

# The Significant of Christian Living in the Community and its Effects among Secondary School Students of Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State

**Irmiya Joshua; Lumana Iliya Nabi; & Nehemiah Daniel**

School of Arts and Social Sciences, CRS Department, Aminu Saleh College of Education, Azare, Bauchi

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## Abstract

**Keywords:**  
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The paper explains the significant of Christian living in the community, peters message on Christian living, submission to the civil authorities and the privilege of suffering for Christ. The paper also examines Paul's statement on the children of the light, meaning of a true witness for Christ, features of a true witness for Christ and the importance of living through good examples. In addition, social vices in the society and its effects the importance of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and civic responsibilities were discussed through good examples, peace and progress are assured in the society plus conclusion and recommendation form part of the writes – up.

## Introduction

On Christian living in the community, it has significant and uses as brothers and sisters living together in the community, a community is a group of people living in

the same place or having a particular characteristic in common, it is also the condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common. Also, a community refers to a group of interdependent plants or animals growing or living together in natural condition or occupying a signified habitat.

According to Wikipedia, a community is a social unit (a group of people) with a shared socially significant characteristic, such as place, set of norms, culture, religion and values. The significant of Christian living in the community in identifying Christians as children of God, living good examples to others in the community living in peace and unity as one brethren in the body of Christ. The whole paper summarizes as the significant of Christian living in community, Peter's message on Christian having, submission to the civil authorities and the privilege of suffering for Christ. It also stresses on Paul's statement on the children of the light meaning of a true witness for Christ, features of a true witness for Christ, importance of living through good examples are outlined.

In addition, other areas touched in the writes – up include social vices in the society and its effects, importance of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, civic responsibilities among secondary school students of Alkaleri Local Government Area Bauchi State which could lead to national development calculating norms and values if really imbibed and put to order brings peace, unity, progress and good human relationships among the schools and community at large

### **SIGNIFICANT OF CHRISTIAN LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY**

According to Eluu (2015) the significant of Christian living in the community helps to stand against the passions of flesh, such as immorality, idolatry, drunkenness, selfishness, maintain good conduct among gentiles, honour all men, love the brotherhood, honour the emperor and fear God. They are also expected to fulfill their civic responsibilities in the community this includes, being law – abiding, paying their taxes and refraining from crime. Also they should be loyal to their masters, vote during elections, it helps in character development, promote Christ like behavior, bring the Bible to life and makes it real. In addition, based on seeing the significant of Christian living as stated above in our secondary schools, the importance of Christian living therefore cannot be over emphasized in nature based on the numerous roles stated this leads us to the Paul's contribution or Peter's message on Christian living as can be seen below for more comprehension

## **PETER'S MESSAGE ON CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Obilom (2017) emphasized on Peter's message on Christian Living encourage them to be sober and focus on the grace that is coming to them at the revelation of Jesus Christ, as obedient children, Peter advised them not to conform to the desires of their former ignorance, which is the life of sin and disobedient, but to embrace holiness in all their dealing just as God who called them is holy.

Similarly, Peter also encouraged them while in exile to conduct themselves with the fear of God, abstain from the passions of the flesh that is fighting against their soul, but to maintain good conduct among the gentiles so that they may see their good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation or last day. Peter also added on submission to civil authorities and the privilege of suffering for Christ which all are paramount on the significant of Christian living in the community and among secondary school student of Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi state, this leads us to submission to the civil authorities and the privilege of suffering for Christ

## **SUBMISSION TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES AND THE PRIVILEGE OF SUFFERING FOR CHRIST (1 PETER 1:13 – 17)**

On submission to the civil authorities and the privilege of suffering for Christ, Henze(2016) emphasized more on Paul's teaching referring to Christian as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people that they may declare the wonderful deeds of God who called them out of darkness in to his marvelous light. As people who have been called and have received the mercy of God, Peter beseeched them to abstain from the passions of the flesh that is fighting against their soul

