

## **FAMILY LIFE**

### **FAMILY IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.**

**FAMILY** is defined as the basic (smallest) unit of a society. It consists of father, mother, children and close relatives.

### **THE FUNCTIONS OF A FAMILY**

- A family trains the children the culture of that particular community.
- A family gives emotional support to its members through counseling and guidance to relieve them from stress.
- A family guides its members in making decisions such as choice of a carrier, a marriage partner.
- A family provides sense of identity to its members. It is the basis of tracing ones origin and tribe.
- A family unites all the next of kin, that all its close relatives are brought together as a family.
- A family preserves the property of its members in case of death of the original owner.
- A family provides financial support to its members. For example paying school fees, medical care.
- A family introduces its members to the relevant authorities put in place. For example during census.

### **TYPES OF A FAMILY**

**THE NUCLEAR FAMILY:** This is where the family consists of father, mother and children only. It is common in the western world though of recent it is picking in urban centers in Africa.

### **ADVANTAGES OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY**

- A nuclear family promotes unity amongst its members because of close interaction with one another.
- A Nuclear family promotes love for all its members because of the sense of brotherhood instilled
- In a nuclear family there is concern for one another because of closeness or intimacy hence cheap to maintain.
- A nuclear family promotes the spirit of sharing because the number is small enough to share items
- In a nuclear family there is easy provision of basic needs. For example education and medicine.
- In a nuclear family promotes it's easy to discipline the children because of the small number.
- In a nuclear family promotes it's easy to save for the future because the expenditure is low.

- A nuclear family promotes encourages permanency in marriage because there is mutual understanding between a husband and a wife.
- In a nuclear family promotes it is easy to control birth because there is no unnecessary competition between women unlike in an extended family .
- A nuclear family promotes security for family property since there are fewer quarrels amongst the members.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY**

- A nuclear family promotes individualism because there is limited sharing with outside members.
- A nuclear family is prone to incest because the members get limited time to interact with opposite sex from other than the close relatives.
- A nuclear family promotes shortage of labour in the family because of limited number of children.
- A nuclear family brings monotony and boredom in the family especially in the absence of the children.
- A nuclear family is against the African traditional family system , that is extended where all close relatives lived together as a community . It therefore destroys the African cultural value of togetherness.
- In case of an outbreak of an epidemic disease the whole family can be swept, for example Ebola.
- In case of an accident the whole family under a nuclear family system can be wiped out and forgotten.
- In a nuclear family it can be mistaken as proud because there is limited room for socialization with other families.

**THE EXTENDED FAMILY:** This is where the family consists of father , mother , children , aunt , uncles , grandparents , nephews , nieces and all close relatives . It is an African type of family. Types of extended families include:

(a). **PATRILINEAL FAMILY:** This is a type of extended family whereby the property and status are inherited through the fathers line. It is common in Africa.

(b). **MATRILINEAL FAMILY:** This is a type of extended family whereby the property and status are inherited through the mothers line.

### **ADVANTAGES OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY**

- An extended family provides labour in the family. This helps in quickening manual work like digging
- An extended family provides security for its members. In case of any external aggression, the members are able to defend themselves effectively.

- An extended family promotes the spirit of sharing because of the large of people who are used to sharing with one another however little it could be . It therefore creates no room for greediness and selfishness.
- An extended family preserves African cultural heritage such as many wives , many children and communal life.
- An extended family strengthens relationships amongst its members because of close interaction daily An extended family promotes unity among its members hence the strengthening the bond of brotherhood.
- An extended family provides a sense of belonging through sharing of names and family lineage.
- An extended family ensures protection of both the young , the aged , widows and orphans by the mature adults
- An extended family ensures protection of both the young generation , for example ancestral history was narrated to the young children by the elderly members of the community
- An extended family ensures that the relatives would be available to care for the sick members of the family.
- An extended family was a source of wealth for those who lacked things , For example an uncle would provide cows for bride wealth for his nephew to marry.
- An extended family provided a rich sense of progressing since many heads would be put together for consultation.
- An extended family ensured that relatives knew each other and hence immoral acts such as incest were avoided.

## **REASONS WHY EXTENDED FAMILY IS NOT POPULAR TODAY**

- There is rural urban migration whereby there is limited space in towns for one to accommodate many members of the family.
- The money economy makes it difficult for one to support many dependants hence unpopularity of extended family.
- Globalization / westernization has moved people to far way places from their families and mixing up with other cultures hence unpopularity of extended families.
- Formal education leads people away from extended families thereby living among the strangers.
- Monogamy tends to promote the nuclear form of families than the extended one because it is cheap to maintain hence unpopularity of extended families.
- Prevalence of contagious diseases tends to discourage free association of families members hence unpopularity of extended families.
- Modern technology tend to keep people apart, for example transport costs, mobile phones whereby they ring instead of going physically to visit which require a lot of spending.
- Some people choose to remain unmarried so as to avoid being bothered with family obligation, for example helping relatives.
- The work patterns have also changed, for example working for long hours and little pay that cannot support the family.

