

# **TOMORROW, As Hope undeterred**

**Elder Osinachi O. C. Osuagwu**

Have you ever been committed, hoping for an assurance of the exact maturity of your expectation? Have you ever, may be as a student, been assured of the exact time to expect your school fees? Or have you ever been assured by a reliable client/ customer of when to expect payment for goods supplied or services rendered?

“TOMORROW” is a powerful hope restorer. “TOMORROW” from the mouth of a confidant is as near as today. Yes, the Lord has decreed it; Yes the Lord has affirmed it. The voice spoke in an irrevocable manner “The Youth – the tomorrow of my Church”. So it is.

“Arise, Shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you. And His glory will be seen upon you”. (Isa. 60:1,2).

In referring to the youth as the tomorrow of the Church, could the Lord be talking of HOPE of continuity for the truth of the gospel? This TOMORROW is the HOPE of today and the future, till Christ comes.

This therefore brings us to the issue of AVAILABILITY. How available are you in the things of the Lord as a youth? Test yourself whether you are Active or Docile. What mark have you made as a proof of your willingness and ability to answer the Lord's call to duty? Your preparation should draw encouragement from apostle Paul's demand for positive appraisal of self worth in 2Tim2:19-21: “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”

The bible went further to demand everyone, the youth inclusive, to “prove your own works Gal. 6:4 “But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another”

This could be in the area of evangelism, lifestyle, labour of love etc .

There is no better time for this than now! THE CHALLENGE HAS JUST BEGUN!

**ELDER OSINACHI OSUAGWU**

## **HOW CAN A YOUNG PERSON MAKE HIS WAYS PURE OR CLEAR IN THE SIGHT OF GOD? Psalms 119:9**

**PETER O. OKEZIE** (Teacher/Youth Ambassador)

This topic looks simple to ordinary Bible reader but complex to devoted Christian who study the word.

According to the Bible, a young man (both male and female) is full of strength going wherever his/her mind directs him. This was why our Lord Jesus Christ told Peter that when he is young he can go where ever he wants but when he is old, someone else will take him where he would not want to go (John 2 vs. 18).

It is in consonance with the above that Solomon said that there is a way that seems right in the eyes of a man but the end thereof is the way of death (Proverbs 14 vs. 12). A young man should cast all his cares to the lord for proper guidance and direction (Proverbs 16 vs3). Most time?, the youth are burdened about tomorrow and the fear of uncertainty make them to indulge in many acts that are not godly. This made Jesus our lord to admonish us not to be anxious for anything compare (Luke 12 vs. 22, 29-30) (Philips 4 vs. 6).

However the way a young person should cleanse his way involve a lot but simple step by step process.

First, he must be a true believer, a person who has actually been born again that is repenting and rejecting the works of the evil one. Compare (Acts 2 vs»38), (Acts 22 vs. 16), (2 Cor. 5 vs. 17).

Secondly, the next step is to thirst after righteousness. As youths we should long to be in our fathers business so that when he must have found us worthy. He will settle us appropriately (Luke 2 vs. 49). This

was what Jesus told us in (Matt 5 vs. 6). Also, the young rich who wanted to inherit the eternal life, Jesus told him plainly"..... Do you know what is written in the commandment" and he said, I do observe them from my youth. Jesus asked him to go and sell whatever he has and give it to the poor and he shall have treasure in heaven and come take up the cross and follow him. This conversation between Jesus and the young rich means that you who possess the word of God should go and sell it (preach it) as well as take up the cross [challenges) personal problem. Indicating that a youth should be industrious in order to solve his personal problems and .not to be lazy then come and follow me so that your treasure will be great in heaven. Compare (Mark 10 vs. 17-21).

Thirdly, the next thing a youth who wish to make his ways pure should do is to learn to be humble and walk with his God. Here a youth should learn to be patient while waiting for God to settle him. He should not pull out of the contract [covenant) or (backslide) rather he should press on to the mark like Apostle Paul, forgetting things that are behind or past [Philippians 3 vs. 13), (Micah 6vs 8).

Also walking humbly with God entails to be conscious of the word of the master (God). Do not be in haste to take the lead in the ways He is directing you rather wait for Him, for He is never late to surprise you [youth).

Therefore it pleases the covenant keeping God to give you his kingdom having made us heirs with Christ. What we should do is to do our best to present ourselves as worthy ambassadors of our Lord Jesus in this crooked generation [Rom. 8 vs. 17).

Finally, guide your heart because out of it comes the issues of life. A philosopher said "as a man thinks in his heart, so he is". So many youths do not know treat the natural law of sequence that things move from small to big, this is why a child will first crawl, sit, stand, walk before running. Do not think in your heart that you are no body, there is something great in you. It is your ability to visualize this, that God can then give you the desires of your heart when His things pleases you (youth) (Psalms 37 vs. 4).

Therefore, do not say you are poor but struggle to ensure you have what will be sufficient for you and the needy. That somebody is in need does not make him poor rather the way he thinks in his heart. Therefore whatever your hand find to do, do it with your might and do not forget your days of little beginning (Job 8 vs. 7) (Ecc. 9 vs. 10).

By so doing, you will overcome lack. Because, the Lord has position the youth for burden bearing in the church. It will be unprofitable to think of POOR (which I interpreted as "passing over opportunities reluctantly"). When you make good use of your youthful age you will discover that actually there is no loss in Jesus Christ both on earth and in heaven.

Remain committed in the onerous call by our savior Jesus Christ.

A servant of the Lord

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## **A YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

**BRO. ONYEBUCHI REMY UWAEME**

"...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God -were pleading through us..." 2Corinthians: 5 vs 20.

When one is saved and becomes a new creature which means born again.). He/she is automatically transformed into an ambassador for Christ, entrusted with the responsibility of reaching out to others with the gospel, getting them converted and be saved as well. Consequently, it is expected of an ambassador to portray the image, culture and characteristics of Christ whom he/she represents. This implies that everything about an ambassador of Christ ought to reflect and speak of God whom he/she represents. Therefore, the totality of an ambassador's lifestyle serves as evangelism and a convincing factor for others who have not been saved to believe and be reconciled to God the same way he/she did.