Similarly Olyai (2019) emphasized more on Peter's teaching who encourage them to subject themselves to every human institution for the sake of the Lord, these include the emperor as the supreme authority or the governors whom the emperor might send to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. According to Peter, it is God's will that by doing that you will put to silence of foolishmen, he urged them to live as free men, fear God, honour emperor, submissive to their masters with all respect, serve as example to all, trust in God, hate sin and serve God faithfully. Also, the paper touches on Christian to follow the footsteps of Christ by desisting from sin which characterizes the life of gentiles, these include living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels,

feasting and lawless idolatry, he encouraged them to keep sane and sober in their prayers, noting that the end of all things is at hand

Oladunjoye (2014) stressed more that Christian to remain strong in their love for one another as Peter emphasized since love covers a multitude of sins. He further urged to practice hospitality without grudges and to use their individual gifts for general good so that God may be glorified on the significant of Christian living in the community and its effects among secondary school students of Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Students can learn the features of love, unity, oneness, honesty, sincerity, fear of God and faithfulness in their learning of these teachings in the area, and can lead them to become respected leaders who will have foresight and committed to their religions, on the other hand the issue of privilege of suffering for Christ Eluu (2015) according to first Peter chapter four verses one to nineteen (1 Peter 4:1 – 19) Peter called on Christian not to express surprises at the fiery ordeal or suffering which comes to them, he encourage then not to see such as being strange, but to rejoice as they share in the suffering of Christ so as to rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. He also asked them to count as blessing whenever they are reproached for the sake of Christ, because the spirit of glory and God rests upon them

However, the paper touches on warning the Christian according to Paul to shine against suffering for evils as a murderer, a thief, a wrongdoer or a mischief-maker he urged those who suffer as Christian never to be ashamed, but to glory God in the name of Christ.

Similarly, Paul cautioned Christians on the coming of judgment in the household of God and the need to always suffer for what is right and entrust their soul to a faithful creator, therefore, the significant of Christian living in the community and its effects among secondary school students in Alkaleri Local Government Area cannot be over emphasized in nature due to its moral lessons among secondary schools in the area thus by changing their bad acts to positivity and good leaders and ambassadors for Christ in the larger community especially Christians believers, this leads us to examine more on Paul's statement on the children of the light.

#### **PAUL'S STATEMENT ON THE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT (ROM 13:11 – 14)**

On the significant of Christian living in the community and its effect among secondary school students in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State

Obilom (2017) quoted Paul's emphasis which include the following contributions for proper comprehension of the writes – up, Paul referred to righteousness as light, therefore, children of light are the Christians who have been called in to light of righteousness, the opposite of light is darkness which symbolizes wickedness, evil and sins Paul therefore call on Christians who are children of light to cast off the works of darkness and put on the amour of light there by putting away the lives of reveling and drunkenness licentiousness quarreling and jealousy which are all desires of the flesh which cant not please God and Christians are expected to shine from such acts and live a holy life In addition, the paper touches on the meaning of a true witness for Christ and features of a true witness for Christ without these contributions the paper will not be complete based on their significance among secondary school students in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

### **MEANING OF A TRUE WITNESS FOR CHRIST AND FEATURES OF A TRUE WITNESS FOR CHRIST**

Henze (2016) identifies meaning of a true witness for Christ as a teachings of Christ, Christians exhibit a strong faith in the person and teachings of Christ as the only means of salvation, with this insight, a true witness for Christ is one who believes and carries the message of the person and teachings of Christ to others in order to implant such belief and teachings in his or her life just as Christ did to humanity on earth Furthermore, the paper highlights on the short and eventful of life Christ on earth, he called on his disciples and directed them to go and make preachings of his words to nonbelievers who will be the first witnesses of Christ to the world and today many through their activities have become witnesses for Christ.