- The boarding schools keep the children away from home hence killing the sense of belonging. Women emancipation tends to de campaign the patriarchy system that prevailed and dominated women in the extended families.
- The changing roles for women, for example formal education leads a woman away from home political instabilities.
- Diseases like HIV/AIDS have led to increased number of orphans and widows who become a burden in extended family.

### **CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PATTERN OF A FAMILY SETTING TODAY**

- There is growing tension between nuclear and extended families due to financial problems/money.
- The majority of people especially in urban centers are opting for nuclear because it is cheaper.
- Many children today are disliked especially in urban centers of the high costs of living and provision of quality basic needs such as education, medical, shelter among others.
- Children are hardly educated by community living however education has been left to school to train up children. This has created the gap between the children and the community because it plays limited roles in the upbringing of children in terms of education.
- The practice of polygamy in families has gone down as people now prefer monogamy family because it promotes mutual understanding and togetherness by the husband.
- The permanency in marriage has been threatened with divorce due to many factors such as changes brought by technology, alcoholism and family negligence by the husband.
- Men/women are searching for jobs in towns and this has led to disintegration of the families in the rural areas because there is limited interaction with the families left behind in the village.
- In urban areas husbands and wives lead different social lives compared to African tradition where women were supposed to stay and keep the family while men were to roam around and socialize.
- There is tension between parents and children on the view of choosing marriage partners in families today because of the exposure they get at school which tend to break their cultural barriers.
- There is increasing employment of mothers in offices and this has disrupted their family life as wives claim equality with men because they are doing similar jobs in offices.
- The number of children in families is controlled by use of contraceptives other than long periods of breast feeding as birth control methods unlike in African Traditional society.
- This has brought challenges in families especially if the wife has not agreed with the husband on the birth control methods.
- Many families are now full of widows because women have a negative attitude towards remarrying and besides widow inheritance are no longer encouraged because of HIV/AIDS epidemics.

### **REASONS WHY MANY FAMILIES ARE BREAKING TODAY**

- Many families are breaking up today because of marital unfaithfulness leading to divorce of the couple.
- Many families are breaking up today because of sexual dissatisfaction due too much work by one partner or low libido by a woman. This leaves the counter part with no option but to cheat however when discovered, the two may end up separating completely.
- Many families are breaking up today because of domestic violence due to struggle for power struggle for leadership in the family or alcoholism especially on the side of the men.
- Many families are breaking up today because of poverty caused by laziness or lack of employment by the husband hence failure to support the family leading to separation.
- Many families are breaking up today because of uncleanness of the woman. The man may decide to divorce her because of filthiness and marry another woman in her place.
- Many families are breaking up today because of bad behavior of a partner. For example over quarreling this causes a person to become a nuisance to partner hence a separation.
- Many families are breaking up today because of influence from in- laws who are never satisfied with the services of their daughters- in law.
- Some want to control the resources of their sons while disregarding the daughters in law. This causes separation because the couple cannot bear with each other.
- Many families are breaking up today because of permissiveness where people are free to do whatever they want. This belief is spear headed by the misunderstanding of women emancipation.
- Many families are breaking up today because of inter – tribal marriages due to the fact that the two cultures may not match.
- Differences may arise because of the names of the children, foods to be eaten at home and language to be used home. If the two fails to compromise, they end up in separation.
- Many families are breaking up today because of distance at work places. Due to modern education and scarcity of jobs, partners tend to work far from each other. This creates room for suspicion of cheating one another. Such gaps therefore cause partners to separate because they began to develop lack of love for each other.

### **REASONS WHY THERE IS INCREASING NUMBER OF FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES TODAY.**

- Women have gained rights from the emancipation movement which sometimes they are mistaken and they become disobedient to their husbands. This therefore causes divorce hence heading their own families.
- The AIDS disease is leaving many wives without husbands due to fear that if you got a woman who was once married and lost her husband could be having HIV/AIDS. Therefore such women who have lost their husbands without AIDS may lose opportunity to get another husband because men fear the disease.
- Some working ladies can afford to look after their children without husbands therefore choose to stay as singles. For example women in big positions such as managers, ministers may choose to stay as singles.
- Due to immorality in the society, some women co-habit with young men for sexual satisfaction and do not intend to marry them since their sexual urge always met by young boys in bars and lodges.

- Permissiveness in the society has enables some women to head families with comfort because they have the freedom to choose what is best for them hence justification for female headed families.
- Economic empowerment of women has enabled a number of women to head families. A good number of women have excelled in business.
- There is increasing number of female headed families because women outnumber men in term of population. This is because baby boys tend to die at infant stage whereas girls survive in big numbers.
- There is increasing number of female headed families because of the failure to choose the right partner to live with. This causes some people to remain as singles for life.
- There is increasing number of female headed families because unplanned pregnancies which is caused by uncontrolled sexual urge. The girl in question rejection by the boy may have no option but still head her family as a single mother.
- There is increasing number of female headed families because of the loss of traditional values such as good morals which could sustain a girl without marriage and produce responsibly.
- Such girls with lose morals therefore produce at home and begin their own families as single mothers.
- There is increasing number of female headed families because of poverty whereby a man can leave the home to look for a job in town but end up getting another woman and abandon the first one in the village.