This is similar to our earthly life experiences. Often times, parents use children from "decent and disciplined" homes to cite examples or role models to their children. They encourage their children to follow such kids because they follow in the footsteps of their household. This is because they believe that following such kids will lead to their own children having similar behaviors.

However, as youths, we are admonished thus, "...Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth..." Ecclesiastics: 12 vs. 1 (NKJV). This means that as vibrant youths in the household of God, we are

well placed to carry the duties of ambassadors to places such as schools, market places, workplace, etc., we should be able to show that we are different and dedicated to the things of God. This is Mostly important in a world and generation where youths are branded evil minded and material driven. The youths in our generation are often associated with all manner of social vices; stealing, cultism, wild partying-and careless lifestyles, to mention but a few. Hence, it becomes pertinent for "Christian" youths to exhibit the characteristics of ambassadors for Christ in the midst of this wildness.

Although, in the course of our life and personal development here on earth, it is obvious that at some points we (ambassadors of Christ) are unavoidably placed in the midst of unbelievers but, such time becomes a time to prove our loyalty, trustworthiness, and faithfulness to the master (Jesus Christ).

For instance, in schools, the role of schools (primary, secondary and tertiary) in the lives of young people cannot be over-emphasized. It has proven to be a place where youths are either made or marred. Most parents send their children there hoping they would come out to be good and not bad. It is where a 'good' boy goes and becomes 'bad', a 'bad' girl becomes 'good' and a 'good' boy becomes 'confused'.

It is where a 'good Christian' becomes an 'unbeliever' and an 'unbeliever' becomes a Christian. Therefore, youths are warned about 'campus life', the dangers and benefits that accompany it. However, it is on this premise that a TRUE ambassador is formed.

Consequently, an ambassador for Christ in any school environment is expected to make God proud by distinguishing him/herself from others. By proving that in the midst of these different lifestyles found in schools, he/she maintains that life which is expected of him/her as an ambassador. Through that life, he/she is able to draw others to join him/her.

However, being an ambassador for Christ is not without challenges but most youths, when confronted with the harsh realities of 'school life', tends to fall. This frequent fall is often as a result of inferiority complex, fear of rejection, lack of confidence, etc. which most times lead them into seeking 'acceptance' from others and consequently, they are enticed (1 Corinth: .15 vs. 33). They are easily intimidated; preaching becomes a problem as they are afraid others may laugh at them. They can't even stand tall and condemn or reject wrong deeds because they might be trampled upon by bullies. They are confronted by the numerous beliefs they come across, each with its own doctrines which most times are conflicting and

confusing, which makes them ponder the right one to follow.

These challenges and their effects have made people who have heard or seen it from some ambassadors of Christ, skeptical of Christians.

They see them as pretenders who don't practice what they preach. They always look out for the so-called ambassadors who are promiscuous, who cheat in exams, who go to night parties secretly, etc. those who claim their belief forbids them from wearing trousers yet they promote trousers in school, forbids them from putting on miniskirts yet they have them secretly in school, forbids them from night parties yet they are the first to attend. In fact, they are seen as wolves in sheep's clothing, as they are 'born again' at home and something else outside. All these are what an ambassador of Christ ought to prove wrong.

True enough, most churches, recognizing the importance of youth ambassadors, has set up campus fellowships in order to encourage their members to be true ambassadors for Christ. This has helped to curb some of the excesses of youth, bringing them closer or to turn to God. However, this has also led to confusion amongst the youths as they are tired of asking which doctrine or 'godly' life to follow.

In order to tackle this challenge, we consider what Joshua said thus "Now, therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth...And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" Joshua: 24 vs. 14-15 (NKJV). For it is important that youths decide for themselves.

## **THE BEAUTY OF A YOUTH**

It is a well-known fact that beauty is one of the major concerns of youths. From the time of adolescence, we tend to begin to have that awareness of our 'beauty'. We begin to seek attention from each other based on our beauty, determining who is 'ugly' and 'beautiful'. This leads to frustrations by those considered 'ugly' and pride by those considered 'beautiful'. As they grow, those considered 'ugly' will try their best to become 'beautiful', while those considered 'beautiful' will strive to maintain or improve upon their 'beauty'.

The quest to be among the most beautiful ladies in the society has led many girls to do different things ranging from facial make-ups, ornaments, dressings etc. in order to appear 'beautiful'. Often times, any lady considered 'ugly' seen without make-ups is mocked as it is believed that make-ups transform

anybody to be 'beautiful' (though when it is rightly done). The fashion world has continued to evolve and expands to enable guys and ladies become handsome and beautiful.

While it is necessary for a youth to look good (whether adjudged beautiful or not) and accepted by the society, it is pertinent to understand beauty from God's perspective. To ask ourselves, how beautiful we look in the sight of God. Failure to understand this means we will be like the daughters of Zion who allowed themselves to be haughty after adorning themselves with various make-ups and ornaments to be beautiful (Isaiah: 3 vs. 16-24). Beauty makes one proud, it made the daughters of Zion behave as prostitutes, in fact, prostitutes are identified by their make-ups, how they paint their faces, the type of clothes they wear, etc.

Compare Ezekiel: 23 vs. 40, 2Kings: 9 vs. 30, Revelation: 17 vs. 4, Genesis: 38 vs. 14-19.

In order to address this issue of beauty in God's eyes, most churches today have come up with different arguments as to how one should appear before God. Most of them claim that God is not interested in one's outward beauty or appearance but only in the heart, citing 1 Samuel: 16 vs. 7. Hence, members only need to make sure their hearts are pure before God. This has led to virtually all manner of fashion being exhibited in churches today. Ladies dress and apply make-ups anyhow they like, likewise men with different hairstyles and dressing. One can hardly differentiate between a prostitute and a Christian, an unbeliever, and a believer, as "everyone" is allowed to suit themselves in the house of God no matter their outward appearance!

