calls for:

Create an atmosphere of forgiveness

Counseling teenagers should be done in an atmosphere that can provide for forgiveness and nurture. Many teenagers feel guilty of past mistakes. When reprimanded, they may be ready to change on the condition that forgiveness would be offered. It has been observed that many teenagers fear exposing their fault to their parents because of the guilt and consequences attached to such. McDowell asserts that "building an atmosphere of forgiveness and unconditional acceptance is tough but crucial." (McDowell, 1987). As much as possible, forgiveness must be made available for the unloving, uncooperative, disobedient and rebellious teenager. Parents, teachers at church and school should make the room available to offer forgiveness in minute and big matters. Building an atmosphere of forgiveness and not that of condemnation will help foster love that can enhance godly

virtues in teenagers when emphasizing Christian and family values (Waggoner, 2004). This is best achieved when parents have cordial relationship among themselves.

Counseling Young Teenagers Intentionally

In counseling teenagers, it is important to assist them develop their self-esteem. Parents should be keen about the peers of their wards and discourage every unwholesome association (McDowell, 1987). The influence of the society via the media and its messages on sex, drugs, alcohol, on teenagers is to be monitored, cautioned and corrected. Parents must help young ones to say no to sex and other social vices that corrupt Christian teenagers. Many young girls and boys engage in different immoral practices that amazed the older generation in the societies and the world at large. Prevention, people say, is better than cure. For this reason, one would advise that parents and older one should assist teenagers understand the followings to guide them against entering into problems that can tarnish their images/self-worth for life. In order words, teenagers should:

- i. Accept the love, training and discipline from their parents and guardians.
- ii. Understand the necessity of body changes; it is not an excuse for loose living.
- iii. Never allow outside influence erase the training parents give.
- iv. Do not be enticed by nice words into sinful habits. They are like poisons coated with sugar or honey. Taking to it can be dangerous and without remedy.
- v. Accept genuine affection from parents rather than counterfeit friends who often are deceitful
- vi. Be sure you are accountable for the type of life you live.
- vii. Maintaining Christian value is not negotiable.
- viii. Follow set standard for dating.
- ix. Learn to say "No" to premarital sex.
- x. Reasons to wait are worthy of consideration (McDowell, 1987; Wilhoit, 2008).

Behaviour Modification

Behavior modification "is a conscious effort and an influencing, modifying, improving and changing the inappropriate behavior of a person in a desired direction." (Olawale, 2001) Behavior modification can be helpful in the process of counseling teenagers. This is when parents, Pastors, teachers and counselors provide appropriate learning conditions and experiences that can help change bad habits that are already learnt. Teenagers could be assisted to determine to unlearn bad habits that could lead them to persistent problems leading to the need for discipline. To use behavior modification with any group of person, Olawale (2001) suggests that a detailed specification be provided concerning the problem condition responsible for the behavior that is to be changed and there is need for evaluation of therapy to ascertain its level of effectiveness.

VII. THE ROLES OF COUNSELORS IN COUNSELING YOUNG TEENAGERS

To be a counselor is to accept to be a helper to someone, somebody or a group of person. Serving as counselor to teenagers calls for becoming a friendly helper to handle various

challenging situations in the lives of the teenagers. In this aspect of the paper, the writer will attempt to list and describe what counselors can do to help in counseling teenagers in various circumstances.

- i. Accept the challenge to add meaning to someone's life. To be a friendly helper is to be ready to contribute to the life of another person, to be ready to assist and offer solution in a problematic situation.
- ii. People have problems and that is a reality. Coming across many teenagers, one will realize that each person has his/her own personal problems. To overcome stress and being bottle-necked is to see someone who could help teenagers in their distressing situation. Counselors should be readily available to offer help to solve problems teenagers may have and thereby make them feel comfortable.
- iii. To be a helper is to possess helping characteristic such as care, acceptance understanding, and trust (Myrick and Bowman, 1981: 1-9, 17). 26 The processes may involve asking five important questions: What is the problem? What have you tried? What else could you do and what would happen? What's your next step? and How did it go?

It is interesting to know that "people with problems want to talk with a person who is caring accepting, understanding and trustworthy (Myrick and Bowman, 1981) .27 Counseling teenagers without receiving feedback is like pouring water in a basket. Feedback helps to evaluate the effectiveness and the outcome of the helping relationship. A feedback model requires that the counselors be specific about what he sees and hears, tell what you are feeling and tell what your feeling make you want to do.