## **THE PROBLEMS THAT CHILDREN FACE DUE TO THE CHANGES IN THE FAMILY PATTERN**

- The children face the challenges of adequate support and discipline because of busy parents who have limited time to be with their children hence they left in the hands of undisciplined house girls.
- Children are sexually abused because the parents have neglected their responsibility of teaching them sex education so that they take care of themselves.
- Children are starved because they are living with their step – parents or guardians due to divorce and the fathers do not bother to give ample time to follow up the well fare of their children.
- Children have become undisciplined because most of the time they are boarding schools where they learn bad manners from their peers.
- Some children have acquired bad behaviors due to examples from parents especially single mothers who keep changing men in the presence of their children.
- The children lack parental guidance and love because the parents have taken on busy careers such as doctors, nurse, engineers who have limited time to attend to the needs of their children.
- Some parents have denied their children the rights such as education because they are staying with single parents who cannot afford school fees because of the increasing cost of living.
- Now that most families prefer staying in urban centres, the children lack the skills to do manual work and be self reliant. Those who fail to get jobs due to lack of academic qualification remain poor and beggars.

- Those families that are nuclear and monogamous, their children are less informed about traditional culture because there is gap between and the family lineage.
- Today there are families that are run by children themselves so they face problems like lack of food, security and guidance because of the absence of adults have of died because of AIDS epidemics.
- A good number of children are under care of maids and house boys who are ill mannered. They therefore they are disrespected elders and members of their communities.

## **THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY MODERN FAMILIES AS A RESULT OF AIDS SCOURGE.**

- The AIDs scourge has led to the cropping up of many orphans in the families due to the untimely deaths of their parents.
- The AIDs scourge has led to single parents where many families are either headed by a mother or father.
- The AIDs scourge has led to many children suffering due to lack of basic needs like food due to death of parents.
- The AIDs scourge has led to cropping up of child parenting where children now are taking care over their young ones due to death of both parents.
- The AIDs scourge has led to marriage break ups and family instabilities because some couples tend to avoid each other on learning that one in infected with the virus.
- The AIDs scourge has led to death of family members where some families have been completely closed.
- The AIDs scourge has led to the degeneration of cultural values since the old people are dying leaving the young who know nothing about their culture and customs to pass to next generation.
- AIDS scourge has led to great stress and depression of family members due to the loss of their beloved ones such as parents, children and close relatives.
- Some families have been left undeveloped since the family heads used all the resources they have to treat themselves against AIDS and end up dying.
- The AIDs scourge has led to school drop outs since some children cannot support themselves after losing their parents.
- The AIDs scourge has led to increased immorality because of the use of condoms that prevents unwanted pregnancies and virus infection.
- There is growth of permissiveness in families due to lack of parental guidance. Children are left to do things the way they want.

## **CHRISTIAN ADVICE THAT HELP FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE AIDS' PATIENT**

1. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can pray to God to heal the patient since he is the greatest healer. He sent His word to heal all disease of human beings.

2. The advice that can help members who have an AIDS patients is that they can be patient like Job even after losing all his children and poverty remained patiently and waited upon God.
3. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can endure suffering like how Jesus endured and he emerged in victory.
4. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can have hope for the resurrection of the dead since Jesus conquered death on the cross.
5. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can read the scriptures in the Bible like that of Job where God delivered him from the long suffering.
6. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that sometimes it is God's will for Christians to suffer but He would eventually lead to glory.
7. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can love AIDS patients because they need their love and care so as to be healed emotionally.
8. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can share with them instead of isolating them. They could share things like food, company.
9. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they should advise them to take the patient for medication so that the diseases that accompany the virus is cleared off so that the person is healthy.
10. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can take care of them to have a balanced diet so as to boost their immunity with food nutrients.
11. The advice that can help family members who have an AIDS patient is that they can help the patient to become saved so that they belong to God's family.

### **FAMILY PLANNING TODAY.**

Family planning refers to the agreement by couples to control the number of births in their family so that that are able to cater for them effectively in terms of basic needs like medical, shelter, education and food. Examples of family planning methods include condoms, pills, injecta plans, disectomy

### **ADVANTAGES OF FAMILY PLANNING.**

1. Family planning enables the parents to reduce a few children they can cater for their needs effectively.
2. Family planning enables the parents to extend their love to all children since their number is small enough.
3. Family planning enables the parents to keep their children healthy through provision of medical care.
4. Family planning enables the mother to safeguard her health from the risks of frequent child births. She gets enough time to rest and built her body and immunity before producing another child.
5. Family planning enables the family members to improve on their standards of living because the family is small enough to cater for its needs.
6. Family planning enables the children to get future assistance from the parents pertaining to employment and marriage preparations because it gives room for parents to save and help the children in future.