The truth remains that while God looks at the heart and not the outward appearance, it didn't stop Him from condemning the daughters of Zion for their outward appearance which made them haughty. He recognized their 'efforts' to be beautiful through make-ups and ornaments which made them haughty see Isaiah: 3 vs. 16-17 and promised to 'deal' with them. Also, God observed how Israel committed abomination after they have been beautified with ornaments and bracelets, they went into harlotry and subsequently withdrew from God see Ezekiel: 16 vs. 13-22. Also, Apostle Paul, highlighting the importance of our body being acceptable unto God and not conforming to the world, wrote thus: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect -will of God". Romans: 12 vs. 1 (NKJV).

Hence the teaching that we should dress anyhow we like (wearing trousers, make-ups, etc.) is unbiblical for God is mindful of how we dress and appear before Him!

The Christian youth should, therefore, recognize and understand that God has made us epistles of Christ in our hearts, read by all men (2Corinthians:3 vs. 2-3), written by the Holy Spirit. We are to show that we have the spirit of God by our actions, behaviors, etc. for by their fruits we shall know them (Mathew: 7 vs 16-19). Their fruits include the way we dress, speak, and react to issues and challenges around us. The likeness of Christ should be seen in us and attest to the Spirit we received, persistently and continuously seeking heavenly things and not worldly things (Colossians: 3 vs. 1-2). We should be proud of our natural beauty and not let anyone mock us into being dependent on make-ups, ornaments, hairstyles, etc. to show our beauty in accordance with the standards of this world.

We should therefore concern ourselves with spiritual beauty, not based on the type of dress, hair, ornaments or make-ups (which beautifies us) according to "worldly standards", but based on the hidden person of the heart, with incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet heart (1 Peter: 3 vs. 3-5). To look good in our appearance (1 Timothy: 2 vs. 9-10), preaching with it as our appearance should speak of us as men and women professing godliness. These should be the priority of our youths.

After all, the society today is interested in a guy or lady with "character", "morals" etc., they prefer someone who is 'ugly' but with manners, respect, dignity, and so on. In fact, we are all handsome and beautiful so long as we connect positively with people through our lives the right path to follow when confronted as this will enable them to be fearless, bold and courageous in carrying out their duties as ambassadors, not easily enticed or swayed by other lifestyles (Daniel: 1 vs. 3-16). They will no longer be intimidated, feel inferior or lack courage in defending Christ and drawing people to God (Daniel: 3 vs. 10-29). As they will be absolutely sure, confident and proud of whom they are what they believe, what they preach about and ready to sacrifice for it.

In conclusion, it is important to note that for one to determine the right path (doctrine, teaching) to follow, he/she must ask questions (Jeremiah: 6 vs. 16) about the TRUTH. Many denominations and churches today claim they have the truth, yet they contradict each other and say that only God will judge on the last day, which church or denomination got it right. This teaching is unfounded as Christ came and established His words (the bible) to be our judge (John: 12 vs. 47-50), no wonder he said thus "He -who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John: 7 vs. 38 NKJV. Hence we need to seek the right doctrine of Christ 2 John: 9-11, for it, will shape us into being proud and fearless ambassadors of Christ in everything we do.

**ONYEBUCHI REMY UWAEME**



# **AS A YOUTH, WHICH SIDE ARE YOU: FOR CHRIST OR FOR THE WORLD?**

**BRO. FOSTER MADUABUCHI OKEZIE**

In life every youth is faced with a lot of challenges from within and outside his or her environment which could be an impediment or a stepping-stone to his or success in life depending on how they are managed. An understanding of this fact is what makes the entire difference between those for Christ and the world.

Those for Christ see these -challenges as a training, reminding themselves that every bonafide son/daughter of God must undergo a severe training by God to be able to withstand the influence of the environmental variables which could be the rain, the wind or the flood, encouraging themselves with the fact as stated by Apostle Paul " for the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it Heb. 12:5-11.

On the other hand, those of the world see these challenges as suffering, inappropriate for them, created by parents, siblings etc., the moment they began to conceive these thoughts, they will resolve to hostility, arrogance and lack of respect to those around them especially the parents, reminding themselves the pleasures their colleague are enjoying as well as their pride of life which could be boy or girl friends, jewels, type of food etc. 1 John 2:15-17. Hence, they will finally encourage themselves with these thoughts, I'm not the first to do or behave that way, all those doing them have not died and come rain, come shine heaven will not fall.

All these prompted Apostle Paul to remind Timothy and other youths that in the great house, there are vessels of gold, silver, wood and clay, some for honorable while some for dishonorable use and if any one prepares himself or herself, he or she will be a vessel of honour, ready for every good work and useful to the master of the house. 2 Timothy 2:20-21. This verse is a pointer showing that for any youth to be for Christ and successful, he or she must be prepared. This preparation could be analysed on three (3) pertinent issues;

1. The Right Attitude
2. Courage
3. Report

1. The Right Attitude: The virtue of right attitude could be traced from the mind. It is the mind that breeds every other character. Hence, a sound mind is indeed a great virtue while a corrupt mind is your worst enemy. For this very reason Apostle Peter urged brethren to make every effort to supplement their faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self control, self control with steadfastness etc. 2 Pet. 1:5-10. This further prompted Apostle Paul to charge Timothy towards holding faith and a good conscience which many despised and have their ship of faith capsized 1 Timothy 1:18-19.

In assessment of the right attitude, I would like to focus on these major characters which play out from the mind; a. Holiness b. Humility c. Sound speech.

a. Holiness: The essence of holiness is to preserve our lives as well as our image before God and the gentiles. Based on this, Apostle Peter urged believers to abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against their soul and keep their conduct among the gentiles honorable 1 Pet. 2:22-12.

He further stressed "As obedient children do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct as it is written "you shall be holy, for I am holy" 1 Pet. 1:14-16.

The main impediments to holiness are sexual immorality and uncleanness which are very frequent among the youths as many see it as a way of life as well as an enjoyment, however an enjoyment with a curse or repercussion is indeed a great threat to your future as it remains an indelible mark on you, though your sins may be forgiven. King Solomon in his wisdom urged youths to rejoice in their youth and to walk in the ways of their hearts and the sight of their eyes, but for all these things, God will bring them into judgment Ecc.11:9.

b. Humility: Humility remains an important virtue in the life of a believer as well as one of the major determinants to his or her success in life. In view of this fact Apostle Peter charged young people to be subject to the elders, clothe themselves with humility towards one another and to humble themselves therefore under the mighty hand of God so that at proper time he may exalt them 1 Pet. 5:5-11. However, when one is not humble definitely his or her mind must be occupied with pride. Hence pride is the root of all disobedience, arrogance, impatience and lack of respect.