Counselors must note that counseling teenagers require time when you compliment or confront as the case may be. The counselor should be able to express his/her feelings on a particular situation. Expressing love and lending out hands for fellowship as you say hello means much in the life of people you help. Counselors must help teenagers develop positive self-image about themselves; this contributes to their responses to life's situations in this century. Counselors should be able to help teenagers accept their physical self, know their beliefs and attitudes, work within skills and abilities and know how to relate with others. Mastering these aspects help the friendly helper and those receiving the help. Counselors can become instruments in God's hands to touch the lives of many teenagers. Counselors can also offer their expertise advice on different area of teenagers' life such as counseling them to avoid casual sex (Heb. 13:4). They should be educated on the scourge of HIV/AIDS and as such avoid loose interaction. While HIV/AIDS could be contacted through others means, about 90% have been contacted through sexual intercourse with infected persons. Growing girls and boys should learn to say NO to premarital sex. The biblical mandate of keeping pure and holy among teenagers is not negotiable. Parents, teacher, pastors and counselor around should be models in this regard (Ten Great Reasons..., N.D).

Teenagers could be alerted on the dangers associated with cocaine addiction by providing vital information for them. Cocaine is a powerful addictive drug of abuse. The major way of taking cocaine are sniffing, injecting and smoking. Health risks

exist for those who engage in cocaine addictions. There is danger of transmitting HIV/AIDS infection especially when injection equipment is shared. Taken of cocaine in whatever form can result into damaging physical effect such as dilated pupils, increased body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, feelings of restlessness, irritability and anxiety. It could also be inform of paranoia and aggression in the users of cocaine drugs. Long-term effects include ulceration, damage of the nasal septum and can lead to death through cardiac arrest or seizures (Cocaine Information Service, 2005).

Avoid the Risk of Getting into "Abuse"- The rate of sexual abuse in the society is also alarming. Many teenagers are found to be among the perpetrators of this evil act. Some indisciplined teenagers engage their younger ones in this sinful and wicked act. It is unfortunate that it does happen, but to get out of this is to warn teenagers to avoid getting into "abuse" of any sort whether physical or sexual (Anderson, 1992). Young teenagers and youths face different challenges everyday. It would not be ideal to leave these young one in the ocean of crisis. Parents, teachers, pastors and counselors could readily assist as they provide answers on different issues. Adequate use of the words of God is the basis for transformation, changed attitude and lives. The essence is to apply God's word that can handle and speak to the different aspects of life situation of growing girls and boys. The essence of changed lives is for teenagers to affect their world for Christ positively.

VIII. RESEARCH ELABORATIONS

The researcher investigated empirically on the research topic and below is the analysis of the respondents' view on the study. The researcher sent out seventy (70) questionnaires among parents, teachers, guardians, counselors, Pastors and teenagers across few churches such as the Baptist, Redeemed and Mountain of Fire & Miracle Church in Lagos State of Nigeria. 68 questionnaires were retrieved given 97% return on questionnaires sent out. On the items on the questionnaires, 64% respondents accepted that family values are not outdated while 36% said family values are outdated. 64% respondents also disagreed on relieving teens from family values while 36% accept that family values should not be enforced on teens. On matters of correction, 81% said teens should be corrected for future better behavioral conduct while 80% respondents are against given teens all freedom without needed guidance and restrictions. On worship in any church of choice apart from the parents' church, 76% respondents disagreed on this. 74% respondents also disagreed on teens starting courtship, going out for dating and dressing to taste at will while 68% respondents still expect teens to fully kneel down, prostrate and be actively involved in household chores in this 21st century dispensation. The result from the analysis of the questionnaires revealed a larger percentage of people still cherish family values and would want teens to embrace them for personal use. There are many family values that are still relevant and those considered outdated in the 21st century church and world.

IX. CONCLUSION

Counseling teenagers is to provide room for correction, nurture and growth. It is to help liberate teenagers to enjoy wholeness. A whole person or a total person is one who is physically fit. Mentally alert, and emotionally stable, socially balanced, spiritually directed and morally sound. Those who guide teenagers as counselors should nurture them through God-directed counsel. The counseling should help teenagers develop in their relationship with God and others around them. Above all, such counseling must bring healing, fosters sustenance, provide guidance, enhances reconciliation and promote nurture which is Christian growth.

On the other hand, the role of the pastor in touching the lives of all members is made evident in his preaching, teaching and counseling all categories of persons in the church. The pastor occupies a unique position to provide guide for the lives of all members of the church. The pastor cannot neglect the children and the teenagers in the families of his church members if he will make real impact. He must not relent in “the task of bringing up, disciplining, training and teaching or educating...” (Akinsola, 2006) “The pastor must teach intentionally following biblical precedents and meeting the needs of the congregation in this 21st century church and world. The pastor must be able to communicate the words in a clear manner where children and teenagers would be tamed to be obedient, godly, decent and become responsible to God, their parents and to themselves. Threat to family values among teenagers is not unconnected to the changes which are happening all over the globe. Factors which influence or contribute to changes could be religious, education, technological, political, or socio-cultural.