## **DISADVANTAGES OF FAMILY PLANNING.**

1. Family planning leads to excessive bleeding and fattening to some women as signs of negative effects on their bodies. This is because people react to drugs negatively with adverse effects.
2. Family planning leads to sex abuse because the users believe there is no evidence of sex committed outside wed lock since the pregnancy is controlled through use of contraceptives like pills.
3. Family planning leads to frequent delivery of children if not properly used by the couples. If a woman misses the injection or forgets to swallow the pill and goes for sex, there is possibility of instant conception.
4. Family planning is not popular especially in the rural areas due to myths and other cultural influences about production of children. For example the illiterate class in the rural areas believes in many children.
5. Many people are ignorant about the family planning methods hence they fail to use because they do not know which methods could be appropriate for them.
6. To some Christians family planning is against the will of God for the production of many children to fill the earth. They argue that family planning is sin before God.
7. However, these groups of Christians forget that God had instructed man to multiply and have control over the earth.
8. Family planning leads to family break / divorce if both couples have not agreed to use as a means of controlling births.

## **FAMILY IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

### **THE UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

1. Family was understood as a divine institution by God himself for the upbringing of children. It was believed that the head of the family was the husband and he had absolute powers over his wife and family at large.
2. The family was extended in nature where it involved father, mother, children and all the close relatives.
3. Polygamy was very popular and so prestigious in African traditional families. This is because it ensured the large of the family which was in it a source of pride.
4. Bearing of children was the duty of every family and without the blessing of children was believed to be cursed.
5. Mothers were confined with domestic work in the family while fathers did heavy work like hunting.
6. The upbringing of children was a responsibility of the whole community for the good of the community.
7. The unity of the family was highly emphasized because of divide family was looked at as the one with bad omen.
8. There was a strong sense of identity in the family because that where children get to know their family lineage such as grandparents, uncles, aunties and other close relatives.
9. The family was expected to be bound together with mutual love and respect for each other.
10. It was a social religious unit where important rituals took place, for example initiation rite such as circumcision among the Bagishu of eastern Uganda.

11. The family was understood as a permanent institution and anything which worked against the permanency of the family was carefully dealt with. For example things like adultery and divorce which threatened the family existence were dealt with wisely.
12. There was also widow inheritance in families to ensure that the family did not disintegrate because of the existence of the absence of the late husband.

### **IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILIES.**

- Children provided a seal of marriage in African traditional society. Such marriages with children could hardly break because the children provided a bond between husband and wife.
- Children were regarded as a blessing from their ancestors therefore they deserved respect from the community.
- Children were considered to help the parents live longer as they would help them in future when they grew old.
- Children helped in the expansion of clans through marrying and producing children.
- Children added value to the family in the sense that such a family was respected because it was blessed.
- They were regarded as heirs after the death of the parents. Even if the person but had produced children.
- Children were important in African Traditional Society because they provided labour force to the family.
- Children were important in African Traditional Society because they helped in preserving the culture of that particular community. For example circumcision ritual among the Bagishu was carried on by children.
- Children were important in African Traditional Society because they believed the dead relatives were reborn in children. This was reflection in the personal characters of the dead of their children. For example rudeness, humility.
- It was a sign of good health to those who produced children since the barren women and the impotent men were a laughing stock of the community. They were given nick names to mock them as incapable.

### **EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

- When the children were young, they received the first informal education from their biological parents.
- The mothers played a great role in raising children in the absence of the father. For example teaching the names of family members and introducing them to close relatives.
- The fathers would train sons to do work such as digging, hunting while the mothers instructed girls on domestic work like cooking and bathing children.
- Children were trained to respect elders because it would ensure their good future success.
- Children were taught to share things, for example food, clothes because it was the habit of the Africans to share material things communally even though the person labored alone to harvest.
- Children were trained to do communal work such as digging of the wells, roads in order to help them fit the community and meet their personal needs.

- Riddles and proverbs were taught to children regarding their history. This would help them trace their origin, learnt to defend themselves from their enemies as well as learn the art of creativity.
- Children were taught to discover their talents through practice, for example shooting by hunting.

### **THE BIBLICAL TEACHING ON PARENT - CHILD RELATIONSHIP.**

- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that parents should bring up their children as God fearing people – teaching them to pray.
- The Bible teaches that it is the responsibility of parents to discipline children.
- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that parents should rebuke their children in love and avoid being rude to them.
- The Bible teaches that Parents should love and care for their children so that they grow up responsibly.
- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that parents should obey their parents so that they live longer.
- The Bible teaches that children are a gift from God to the parents in marriage therefore they should value them.
- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that children are a source of security especially at old age because they are arrows to the family.
- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that parents should be example to their children so that they are properly brought up.
- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that children are a source of joy to their parents, for example Sarah the wife of Abraham laughed with joy when she knew was to have a baby.
- The Bible teaching on parent – child relationship is that children are heirs to the parents, for example Isaac was given to Abraham as an heir.