Pride could be a barrier to your success by becoming fearful to the one who may wish to help or guide you accordingly with the impression that no one knows what could happen when you rise to a position of authority or wealth, could there be single regard for the common ones as well as obedience to the rule of law? All these will become a pertinent issue in the mind of the one who may wish to be of help as we saw a typical example between the elders in Israel and Rehoboam the son of Solomon I Kings 12:6-16. The moment you kept watch over pride you will definitely become a simple minded person and the spirit of kindness will begin to manifest fully in you. God himself is very much conscious about this as he rebukes the proud but gives grace to the humble as we saw the case of Samuel and the sons of Jesse. If David had not been humble, he wouldn't have agreed to rear the sheep alone in the wilderness being the youngest and having other brothers older than him.

An issue like pride looks simple, but simple things matter a lot and they are the real proof of your image because you are not under any influence of pretence. No wonder a man by name Randi Moris stated thus: the true test of a man is not his reputation [social status] but character, not what he does in light but in darkness.

c. Sound Speech: your speech is the next action that portrays your image after your appearance. King Solomon in his analysis stated thus to make an apt answer is a joy to a man and a word in season how good it is". Prov. 15:23. He stressed further "he who loves purity of heart and whose speech is gracious we have the king as his friend" Prov. 22:11. Apostle Paul also emphasized on this thus, "show yourself in all respect to be a model of good works and in your teaching shows integrity, dignity and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame having nothing evil to say about us" Titus 2:7-8. Hence, as a young servant of God, care must be taken to avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

2. Courage: Since life is full of challenges which make it interesting while overcoming them makes it meaningful. It is therefore necessary to supplement your faith with courage since your faith must be challenged. Courage simply means moving in the face of uncertainty which invariably anchors on the principle of a rugged faith. Hence, it takes courage to do the will of God as courage remains unstoppable.

Looking at the case of two blind men who were sitting by the roadside when Jesus and the great crowd following him were going out of Jericho, they cried out. Lord have mercy on us son of David, when they heard Jesus was passing by, indicating their strong faith on Christ. However, the crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, indicating a great sense of courage Matt. 20:29-34.

In line with the fact as stated by Paul Valery "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams". Joshua as a young man believed in the beauty of the Promised Land and his life was proactive and pleased with God indicating that he was a man of faith. However, God directed him to be strong and very courageous to achieve the following:

- i. To lead the people to inherit the land he swore to their fathers to give them.
- ii. Being careful to do according to all God commanded.
- iii To have good success wherever he goes Joshua 1:1-8

Therefore keep moving even in the face of uncertainty and do not be surprised at the fairy trial when it comes as though something strange is happening to you I Peter 4:12.

Finally, "you do not need the help of popular men to come to the top but the encouragement of a mentor" ..... Victor Nwotite as of this piece of written work.

3) Report: This stage of life is very fragile and requires optimum carefulness because whatever is done in life is based on report. For instance, we are used to planning our lives based on medical, financial, weather, and political report etc.

You may be doing well in life, having the right attitude, being courageous enough, but a single negative report can subject you to a lifetime of bondage, poverty and failure. That was why Jesus reminded his disciples to beware of what they hear and how they hear it Matt 16:11-12. The fragile nature of report is such that report from God and that of man may look similar and controversial at the same time.

For instance, a certain prophet was sent to Bethel by God to confront Jeroboam who build an altar and began to offer sacrifices to the calves he made.

While going, he was instructed not to eat, drink and return back the same way he came to Bethel, however, he was confronted by another prophet in Bethel who said to him "also am a prophet as you are and an angel spoke to me by the word of lord saying bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water" but he lied to him, so he went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water, while on the way a lion confronted him and killed him living his donkey alive. 1 Kings 13:11-24

As a youth, you may be told by friends or people around you; why dressing much godly like old people, while not be sharp so that people will be attracted, wouldn't you marry? Why being kind or soft to people even when the abuse or insult you (as Hannah experienced) open eyes, shun them, let them fear you and not take you for granted.

Hence, the moment you adhere to their ideas, you will find yourself more deeper in sin and having much trauma than them because children of this age are more wise than children of light. For instance again, the 12 spies who were sent to spy out the promise land came back with similar report as they all concurred that the land flows with milk and honey and showed some of its fruit. However, 10 of them added further a bad report thus "the people who dwell in the land are strong and the cities are fortified, very large and besides we saw the descendants of Anak, Amalekites etc. who are of great height and it is a land that devours its inhabitants".

This single bad report damaged the entire good image of the land and its fruits in their minds, prompting the people to grumble bitterly against their leaders (Moses & Aaron) and finally decided to choose a leader to back to Egypt which resulted to their death.

However, it was Joshua and Caleb who came back with a positive report and calmed the people before Moses and said "let us go up at once and occupy it for we are well able to overcome it" Number 13:25-33 and Numbers 14:1-10. Comparing all these to our present day, the promise land could be referred to as God's promise to your life and every promise land is occupied by giants. Hence, these giants refer to those threats (environmental variables) to your promise which must be in order to train and prove you.

At this point let us ponder a while on these pertinent issues to prepare ourselves better for the future.

Thanks.

**FOSTER MADUABUCHI OKEZIE.**

## **THE ATTRIBUTES OF A CHRISTIAN YOUTH**

**BRO. FAITH NNAMDI NWAOBIA**

To clearly understand the theme of this write-up, it is indispensable to take out few of these sub questions that are inherent.

## 1. Who is a Christian?

A Christian is an epitome of Christ, a true image of Christ and a Christ's like person. It was in Antioch, as recorded in (Acts 11:26), after Barnabas brought Saul who was later to be known as Paul where the disciples were taught for about a year, that-the first mention of the word "Christian" was made. More significantly however, is the second mention of the word which was made in (Act 26:28) "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuades me to be a Christian". Remarkably also is the verse 23 of the same chapter "That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."

