

CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO CHILD DISCIPLINE. ITS' VALUE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORAL BEHAVIOUR IN OUR SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The paper is primarily concerned with the value of Christian approach to child discipline in the society. The study examines nature of child discipline, practical ways of child discipline and considerable areas of child discipline as well as admonish parents to promote mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence amongst children and every individual in the society. Discipline in the Nigerian society has reduced to a minimum level, therefore, parents has vital role to play, not to allow it in the hands of teachers and Sunday school coordinators. Subsequently by virtues of these values, the study recommends parents to discipline their children in their early age so that they will develop morally.

Keywords: *Christian approach, child discipline, value, moral behaviour, society, Nigeria.*

Introduction:

It is expected that the family should provide guidance and training that the child needs to develop all around, thus physically mentally, socially and morally. Christian parents need to know how to approach and raise their children to develop morally, strong and spiritual living manner to please God and be acceptable to the society. Christian women 3mirror January (2010:10) observed that to raise children properly will require the best that we give our time, offers and financial resources in the other hand, many of the frustration of parenthood sorrows are as a result of random trial and error method in discipline.

According to MaryO'Neil (2001) has identified the following terms of paper thus; Christian means a person who believes in and follows the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ. While approach means to come near or nearer in space or time. Child means someone lacking in experience or understanding in something. Discipline is also defined as a strict taming or the enforcement of rules intended to produce or ordered and controlled behaviour resulting from the discipline. Punishment is designed to create obedience on area of learning, especially a subject of academic study. Value according to Neil, is the quality of being a fair exchange or quality of being a useful or desirable. The degree of usefulness.

The word of God is the standard of truth in this, but this is not to deny the contributions of the psychologist physicians, to advance discipline in their fields. But we can say that in order for parents to be effective their responsibilities it must be made through the authority of God (Psalm 127:1-3), say except the lord build the house, the labour in vain they that built it. Except the lord keep the city, the watchmen, watched, but in vain.

It is in vain to raise early to set up late the bread sorrow, for so he gives to his beloved children are heritage of the fruit of womb is his reward. Therefore, children need to be nurture according to God's motive for the wellbeing of the family, school and the society at large.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology used in putting this paper together was historical and psychological analytical methods which are common in other related field of studies. Education by its very nature is a human activity through learning and experience that is liable to interwoven and coordinates all aspect of human life. Sources such as library documents both published and unpublished books, articles are being used.

THE NATURE OF CHILD

The view of Goodseel (1915), said that surely there are in all children stubbornness of mind arising nature pride which must in the first place be broken and beaten down so that the foundation of their education being laid in humility and traceableness other victories may in turn be build their own."

Ray (1999), said remember children are born with deceived bias towards evil, and therefore, if you let them choose for themselves they are certain to choose

wrong. The mother cannot tell what her tender infant may grow up to be tall or short weak or strong, wise or foolish, he may not be any of them. It is uncertain but one thing the mother can say with certain is the child will have corrupt and sinful heart. It is natural for us to do wrong and be foolish. Solomon said, foolishness is bound in the heart of the child. Onamusi (1998) explained that every child come to the big ladder in his life. It starts at the bottom of the ladder and travels up to where two lumps paint. At the point he stands and debates which way right or the way of vice on the left.

PRACTICAL WAYS OF CHILD DISCIPLINE

Holy Scripture (Deu 6:6-7) says “and this words which I command thee this day should be in the heart and thou teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou walk by the way and when thou lies-down and when thou rise up.

Like the book of (Ephesians 6:4) says, and ye father provoke not they children to wrath, but bring them up in the nature and admonition of the lord.

According to Reiner (1994), identified various ways for helping the child to walk with God thus: family worship, prayer meetings at home, Bible teaching by story-telling, positive, attitude towards children using scripture to particularly teach needed lesson when need arises, teaching the Bible in memory work and scripture mottoes on the wall.

The family is more important and permanent unit more closely knit than church congregation. Worship in the family is more practical and real participated in together by the people who know one another best where Christian must necessarily be the part of every opportunity in your home the worship is real and sincere

Onamusi (1998) advised that we should not say that they are young, they cannot understand when the devil is busy catching them young. Therefore, effort should be made to get them closer to him our God as early as possible so that they can serve him along (Lev. 27: 1-8), Ryle, (1884), said that instruction advice and command will profit little unless they are back up by the pattern of your own life your children will never believe that you are earnest ready to obey you, so long as your action contradicts your counsel. To give children instruction and a bad examples becoming to them with the head to show them the way to hearing while we take them by the hand and had them in the way to hell.

CONSIDERABLE AREAS IN CHILD DISCIPLINE

Remember, God expects parents and teachers to give them proper training in order to make them acceptable to him. Unfortunately, many parents home ignorantly married the future of their children by training to train them in the way of the lord. According to Odouze (1990), has mentioned seven of child discipline the home, school and the society.

The areas mentioned are:

1. Teach your children to be faithful and responsible (Mark 6:1-3)
2. Teach your children read the Bible and prayer (Dev 6:6-9, 31:12-13)
3. Teach your children to learn how to worship (Psalm 42:1, 2,63)