### **THE ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

#### **THE ROLE OF MEN.**

1. Men in African Traditional Society were the heads of the family. They were therefore decision makers in the family. Men in African traditional society were the provider of protection or security to the family.
2. A man was the one to marry a wife or wives. Therefore he was charged with the responsibility of looking for bride wealth to meet this great obligation.
3. Men in African Traditional Society were the great providers of basic needs in the family, for example food, shelter.
4. Men in African Traditional Society also played the role of settling disputes in his family since they were considered the most supreme authority in the family.
5. Men in African Traditional Society were also expected to give moral instructions to their children so that they grew up with good behavior.
6. Men in African Traditional Society also provided bride wealth to their male children to get wives for themselves.

7. Men in African Traditional Society were required to love and show concern for their children and their family at large.
8. Men in African Traditional Society had the duty to administer discipline to their children.
9. Men in African Traditional Society were the main administrators in the society/community. For example they acted as kings, chiefs.
10. A man was to protect the community values and rituals. For example circumcision among the Bagisu of Eastern.

### **THE ROLE OF WOMEN.**

1. Women in Traditional Society instilled discipline in the children since they were ever with the children at home.
2. Women in Traditional Society had the responsibility to bear children for the husband.
3. Women in Traditional Society gave instructions in guiding children, for example walking , talking.
4. Women in Traditional Society educated the children on traditional values and customs, for example security of their tradition and sex education for girls were provided.
5. Women in Traditional Society participated in cultivation of food for the family.
6. Women in Traditional Society introduced their children to different stages of life, for example adolescents and motherhood.
7. Women in Traditional Society protected their children from dangerous hazards such as hailstorm and strangers.
8. Women in Traditional Society provided care for the children in terms of food and shelter.
9. Women in Traditional Society passed on skills to the children, for example weaving, making of mats, cooking and digging.
10. Women in Traditional Society kept the home clean through sweeping, removing rubbish and trimming the compound.
11. Women in Traditional Society satisfied their husbands sexually on bed or when he demanded.
12. Women in Traditional Society provided medicine to their children. These were basically herbs to cure certain common diseases by then.

### **PROBLEMS THAT CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES FACED IN**

#### **THE AFRICAN FAMILY SYSTEM.**

1. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of polygamy that is the practice of marrying many wives which was highly treasured. The polygamists found it hard to follow the Christian teaching of monogamy.
2. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of forced marriages because they were arranged against the will of the innocent young girls. The young girls were just to marry mature men because of wealth.
3. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of domestic violence in families where men could beat up their wives without any reason to justify.
4. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of quarreling between partners especially in polygamous families moreover with no genuine reason but only jealousy for one another.

5. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of human sacrifice and rituals of initiation before marriage. These were injustices practiced against women and children. For example child sacrifice and female genital mutilation.
6. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of bride price where young innocent girls were sold like commodities to the rich old men. Besides the raising of bride price had led to raids and counter raids in pastoral communities hence insecurity in such places.
7. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of adultery which was common among men. However, women were not allowed to commit adultery. Any woman found committing adultery was punished.
8. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of trial marriages where men would chase the women after using them sexually for ritual purpose. For example a ritual sex with a virgin girl locally called “Naku” in Buganda before the coronation of a nation king.
9. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of drunkenness due to the fact the Africans celebrated every stage of life. For example birth, puberty, marriage, death among others.
10. The Christian Missionaries faced the problem of the barren women being tortured and considered to be out casts and good for nothing women.
11. The Christian Missionaries faced the problems in families with children of single sex. Women who bore only girls or boys according to different societies were mistreated.
12. Children especially girls were also considered to be the property of the man and had no inheritance rights even if there was no boy born in that particular family. They look for a boy from a close relative to inherit.

## **THE SOLUTIONS THE MISSIONARIES OFFERED TO PROBLEMS**

### **IN AFRICAN FAMILIES.**

1. The Christian Missionaries encouraged monogamy and discouraged polygamy because it was anti-Christian.
2. The Christian Missionaries encouraged permanency in marriage condemned divorce because it was against the original purpose for marriage.
3. The Christian Missionaries encouraged faithfulness in marriage condemned adultery in marriage because it destroys relationship in the family.
4. The Christian Missionaries taught husbands to love their wives and wives to respect and submit to their husband’s leadership in order to avoid quarrels and fights that were so rampant in families.
5. The Christian Missionaries encouraged free choice for marriage partners so that the boys and girls were able to get the right partners of their choices in order to bring in harmony in families.
6. The Christian Missionaries encouraged appreciation of both sex of children as gifts from God hence acceptance of women who produced only one sex.
7. The Christian Missionaries built schools and hospitals to fight ignorance, poverty and diseases among the African families.
8. The Christian Missionaries taught equality hence solving the problems of women being regarded as inferior to men. They taught that both men and women were created in the image of God hence equality.