Obviously these were the exact words that Agrippa heard when he acclaimed that Apostle Paul was persuading him to becoming a Christian. Meaning that becoming a Christian is a process. A time of self-acknowledgement of the importance of repentance and a time of reconciliation unto God. The whole process of becoming a Christian entails being solely dependent on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For our Heavenly Father had already witnessed for His Son when he said "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear all you him. (Matt.17:5b). And our Lord Jesus Christ said,"/ am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6). From this passage, there are three cardinal qualifications of becoming a Christian as depicted in this figure:

This is the first cardinal point which entails acceptance of Christ as the Son of God and the Father of our Salvation. 1 John 5:1-5.

This is the second pillar which entails an unconditional acceptance of the doctrine of Jesus Christ. John 9. John 8:32 etc.

The third pillar entails the display of God's Love, Sacrifice, and putting Christ first in every daily living. John 13:33-34, Colo.

3:1-25 etc

At this point what should be very important to you is to first discover the way which will of course define the remaining process. The gospel of Jesus Christ as preached by the Apostles was centered on death and resurrection of Christ as evident in (1 Cor. 15:1-4) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also all of you have received, and wherein also all of you stand; By which also all of you are saved, if all of you keep in memory that I preached unto you, unless all of you have believed in vain; For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Specifically, Apostle Paul while trying to explain in details the act of exercising this faith had this to say "Know all of you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death; Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into his death: that like Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life; For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in likeness of his resurrection". (Romans 6:3-5).

The point is that a Christian is one who has been resurrected of his first death in Adam, Check (Romans 5:12, 1 Cor. 15:20-22, Colo. 2:12). This resurrection is in receiving the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, Check (Act 15:29), whereby one becomes a new creature being enveloped with Christ, and the person's sins being totally forgiven, check (Gal 3:27, Act 19:1-6, Acts 8:14-16).

Therefore it is noteworthy that a Christian is not any of the following:

My parents attend church every Sunday and other church activities and I follow them regularly so I am a Christian.

Since I was born I have not practiced any other religion, I belong to the Christian religion, so I am a Christian.

I organize Sunday school for children and even preach for adults, so I am a Christian.

The following scenarios are common parlances when it comes to the question of "Who is a Christian?" Yes the following assumptions are not bad start at all, as several Christians came from such background; however, the perfect truth in becoming a Christian is to be baptized into the death of Jesus Christ so that the second death will not have dominion over you. (Revelation 20:6).

Now having known who a Christian is and what qualifies one to be counted a Christian, the next question worthy of discourse is 2. Who is a Christian Youth?

The notion of who a youth is could be debated from different spheres of knowledge, from the Wikipedia conventional definition, Youth is the time of life when one is young but often means the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity). It is also defined as the appearance, freshness, vigor, spirit, etc. exhibited by a young man. In the context of being a Christian youth, Apostle John's first epistle to the church addressed what is peculiar to the Christian youth when he said " I write unto young men, because all of you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and all of you have overcome the wicked one". (1 John 2:14b).

Meaning that a Christian youth is strong to be able to defeat the wicked one; has the word of word dwell in him/her richly in order to fight a good fight of Faith. This is so because the Scriptures represent youth as a time both of danger and challenge. Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to "flee youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22). By way of contrast, though, Our Heavenly Father indeed recognizes the value of youth to the divine cause. Young men have energy, they are daring, and their hearts are filled with visions of the future. Indeed, they can be a most valuable component in the service of God. Solomon, who wasted much of his life in recklessness,

perhaps thought better of the matter in his declining days. He vied: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1).

From the foregoing, the following are identified as attributes of a Christian Youth:

A Christian Youth has a Strong personality towards godliness:

The scripture clearly states that Christians should not live a life of compromise "And be not conformed to this world: but be all of you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that all of you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). A strong personality towards godliness entails remaining committed to the principles of Christian life at all times notwithstanding the environment one finds him/herself. It is required of a Christian youth to have a defined lifestyle consistent with the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostle John said "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him; For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of



the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world; And the world passes away, and the lust thereof; but he that does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15-17). The bible here points out that a youth possessing strong personality towards godliness will not yield to the lusts of the world which today are predominant in the world we live in. Young people today who of course are regular Church followers are known to be involved in such ungodly acts as highlighted by Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy, Check (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

- \*Lovers of their own selves

- \*Covetous

- \*Boasters

- \*Proud

- \*Blasphemers

- \*Disobedient to Parents

- \*Unthankful

- \*Unholy

- \*Without natural affection

- \*Truce breakers

- \*False accusers

- \*Incontinent

- \* Fierce

- \* Despisers of those that are good

- \*Traitors

- \*Rebellious

- \*High-Minded

- \*Lovers of Pleasure more than of God

A Christian Youth is obedient to the word of God

Even to our earthly fathers, the difference between a beloved son and that of rebellious son is on how obedient they are to their fathers. Why Jesus Christ was able to obtain a name above every other name is simply obedience. As the father of our salvation, he obeyed till death. Check (Philippians 2:8). The sacrosanctity of obedience in a Christian's life cannot be overemphasized, for by an act of obedience of one Man, Jesus Christ, all were counted as righteous (Romans 5:19), who were already condemned in the disobedience of one man Adam.

A Christian youth must display total submission to the teachings of our Lord Jesus and be ready to communicate same to the believing and unbelieving. Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy, a notable biblical youth further elaborates this: "Let no man despise your youth; but you be an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

In Jesus words, "If all of you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15) portrays that a Christian is expected to keep all the commandments of God as a mark of obedience to God.

This instruction works at all times, as some church followers believe that when you are in Rome, behave like a Roman- meaning you can disobey God's word at some points depending the circumstances surrounding the person; This is a wrong foundation and must be uprooted.

Fellow youth, the interesting part of obedience to the word of God is that it is not grievous. Check (1 John 5:3). A Christian Youth is humble and selfless.