REFERENCES

- [1] Ayandokun, Esther O. (2010). *Counseling Made Easy: Vital Hints on Caring for People with*
- [2] *Marriage Spices*. Lagos: Gloryline Christian Publications.
- [3] _____ (2013). *Biblical Nurture through Effective Christian Education*. Lagos: Gloryline Christian Publications.
- [4] _____ (2015). *Handbook on Effective Time Management for Peak Performance*.
- [5] *Revised Edition*. Ibadan: Publications Department, Nigerian Baptist Convention.
- [6] Ayantayo, J.K. (2016). *Etiquette for Personal and Public Life*. Ibadan: Samprints and Graphics Co.
- [7] Ayanrinola, Comfort. (2013). *Impactive Parenting: God-given Responsibility*. Ibadan: Baptist Press.
- [8] Barna, George. (2001). *Real Teen: A Contemporary Snapshot of Youth Culture*. Ventura, California: Regal Books.
- [9] Brayer, Herbert & Zeh Wo Clearly. (1972). *Valuing in the Family: A Workshop Guide for Parents*. California: Pennant Press.
- [10] Brooks, Jane B. (1996). *The Process of Parenting*. Fourth Edition. (Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing Company.
- [11] Carlson, Gregory C. (2006). *Rock Solid Teacher: Discover the Joy of Teaching Like Jesus* Ventura, California: Gospel Light.

- [12] Canadian Pediatric Society. (2003). (CPS) “Effective Discipline.” *A Healthy Approach* Accessed 2003.
- [13] Collins, R. Gary. (1980). *Christian Counseling*. U.S.A: Word Incorporated, 1980.
- [14] Conger, John I. (1977). *Adolescent and Youth Psychological Development in a Changing World*. London: Harper & Row Publishers. The Holy Bible.
- [15] Kastens, Gerald F. (2014). “The Role of Parents in Christian Education” @
- [16] <https://connect.wels.net/AOM/ps/youth/parenting/Documents/Role%20of%20Parents%20in%20Christian%20Education.aspx>. Accessed on 15th October 2014.
- [17] Kuzma, Kay. (1989). *Christian Parenting Library: How to discipline Your Child with Love* U.S.A: David C. Cook Publishing Co.
- [18] Makinde, Olu. (1983). *Fundamentals of Guidance and Counseling*. London: Macmillan Book Co. Ltd.
- [19] McDowell, Josh. (1987). *How to Help Your Child say “No to Sexual Pressure*. Great Britain: Cox and Wyman Ltd,
- [20] Merrison, Christie. *Discipline Secret*. No publication details.
- [21] Myrick, Robert D. and Robert P. Bowman. (1981). *Becoming A Family Helper: A Handbook for Student Facilitator*. U.S.A: Educational Media Corporations
- [22] Olawale, Sunday G. (2001). *Introduction to Behaviour Modification*. Ogbomoso: Adebayo Printer.
- [23] Ojo, M.A. (2006). “The NBC and the Pentecostal Insurgence, 1970-2000: Critical Issues for Ecclesiastical Dynamics: Ecclesiastes: The Preacher, The Church and Contemporary Society. Ibadan: Baptist Press.
- [24] Stone, Shertzer. (1971). *Fundamentals of Guidance*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1971.
- [25] “Ten Great Reasons Why you Should Say No to Sex Before Marriage” Jos: Honey City Press, N.D.
- [26] Waggoner, Brenda. (August 2004). “Taming Children’s Fears” *Parent Life*.
- [27] Wilhoit, James C. (2008). *Spiritual formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic.
- [28] Wiles, Jon. (2009). *Leading Curriculum Development*. California: Corwin Press.
- [29] Wright, H. Norman. (1987). *A Practical Guide for Pastor and Counselors: Marriage Counseling*. U.S.A: Regal Books.

AUTHORS

First Author – Dr Esther O. Ayandokun has been in the teaching profession for close to three decades. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration from the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso, Oyo State in 2006. She received further training and post-PhD exposure at SWBTS, Forth-Worth, Texas and Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, USA in 2011. She has authored some books and published in learned journals. She is also a conference speaker and facilitator. She lectures presently at Baptist College of Theology, Lagos having served in various academic and administrative positions. She is a member of the Society of Professors in Christian Education (SPCE), USA and some others. She is presently an Associate Professor in Christian Education.