9. The Christian Missionaries encouraged the widows to remarry men of their choice if they wanted and strongly discouraged widow inheritance because it was done against the will of the widows.
10. The Missionaries limited or restricted Holy Communion to only those who were married in the church in order to encourage many families to take up Christian marriages. They discouraged food taboos against women and children.
11. They started income generation projects to fight poverty in homes. For example they taught skills like weaving, knitting, building, carpentry among others.

## **FAMILY IN CHURCH HISTORY.**

### **PROBLEMS FACED BY FAMILIES IN THE EARLY CHURCH.**

1. Families in the early church faced the problems of divorce some disciplines were too occupied in moving to different places preaching the gospel while ignoring their families.
2. Families in the early church faced the problem of remarriage after divorce and yet remarriage when either partner was still alive was considered adultery by Jesus.
3. There was inadequate respect for women and this therefore created family instability especially where some women stood up to defend their rights before men.
4. The practice of slavery also separated family members who were sold to different slave owners.
5. Some partners in families were denying each other sexual intercourse, because they viewed sex as evil and not accepted for people who were eagerly waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
6. Families in the early church faced the problem of rigid laws against women. For example they were required to veil while going for any public gathering.
7. Families in the early church faced the problem of polygamous marriages especially when churches were being planted in the African continent and areas where Islam was greatly rooted.
8. Families in the early church faced the problems of women being treated as children or property of the husband.
9. Families in early church faced the problem of sexual immorality such as incest. For example at a church in Corinth a man was having relationship with his step mother.

## **FAMILY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

### **THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ON A FAMILY.**

1. The Old Testament teaching on family is that Child bearing and rearing is the responsibility of every family.
2. The Old Testament teaches that monogamous families are encouraged as ideal marriage for the family.
3. The Old Testament teaching on family is that respect of parents by children should be observed in the family.
4. The Old Testament teaching on family is that a family is looked at as leaning base for children where parents impart informal skills in their children in order to help them earn a living.

5. The Old Testament teaching on family is that it is through the family that the members are introduced to God through prayers and knowing God through his word.
6. The Old Testament teaching on family is that the head of the family is a husband therefore wives should submit to the authority of their husbands.
7. The Old Testament teaching on family is that the family should be faithful; in matters of sex. Therefore sexual immorality is condemned in the family. For example incest which Amnon practiced on his half-sister Tamar was strongly condemned.
8. The Old Testament teaching on family is that the parents should their children so as to grow in the right way. It says that he who spares the child spoils the road.
9. The Old Testament teaching on family is that a family should provide good company and relationship for its members. It is where members get emotional support when stressed.
10. The Old Testament teaching on family is that hard work should be encouraged in the family in order to meet the daily needs of its member. Therefore laziness should be highly condemned.
11. The Old Testament teaching on family is that women should share equal opportunities with men in the family affairs.
12. The Old Testament teaches that love and care for one another should be emphasized in the family.
13. The Old Testament teaching on family is that the family should be characterized with forgiveness and faithfulness as reflected in prophet Hosea's marriage life with his adulterous wife Gomer.

### **EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

1. Children were trained to work, for example grazing animals, cultivate and build houses. They were taught to worship God through giving sacrifices.
2. They were taught the values of the Sabbath day, Passover. They were also taught the past history, especially how God liberated their ancestors from Egypt where they were slaves for 430 years.
3. They were taught about holiness and un holiness, for example the temple priests were considered to be holy. The children in the Old Testament were taught the Ten Commandments and its demands.
4. The children were taught to obey and respect their parents EX 20:12.
5. Education was also done according to sex. For example boys were taught by fathers while the girls were taught by mothers of their responsibilities and obligations.
6. Caning (punishment) was used as a way of disciplining the children. Proverbs 22:15, 23:13 - 21.
7. The children were taught moral uprightness through condemning alcoholism, sexual immorality stealing.

### **FAMILY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

#### **THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON FAMILY LIFE.**

1. The New Testament teaching on family is that the family is meant to be permanent therefore anything that aims at destroying the family existence should be strongly condemned. For example divorce and adultery.

2. The New Testament teaching on family is that love should be emphasized amongst the members because a family is a reflection of the joy in the kingdom of God.
3. The New Testament teaching on family is that the head of the family is the husband therefore wives should submit under their authority.
4. The New Testament teaching on family is that child should be encouraged in families because it is a duty of the couples to produce children for the glory of God.
5. The New Testament teaching on family is that Parents should respect their children and rebuke them in love so that they do not go astray.
6. The New Testament teaching on family is that there should be equality between husband and wife because they were both created in the image of God.
7. The New Testament teaching on family is that there should be mutual understanding and love between husband and wife in order to co-exist and promote peace in the family.
8. The New Testament teaching on family is that the family should be a place where the members are introduced to Christ for the glory of his name.
9. The New Testament teaching on family is that the family members should respect each other in order to have harmonious relationship. This will help them remain united as one body for Christ

## **SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSON.**

### **SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

**A sex difference refers** to a distinction of biological or physiological characteristics associated with either males or females, for example size, and body shape, weight.