The fortunate thing for being a Christian is that every Christian has the "Mind of Christ". Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians' Church had this to say "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory: but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves; Let not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others; Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself.....(Philippians 2:3-8a)

A Christian youth is expected to display the attribute of simplicity and selflessness at all times not being proud and selfish, this is the symbol of the Spirit of God which every Christian receives after Baptism. Check (1 Cor.2:16).

On the contrary, the spirit of the world is the "Spirit of Selfishness and Pride". It is on such a notion, that people are eagerly looking for diverse ways to outsmart their peers, get the best attention with every ungodly competitions and strife. The Spirit of God teaches lowliness of the mind, whereas the Spirit of

World teaches High-Mindedness. Fellow youths, we need to be guided because this days are evil, and indeed perilous times.

A Christian Youth must learn to trust God and be ready to make sacrifices:

In these dangerous times, a Christian youth is expected to trust God in all circumstances and be very ready to make sacrifices. Yes for some youths, who are desirous of living godly, being disappointed of the world they live in, being surrounded with hypocrites and fakes who claim what they are not. It is only God that a youth should trust while deciding his Christian Faith. Isaiah 40:30-31 says, "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

As a young person myself, I am troubled for the youth of this age, a Horrible and Desperate Age lovers of the flesh and lacking the love of God. My greatest worry really is that the angel of darkness has succeeded in blindfolding many by equating Christian life to be the same as a Church follower. The truth is that if by the count of Churches that abound in our time, measures up with the spiritual standpoint and godliness of Christian life, our society will be devoid of many ungodliness as seen today, but the opposite is obtainable. The reason is obvious, youths trust the speeches of their Pastors, Deacons, Bishops, Archbishops, etc. on matters of Christian Faith more than what the bible truly say. Check (1 Timothy 6:3-4)

As a youth desirous of godliness, you not decide now to make a change; it does not matter whether you have been made to believe that you are to be appointed the leader of your district, Region, etc. So long as the wholesome truth as handed over by the Apostles is not practiced. Being ready to sacrifice the earthly expectations, and Church Statues quo permeated in the doctrines of men is the hallmark of a Christian youth, because a Christian Solider is only crowned if he fights lawfully. Check (2 Timothy 2:3-5).

A Christian Youth is accountable today not tomorrow.

The philosophy of the world is that a young man could be ignored with youthful lusts and delinquencies at least for the reason of being young, only to get serious with God at an Adulthood. This is a wrong notion and teaching. A Christian youth is expected to be accountable of his life and deeds now and later. Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to live a blameless life and be an example to others so those who are older will not have a reason to look down on him. Check (1 Timothy 4:12). In the another of his letter to Titus, Apostle Paul had this to say "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:7-8). As a young man, Titus was to be an example, a pattern, to all other believers in many areas of his life including his

doctrine, his speech and his sincerity. Living an exemplary life was not only honoring to God, but it also stopped the mouths of those who would be critical of him simply because he was young.

The level of accountability a Christian youth commands is opposite of the general notion that young people do not have the ability to be leaders, to be righteous, to be holy or even to understand the teaching of the Word of God. Contrary, both Timothy and Titus were urged to be examples in all areas of their lives. Timothy displayed a high sense of responsibility to the extent that Apostle Paul commanded him to stay in the city of Ephesus in order to "monitor and report contradicting doctrines "(1 Tim. 1:3). That was certainly an immense responsibility for a young man but he was able to bear it.

Food for Thought:

A Christian youth will need to pay attention to the following values as highlighted in this scriptures: (1 Timothy 4:12, Col. 3:8, Eph. 4:29, Matt. 12:36, Ephesians 4:22-30)

Speak gracefully to everyone

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth

Do not gossip and Backbite

Do not swear, say only the truth.

Do not make jokes that are not godly pleasing.

Conduct yourselves as it pleasing to God before all men

Do not participate in drawing body tattoos and body piercings.

Do not desire to fit in but stand out

On a final note, let me take this time to acknowledge you on your desire towards godliness because of the singular reason by taking time to read through this article, you are undoubtedly a progressive disciple who is eager to make heaven. You are welcome! However to receive the crown as earlier said entails fighting according to rules of the game.

The Christians as assembled by our Heaven Father in the Church of Christ, Recognizing the True God are pleased to receive your comments and even to come in person to further elaborate on these points raised.

Remain in godly Affairs.

**BRO. FAITH NNAMDI NWOABIA**

**A Christian Youth**

## **DISCOVER YOURSELF**

**BRO. AHAMEFULE SAMPLE NZUBECHI**

This write-up is purposely written for the youth who are desperate for success in life as well as to unleash the mental exhibition of an individual. In some experience in life, you have to pass through things to get through things. The desire of most youth nowadays is to acquire wealth without suffering and this has led the youth to engage in illegal activities towards getting wealth. Some die in quest of it while some die after getting it without enjoying the wealth.

This life is programmed in two paths (long lived and short lived) each with its tracks. The good path has to be followed by one desiring to be successful.

### **DISCOVER YOURSELF:**

Discovering for the purpose of learning has different definitions but we shall view it from the definition of oxford dictionary. It is an act or process of finding somebody or something or learning about something that was not known about before. You might think that you have already discovered whom you are, then While do you still struggle around things if really you had known yourself?

NOTE: When you go close to unnecessary things, unnecessary things come closer to you.

Most of the youth of these days are concerned on much things like wears, shoes, jewelries, bigger phones, latest cars, watching movies, electronic devices, argue over the richest people in the society, argue over politics, sports etc. while some others are interested in the quest for money, political positions, knowledge acquisition, research etc.

Looking at all these desire, it is good to have them but considering what the bible says "That everything is considered good by the law but not all is good to me".

## HOW DO YOU DISCOVER YOURSELF

For any discovery, there was a research which is a process. This implies that you need to identify the process of your being. You can identify yourself by the things you do, your association, your environment, mental focus.

If you must succeed, there should be a change of character. I mean those qualities that make you up which is not palatable in public. For Instance: Most times, the commercial drivers are regarded as touts. To succeed in that field, you have to display a distinguished character to attract acceptance and better opportunities to yourself. This is applicable to other kinds of business, you need to show a difference. This has made most people to blame, God when they had lavished their time and later, they say that it's because they are children of God that made people to hate them forgetting the fact that the character they have been displaying is an indelible ink.

## WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS YOU THINK YOU CAN DO?

Your level of knowledge determines your level of exhibition. Everybody is ignorant of many things, one cannot know or have knowledge of all things of life. Even if you are ignominiously affected in whatever you are doing, it does not mean that you should quit. The ability to accept shame shows your level of ascension to greater height because accepting shame helps you to understand and correct your mistakes thereby improving on your next level.

## ASSOCIATIVITY LEADS TO CREATIVITY

This can improve and equally mar your knowledge. One can discover one's ability simply by several association with different people. The question now is; how do you associate with different people or how do you make connection with people?

You have to be dexterous(skillful) that is, going closer to the people in the field of your choice not minding the SHAME in that field. The youth sometimes misuse their skill by channeling it to luxury.

They say "An idle man is the Devil's workshop" For Instance; most people who know how to use the computer systems it all day using it for chatting, watching movies, playing game etc.

Instance 2; using their phone chatting all day in facebook, whatsapp, instagram, imo etc.

Do you not know that you can use your phone to go online and discover your path like how to repair cars, to do fashion and designing, to make cakes, ice cream, body and hair cream etc. that could earn you a living.

REMEMBER THE BILBE SAYS "If you do not work, you do not eat" TO ADAM "You shall not eat except by your sweat"

To get full detail of this write-up, grab your own copy of my book titled THINCH (reasoning to success) or contact me: samplezube@gmail.com, samolenzubechi@gmail.com (08069201939)

**BRO. AHAMEFULE SAMPLE NZUBECHI**

**Owerri Branch**

## **THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN WORSHIP OF GOD**

**BRO. CHIDUME GIDEON AKACHUKWU**

The worship of God should be your way of life, your culture, your system of doing things, your behavior, your character. Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..."

Your thoughts and actions should be guided by the word of God and the will of God for your life. Whether you accept it or not, you have (owe) a duty to God.

Just as soldiers who have been chosen, we ought to play our part in ensuring that our captain is happy. Your role is to satisfy the one who has enlisted you -1 Timothy 2:4 'No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one -who enlisted him ".

One may dare to ask:

\*Who enlisted me?

\*When was I enlisted and

\*How?

Your corresponding answers could also be multiple:

\*God!

\*Before you were formed in the belly!

\*God knows how - Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb; I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you... "

Now, the next question should be: "what roles have I to play regarding my call?"

It is like having to be called by a football coach to play for club or country, after your call; your next important objective or quest is to know your role or duty(ies) - i.e, will I be a goalkeeper; defender; midfielder; attacker, etc?

No matter your role, there is an overall objective which is to win and become both victorious and successful.

"Some can be victorious, but not successful" Teacher Alphonsus Ahaotu

Having now come to the realization that you have been called/chosen by God (I Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a holy nation. God's own people, that you may declare the -wonderful deeds of him -who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light "),there are roles expected of you, one of such is:

### **SELF-CONTROL:**

ICor. 9:25 "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things... " For instance, going by our previous example of football, some players have been known to be outstanding on a global scale owing largely to their level of "self-control" - not smoking; not getting drunk, etc. We are witnesses to how many awards, medals, titles, cups, etc they have so far won. Therefore, anyone who must please God who has selected/chosen him/her must first of all exercise "self-control" in "all things". Self-Control: "The act of denying yourself; controlling your impulses; controlling your behavior. It entails not doing a thing just because others are - Proverbs 1:10 "My son (daughter), if sinners entice you, do not consent". Your ability to refuse comes from self-control.

You need to ask yourself if what you plan to do will please God, (your coach/captain/creator - i.e God).Even Steve Jobs had to say that every day over a given period of his life-time, he would ask himself before a mirror, "if today were to be my last, would I be doing what I intend to do?"



You don't just control yourself, you pommel your body and subdue it in order to achieve self-control and not be disqualified: I Cor. 9:27.

### **HOLINESS:**

O young man/ lady, it is your duty to ensure that you are holy both in flesh and in spirit - 1 Corinthians 7:3A "The unmarried...is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit..."

How shall a youth keep his way pure (holy)? Answer - Psalms 119:9 "...by guiding it according to God's word." The only way to be holy is by guiding your steps according to the word of God and holding firmly onto it - Psalms 119:105 "Thy -word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

You should not leave the "word" behind and walk along with sinners, Psalms 1:1 - "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners". You should rather delight in the law of the Lord and read it as well as meditate on it every day of your life because it is the only "manual to life" or "life manual available to mankind." When you do so, you shall prosper and not be as chaff that the wind drives away: Psalms 1:2-6.

"Chaff - in the sense that when you don't read the word personally, you have nothing to meditate on and therefore, when temptation comes, you have no weapon of defense. Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the - whole amour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles (temptation) of the devil."

### **THE AMOUR OF GOD:**

It's important to note that it is not a physical warfare but it's spiritual, it's tough, it's against spiritual powers, principalities, spiritual host of wickedness in Heavenly places.

Therefore, you require the whole amour of God in order to withstand in the evil day: Ephesians 6:12-18 "For -we are not contending against flesh and blood but the principalities, against powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual host of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore, take the world amour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.... ". It is your duty to put on these amour of God:

**Truth:**

It's your duty not to lie be truthful at all times. Whether by telephone conversation or otherwise. If you intend to be a good soldier of Christ, you must equip yourself with the truth!

When last did you not lie?

**Righteousness:**

Are you righteous at the moment? Or are you among those who say they are like fishes in the ocean that can never be righteous but want to go to heaven to be with a righteous and holy God?

**Gospel of Peace:**

Before you are eligible to spread the good news, you need to be taught just as the Eunuch was taught by Evangelist Philip - Acts 8:30-40.

**The Word of God:**

As already highlighted before now, you cannot out-do or do without the word of God in the race to heaven because with it, Christ Jesus won Satan - Luke 4:3-13 Jesus kept saying to him "it is written".

**Salvation:**

This is the real deal! Before you can effectively play your role, you need to be salvaged and officially admitted into the body of Christ.

We will revisit salvation later!

