

CLASS: SS1
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
WEEK: 8
TERM: SECOND

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

Close relationship or interpersonal relationship is an association between two or more persons. It involves social association, connections, affiliations, business interactions, family bond, friendships etc. However, in this study, we are looking at interpersonal relationship among Christians.

PETER'S TEACHING ON INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

(1 PETER 5:1-11)

St. Peter describes how Christians in the church should relate to each other in order to ensure discipline and unity. He mentions the responsibilities of church leaders as well as the fellowship:

- A. Christian leaders are witnesses of the suffering of Christ and therefore partakers of the glory that is to be revealed at the second coming of Christ.
- B. Christian leaders look after the flock of Christ with tenderness, not as a burden, not for material gain, not domineering, but by being true examples to the flock and, also expect their reward.
- C. Both the Christian leaders and the followers are to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God who will exalt them in due course.
- D. They should cast all their anxieties on God, because He cares for them.
- E. All must be sober and watchful, knowing that their adversary, Satan, the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion for its prey; so should resist Satan at all cost.
- F. All should be firm in their faith, knowing that suffering is one the lots of the entire brotherhood of Christians all over the world.
- G. For after all suffering, the God of grace who had called them to leadership would restore, establish and strengthen them.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PETER'S TEACHING

- 1. Peter's advice all Christian leaders to comport themselves and work hard for the flock of Christ. However, today, there is the need for us to co-operate with the leaders to ensure discipline, peace, unity and stability of our churches.

2. One of the problems the church faces today is that between the youth and the leaders. There seems to be a communication gap. The elders feel that the youths are compromising the sacred Christian principles, and the priest is sometimes in a dilemma as to which side to support.
3. There is the issue of sectionalism and tribalism which is threatening to further tear the Church apart.
4. The status of women in the Church is worrying. As some Christian women are not allowed to preach or teach.
5. There are also doctrinal issues such as polygamy, monogamy, and declining faith among the followers especially the youths, in an ever increasing materialistic world, is causing anxiety to Christian leaders.
6. There is also external opposition from other religious groups.
7. It is our responsibility as Christians to help our leaders to tackle all these problems to ensure the very survival and continuity of the church.
8. We can contribute to this by helping to settle all differences amicably and by calling for dialogue with the leaders of the Church with a view to closing the generation gap.

Assignment

The Introverts has difficulty associating with people. Give two ways you can advise your introverted friend to socialize with people in your church or school.