### **ADOLESCENCE EXPERIENCES THAT BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS GO THROUGH.**

- Adolescent face bodily changes, for example in boys muscles become strong while in girls the body becomes soft and smooth. In boys the voice becomes deeper; develop pubic hair, beards while in girls there is the development of the breasts, menstruation periods, and growth of pubic hair as well.
- Mentally both boys and girls become thoughtful and start independent thinking. Girls tend to reason more than boys.
- Socially there is more attraction to the opposite sex. Boys would always want to be identified with girl that fellow boys and vice versa.
- There is emotional experience they go through. Boys tend to be aggressive because they have a lot of energy unutilized while girls would prefer being pampered and shown a lot of love especially by boys/men.
- In spiritual growth they tend to show off in a number of things such as music, dance and drama acting in church though some go to church for the sake of going. Some use this chance to learn the skills of preaching the gospel or witnessing Christ to his peers.
- At this stage both boys and girls value advice of their peer more than that of parents because they believe the parents are not well informed of the current issues concerning the youths . This leads to conflicts between adolescents and their parents.

### **PROBLEMS FACED BY ADOLESCENT YOUTHS**



- The youths face the problem of permissiveness where they do things the way they want as long as it pleases them. This has come as a result of western culture and influence in Africa.
- The youths face the problem of pornography in literature and in movies exposing them to immoral behavior. This may account for the recent number of homosexuals and lesbians amongst the youths today.
- The youths face the problem of misinterpreting modernization as it is against the African culture. For example they abandon local language in favour of English or French.
- The youths face the problem of Peer group influence hence ignoring parent's advice as backward and take up wrong advice from wrong peers.
- The youths face the problem of Formal education where they acquire academic knowledge and ignore practical skills which are very important in shaping their future.
- The youths face the problem of despising cultural values such as decent dressing, local foods and taboos.
- The youths face the problem of fighting because of the excess energy they possess. This causes them to fall in trouble with the authorities especially at the school level
- The youths face the problem of false independence of adulthood which causes them to make wrong choices.
- The youths face the problem of being neglected by some parents especially those unemployed in towns.
- The youths face the problem of materialism leading to immorality. Many youths especially girls are deceived with money and lured into sexual relations with older men hence destroying their future careers.
- The youths face the problem of redundancy (idleness) hence breaking the law especially the unemployed youths in the urban centres.
- The youths face the problem of family instability because of the challenge of identity crisis because some do not want to be identified with their poor backgrounds. This leads to fights and quarrels with parents.

### **WAYS IN WHICH WOMEN ARE OPPRESSED IN UGANDA TODAY.**

- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through subjecting them to hard working, for example digging.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through decision making in some families. For example in some families only decisions made by the husbands are honoured.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through denying them education. This explains why the greatest percentage of women in Uganda cannot read or write because the parents favoured boys to go to school and left them to do the domestic chores like looking after babies, cooking and fetching water.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through making them sex objects to produce or satisfy men sexually especially in the rural areas where women have got less sensitization about their rights.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through denying them the right to inherit property because they are considered inferior to men in many ways. For example in terms of reasoning and responsibilities.

- In the field of politics, their rights are being violated, for example they are not allowed to choose candidates of their choice but should be line with the husband's choice. Any wife who violates can be beaten thoroughly by her husband.
- In some religious sects, women are discriminated, for example they are not ordained as priests the Catholic Church.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through forced marry against their choices because the parents want bride wealth. This is very common in communities where bride price in highly treasured.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through denying them some job opportunities in some offices/ organizations because of maternity leave granted to them. They believe this will affect the normal running of their business in her absence.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through being denied freedom to work by some husbands because they feel other men could see their wives and take them. They therefore do that in protect their wives from other men.
- Today women in Uganda are oppressed through being subjected to domestic violence, for example beating women in homes.

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE UGANDAN SOCIETY HAS UPLIFTED THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN UGANDA.**

- Technology has created new jobs which can be equally well uplifted by men and women, for example use of computers as secretaries. In schools, boys and girls share roles as students, for example leadership in schools is done by both girls and boys.
- Students follow the same lessons and prepare for the same examinations and as a result both boys and girls do the same kind of jobs done by men. For example teaching as a nurse, doctor among others.
- Many opportunities are given to women today to see that they are competent in society, for example public universities gives 1.5 points to girls to help them pursue higher education.
- Because of education women are now more aware of their dignity. They demand both domestic and public life rights. That is the reason why many ladies are found enjoying leisure at their own cost in bars.
- Women are free to vote the government leaders or to be voted themselves, for example in Uganda all adults above 18 years irrespective of sex are eligible to vote.
- Women today hold responsible places in their countries, for example Uganda had a woman Vice president Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, current speaker of parliament Rebecca Kaddaga.
- Because more women drop out of school, government has set up projects to help them use their abilities to maintain themselves, for example through SACCOS they have been able to set income generation activities.
- There is adult education in Uganda and more women are encouraged to benefit from this, example they have leant how to read and write. This has helped to improve their standards of living.
- Modern farming facilities are now given to women so as to help produce much and benefit, for example the Heifer projects, Poultry, Piggery farming, crop management have benefited women in Uganda.
- Women are encouraged to compete in professions that used to be regarded as men professions, for example the Army, Police, Law, Medicine and Engineering.