Having highlighted the weapons of warfare, you should be able to truthfully tell yourself if at the moment, you are actually ready for battle: if you can pursue, overtake and conquer.

There are times when you do not understand your own actions, you sometimes do not do what you want, rather, you do what you hate. For instance, some people say they have "new year resolutions" but the question is: have you ever had to make a resolution and or resolutions? How well did you keep to

them (it)? Don't you find that the good which you propose to do, you do not do, rather the evil you wish not to do, that you do?

Why is it that when you plan to do right, evil lies close to you? - Romans 7:15-23 "/ do not understand my own actions for I do not do what I want but I do the very thing I hate..."

The big question is "who will deliver you (me) from this body of death?" The only answer is Jesus Christ, only if you be willing and obedient. You can overcome the above stated problem (life style) by putting-on-Christ: Galatians 3:27.

Yes! By Baptism into Jesus Christ in the name of Jesus only. Baptism - means burial, you are (or need to be) buried with Christ Jesus into death that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, you too can walk in a new-life style - Romans 6:3-4. Baptism is not about washing away dirt from the flesh but an appeal to God for a clear conscience: I Peter 3:21 "Baptism -which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience... "

Baptism as the bible says "saves you". It is the salvation you require from the grip of sin and the inability to please God in your flesh. Remember that we were to look at salvation on a latter time?" This is the salvation - Baptism. After your baptism, you can be well positioned to play your role in the worship of God.

However, if you wish to take pleasure in youthful misdeeds/lusts; go ahead, get drunk, steal, fornicate, smoke, etc but know for sure that for all such actions. God willing will bring you into judgment - Ecclesiastes 11:9 "Rejoice o young man in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth, -walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things, God-will bring you into judgment. "

Better is the end a thing (a youth) than its (his) beginning. Eccl. 7:8.

I will however advice you to shun youthful passions and aim at righteousness, faith, love, and peace - 2Timothy 2:22 as well as other such roles which can be concluded or summarized as: "Fear God and keep His commandment for it is the -whole role/duty of man" Ecclesiastes 12:13.

**BRO. CHIDUME GIDEON AKACHUKWU**

by the will of God through Christ Jesus.

## **ARE THE YOUTH OF THIS GENERATION EXEMPTED FROM THE JUDGMENT OF GOD?**

**BRO. UCHECHUKWU OKOYE**

It is so surprising how the youth of this generation live their lives as if ignorant of the Day Judgment. It seems they take it that this judgment is for the old men and women. It pains me they live their evil ways as people who are not concerned about the judgment of God, taking fornication (which God despised) as a normal lifestyle. One who does not fornicate is seen as a baby or a nobody. That is why the scripture says: "O young man, in thy youth, walk in the ways of thine heart, and In the sight of thine eye hut know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment". Eccl. 11:9 (KJV)

Even in marriages, people have turned the original plan of God on holiness into something else. Before a young man gets married, he must first know the body of the woman before marrying her. Some even go to the extent of making sure that she is pregnant first before marrying her. Marriage is no longer in holiness, as was ordained by God. Thus, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge", Heb. 13 : 4 (KJV).

Will all these things not come into the judgment of God? It saddens our heart that the youth this generation do not want to be rebuked for their sins or go to church where their sins will be made known to them , rather, they go to churches where they are free to live their lives without anybody noticing them; where they are always called "sons and daughters of zion", Abraham blessing are yours and so on, "praising fornicators and adulterers and nobody cares to put them order. But God established His church to always place our sins before us so that we can be free on the judgment day. Thus Paul wrote to Timothy, "Them that sin rebuke before all that others also may fear". 1 Timothy 5:20)

Today, instead of rebuking you for your sins, they will give him/her a post in the church such youth leader, choir master or mistress, etc while you are in iniquity. They are promised of freedom while in turn, they are making them candidates of hell fire.

And again, the youth of this generation are moving deeply into music of all sorts, not knowing that God despises music, whether worldly or unworldly as it is in vogue today. There are various music talent hunt

here and there, inviting the youth to come and showcase their talents in music and dancing for them to become a star, these are not God's plan for us (MUSIC IS EVIL!!!!!!!!!!!!).

Even in the worship of God, we are referring to these things because God's judgment of a truth the original plan of worshipping God right from old, music is not one of them.

For instance, singing and not dancing was used in worshipping God according to Nehemiah 13:1 It is true that David introduced music in worshipping God but not according to God's original plan (Ezra 3:10).

Later God spoke about music in Amos 6:5, calling it sound of tile riot as David introduced musical instrument for themselves. "That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David".

Even so, God cast away the spirit of music because of sin that is why He did not use music for His own glory. Thus, God revealed it to prophet Ezekiel. "...The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created, thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found Su thee"....(Ezekiel 28:13-16) KJV.

It is true that David is a man after Gods own heart, but God endured his ignorance and decided to establish a new covenant since the old covenant was broken. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah thus, "Behold, I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant I made with their fathers which they broke." (Jere 31:31-32) KJV.

Therefore, God established the new covenant through Jesus Christ, who did not introduce music of any sort through his ministry. We are pointing these things out because many churches today have handed over music and its instrument to the youth. In the New Testament, God introduced songs or singing only and not music or dancing. Check Mtth.26:30. For Christ has left for us a footstep to follow. Later, through the Holy Spirit, it was given to the church as a law to use songs whenever we gather to worship God. Thus, "....When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalms, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation..... Let all things be done to edifying" (1 Corr. 14:26) KJV.

Even God did something for you, you have to sing praises to Him and not dancing "...Is any merry. Jet him sing Psalms". (James 5:13) KJV.

When God finally built the foundation of the New Testament, He said thus; "And the voices of harps, and musicians, and of pipers and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee.... "(Revelation 18:22) KJV.

This shows that if you are dancing to a music or song of any sort, you are annoying God. If you rely on the fact that David danced and you are using it to worship God, you will not be judged with David but with Christ where words shall be used to judge you on the last day. (John 12:47-49) KJV.

Therefore, dear reader, hearken to the voice of the Lord calling to turn around to the truth and be free from the judgment of God on the Last Day!

**BRO. UCHECHUKWU OKOYE**

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