On features of a true witness for Christ Olyai (2019) identified the below salient points as features of a true witness for Christ which are found paramount in our secondary schools Students especially Alkaleri Local Government Area by making them to have integrity, good attitude and faithfulness in the wider community, these include the following:

- (a) A true witness must have good knowledge of what he or she stands for
- (b) A true witness should be of proven integrity
- (c) A true witness must be of excellent spirit and the fear of God
- (d) A true witness must be tested and reliable
- (e) Adequate knowledge of the scripture

- (f) Must exhibit good attitude
- (g) Strong love and concern for community
- (h) Proof of strong faith in God
- (i) Must be humble and this leads us to shade more light on the importance of living through good examples among our secondary school student in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State explain in the below paragraph.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING THROUGH GOOD EXAMPLES**

Oladunjoye (2014) stressed more on the importance of living through good examples as stated above, Paul emphasized to Christians to live above board in the pursuit of righteousness as lights through which others see Jesus referred his disciples as the light of the world that must be shine before men that they may see their good works and give God the glory who is in heaven (Mat. 5:14 – 16). Also, it is on the above note that we consider the following importance of living through good examples among Christian students in the area and community in general such as;

1. Living through good examples identify Christian as children of God
2. Gaining conversion of others
3. Living exemplary life is a good legacy
4. It checks crime in the society
5. It brings peace and progress in the society
6. It earns us reward from God and society which comes informs of prizes, promotion and commendation etc. and this leads us to social vices in the society and its effects.

### **SOCIAL VICES IN THE SOCIETY AND ITS EFFECTS**

According to Euu (2015) defined social vices as those negative attitudes, characters or actions of man which affect smooth running of the society. It can also be described as the series of illegal exhibitions of man in the society such as corruption and bribery, kidnapping, robbery, drug abuse and trafficking, sexual promiscuity, examination and electoral malpractices, cultism, suicide bombing, homosexuality and lesbianism hoarding of goods, nepotism Etc. which has implications on the behaviors of the learners among secondary school students in Alkaleri Local Government that need proper addressment, the below are the summary effects of social vices outlined below

1. It incurs both society and divine wrath
2. It discourages development in the society
3. It creates unnecessary tension in the society
4. It wates and mismanages public goods
5. It leads to Hiv and Aids
6. It leads to mental cases

7. It leads to loss of lives
8. Leads to under development
9. It leads to unpopular leaders
10. It leads to lost of lives and properties in the community

Hence the significant of Christian living in the community and its effects among secondary school students in Alkaleri Local Government Area cannot be over emphasized in nature because of its fruitful contributions the paper cannot be rounded up by not touching on the importance of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and civic responsibilities.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF TOLERANCE, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

Obilom (2017) outlined and explained briefly the importance of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and civic responsibilities of members of the society are supposed to perform;

On importance of tolerance and peaceful coexistence it brings development in the society, there is also trust and confidence on one another, tolerance and peaceful coexistence are evidences of love and unity in the society, it reduces crime rates in the society and finally security of lives and property is guaranteed in a society.

On civic responsibilities, Ani and Samuel (2015) defined it as duties of members in the society to perform daily and these include the below points;

1. Payment of taxes
2. Respect for elders
3. Respect for national symbols
4. Participant in electoral processes
5. Respect for right of others
6. Honesty and loyalty
7. Making useful contribution to the society and
8. Care of public facilities etc. and this leads us to conclusion and recommendations which this piece of writing can't be rounded up without touching on the two items.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the finding of this research, the paper focuses on the following salient points, significant of Christian living in the community, Peter's message on Christian living, submission to the civil authorities and the privilege of suffering for Christ. It also touches on Paul's statement on the children of the light, meaning of a true witness for Christ, features of a true witness for Christ and importance of living through good examples, others include social vices in the

society and its effects, importance of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and civic responsibilities.

The significant of Christian living in the community and its effects among secondary school students of Alkaleri Local Government Area cannot be over emphasized in nature because of its fruitful contributions to the generality thus bringing unity and rapid development in our wider society.

### **Recommendations**

The researcher would find these recommendations useful with regards to the topic of the research;

1. The government at different levels should provide enough funds to buy materials
2. Competent teachers should be employed to teach among secondary school students in our schools
3. Good examples, peace and progress are assured in the society
4. Frequent workshops and seminars be organized by the government to improve the standard of teachers
5. The government should provide enough facilities and equipments to our various schools such as classrooms, chairs and computers to boose standard of education

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