Our knowledge of God comes in five ways thus

 - (a) Through the study of his word (Psalm 119:18. 130)
 - (b) Through the fellowship in prayer (James 4:8)
 - (c) Through the fellowship with other believers (John 1:3)
 - (d) Through our daily walk with him (John 1:9-10)
4. Teach your children that God want to bless them spiritually (Isaih 54:13, Mark 10:14-16).
5. Teach your children the grace of the Christian giving (John 3:16, 1 Cor, 9:7, Luke 6:38)
6. Teach your children to put God trust in every part of their lives (Mathew 6:33) lastly,
7. Teach your children to respect the constituted authority (Romans 13:1, Colossian 3:20, 1 Peter 5:5-6), while the women mirror, (January 2001), has identified ten areas how to train our children in Godly manner.
 1. Train him to make good decision in life without much dependence on another.
 2. Ensure him of the promise of God that if he seeks to please him, it will bring blessings of God (Proverb 1:67)
 3. Train him to flee evil, (Mathew 5:9)
 4. Live exemplarily lives before children.
 5. Teach him not to be procrastinate, putting off till tomorrow what he can do today (Philippians 4:13)
 6. Speak faith as a behaviour over them (Hebrews 11:23)
 7. Forgive them they cause pain and commend them when they do well
 8. Instruct him in path of honour

9. Show concern for children (Mark 10:13-16)
10. Instruct him in path of integrity and holiness.

PROBLEMS IN CHILD DISCIPLINE AT HOME

The problems in child discipline at home comes as a result of child disobedience of the parent's instructions in turn, children eventually must learn to respect the rules of the culture in which they live or they will be in conflict with the people in the culture. Children tend to adopt the standard of their parents if they have made that reflect those standards and values at home will bring them a satisfying life. Ultimately if children perceived you as caring for them as believing in them and if they recognized the existence of reasonable standard within the home, they are likely to work cooperatively to find a way to get along. Behaviour and discipline are difficult areas for both families and schools, in the past adults often focused on what to do if the children were considered effective and accepted. Today corporal punishments such as canning and smacking are illegal in schools and at homes. Schools now focus on encouraging and rewarding good work and behaviours rather than trying to frighten the children into obeying the teacher. Some parents at home use what is known as positive discipline. This involved using lots of reinforcement messages that good behaviour will help the child to enjoy at home.

PROBLEM OF CHILD DISCIPLINE IN THE SCHOOL

Sometime problem of behaviour occurs because students do not know how to act appropriately. Schools discipline had two main goals to ensure the safety of staff and students and create the enabling environment conducive for learning. Serious students misconduct includes violence or criminal behaviour defect these goals and often make headlines in the process. However, the commonest discipline problems involve non-criminal students' behaviour (Interview, Samuel Wakili).

This sanction marks effectively only if you the parents supported, it's important to discuss what happened with your child and help him to take responsibility of what happened if he was in wrong. Keep your child to work out of how he can avoid trouble in the future, of course if you feel detention or any other action is unfair you should contact the school to discuss the issue even through physical punishment is illegal. Teachers are allowed by law to use reasonable force to prevent a child from committing crime, causing injury or damage causing

disruption and hurting himself. If behaviour continues to worsen, or violent abusive damaging, school do have the right to expel children. But this involve long consultation before problems go this way.(Interview Raymon Daniel).

HOW TO PROMOTE CHILD DISCIPLINE?

Punishment will be first, but the child will understand how they build up to future positive or negative consequences. Therefore, play, circle at home to make sure your child understands appropriate behaviour and the benefit of participating in the activity. First have him talk loudly and get out of his seat. Explain that this disturbs the group when he is quite and seat still, read him a favourite story.

According to Pooner (2003), the most important thing that we must teach our children to be obedient to parents being truthful, unselfishness, being respectful to his elderly ones and having concern for right of others, he further says: when children live in criticism they learn to condemn when they live with ridicules, they learned to be shy, when they live with shame they learn to feel guilty, when they live with tolerance they learn to be patient, when they live with encouragement they learn to be confident, when they drive with security they learn to behave faithfully, when live with approval they learn to accept themselves, when they live with friendship they learn to love and when they live with praise they learn to have faith.

Awake (2004), said discipline is about teaching a child how to manage feelings out of control behaviour. Every child is looking very hard for limit. After love, discipline is the most important thing to give in the same magazine J.Frasar Mustard exposed in the early years of life influence how that child brain develops. According to Ryle (1984), parents will be at fault if they never punish their children when they are at fault when they are at fault. I warn you, this is the rock on which the saints of God every age of only too frequently made. I will train persuade you to be in term and keep clear of it see this case his children keep of when he ought to have rebuke them. Hopni and Phinehas made themselves vile and he restrained them not he has them on morethan a time and lukewarm reproof, when he ought to have rebuke them sharply.

In other word he lives to hear the death of both of his sons in battle and his own grey hair were brought down with sorrow to the grave. See too the case of David who can read without the history of his children and their sins? Ammon's incest Absalom's murder and proud rebellions Scharin ambition truly those were wounds for the man after Gods own heart to receive from the house.

But was there no fault on his side? I fear there can be no doubt there was. I found it all in the account Adonijah in (1 Kings 1:6), its father has not displaced him at any time in saying why has thou done so? This was the foundation of all mischief. David was over indulgent father, and he let his children to have their own way he reaped what he sowed. Bushwell (1982), said any need for children education in which he says "organic unity of the society" by this he meant are members of a given society have common source of life that relate them especially of the present flow from the trunk into the branches of a tree. It is hope that Christian religion education has to help children to develop their thinking abilities preparing them to understand and have the fear of God.

CONCLUSION

This paper examines the concept of discipline as set of activities in value which has paramount importance in the society, these values among others are peace, unity, cooperation, contribution, self-control, self-confidence goodness, gentleness, kindness and many others that prepare children to be better citizens of the community, society or country at large. Parents are expected to train their children in the years of learning at homes and schools by doing so we shall remove all misdeeds from our children knowing fully that parents are the true mirror of their children and the children in turn reflects them. The paper also establishes the need for discipline among children and by parents, teachers, and members of the community to enable them become useful citizens in the future of the country Nigeria.

The paper recommends that the position of discipline should be taken seriously by parents and their teachers in schools. Also since the Bible which is the key to any meaningful moral and religious education in any part of the world, should be better source of instruction.

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