- Uganda is now celebrating international women's day 8<sup>th</sup>. March of every year in recognition of the status of women and the roles they play in national development.

### **WAYS IN WHICH SEX EDUCATION IS PASSED TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.**

- Today sex education is passed to the young people by use of parents during family meetings in order to help them cope with the challenges related to sex issues.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people by use of close relatives such as aunties and uncles to help the youths learn their sex roles.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people by the peers in their groups, for example at school, during play time and moments of touring places.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people through religious leaders during their regular sermons in churches and conferences.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people through teachers in schools during counseling sessions.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people by resource persons through public lectures on gazetted places and days.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people by organizing seminars and workshops on sex related issues annually to help educate the youths on sex roles and sexual matters.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people by organizing camps where both boys and girls are brought together and taught their sex roles, for example youths camps organized by different clubs or churches annually.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people by use of the press such as radios, TVs, News papers so that the youths are made aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- Today sex education is passed to the young people through drama acting and plays in theatres and schools.

### **THE PROBLEMS FACED BY PARENTS IN TEACHING SEX EDUCATION TO THEIR CHILDREN.**

- Parents are too committed to their work hence they have no time spared to teach sex education to their children.
- Some parents have inadequate information about sex education hence no information to give to their children regarding sex education.
- The gap between children and their parents is also a problem because they find no open forum to discuss freely with the children.
- Some youths tend to despise their culture hence cannot listen to their parents whom they believe have out dated ideas that cannot match with the modern times.
- Some children claim false independence that they are old enough to make their own independence.
- Some children are influenced by peer pressure therefore they can hardly listen to their parents.
- Some parents wrongly assume that their children are responsible enough to make decisions for themselves hence failure to impart sex education to them
- There is too much curiosity in the youth about sex that they want to discover the secrets about sex hence defy the parent's advice of being patient and waiting for the right time.

- The desire for materialism has led to moral degeneration among the youths hence a difficulty for parents to teach them and they follow because they want material things like money, clothes among others.
- There is too much idleness among the youths where they involve in bad behavior hence sex abuse. Too much exposure through pornographic literatures by the youths has led to increased sex abuse.

### **THE WAYS IN WHICH WOMEN ARE COMPETING WITH MEN TODAY.**

- Today women are competing well with men through games and sports, for example Rally Car drivers like Susan Muwonge and against men such as Duncan Mubiru and Rwakataka Ponsiano.
- Today women are competing well with men through acquiring higher education. For example both girls and boys sit the same national examinations such as Primary Leaving Examinations, Uganda Certificate of Education and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education.
- Today women are competing well in politics, for example Miria Obote against Museveni, Kiiza Besigye, and Abed Bwanika, Betty Nambooze also competed against Rev Bakaluba, Cicilia Atim Ogwal competed against Sam Engola in politics.
- Today women are competing well with men in entertainment industry, for example Julian Kanyomozi as a singer against male musicians such as Jose Chameleon and Bobi Wine.
- Women today are also competing with men in security, for example in the police we have Judith Nabakooba as the spokesperson while some prominent women are also high ranking officers in the army and other security agents.
- Women today are also competing with men in religious aspects, for example pastors like Irene Majeri and Imelda Namutebi compete with male pastors like Robert Kayanja, Joseph Sserwadda of Kampala.
- Women today are heading families just like men, for example a number of them are single mothers who are meeting the expenditures for the whole family such as schools fees, medical bills and shelter.
- There is also competition in decision making between men and women. For example in the parliament of Uganda where there are women representatives to put forward the interest of the women and defend them. They are also supported by the female speaker of parliament Rebecca Kadaga.

### **WOMEN EMANCIPATION.**

This refers to rights claimed for women to be equal status with men, for example Political, economic, religious and social rights. This is because worldwide women had been marginalized for so long.

### **REASONS FOR THE WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN UGANDA.**

Women liberation movement refers to the struggle to restore women's right since they have been marginalized by men for so long.

Men had marginalized women in the aspects of politics, leadership. Economy, religious and other social spheres of life. **The factors for the movement include:-**

- The belief that we are all equal before God has caused women to rise up and defend their rights to serve God and demand for equal treatment by me.
- The international organizations have also come up to fight for the rights of women in Uganda, for example the United Nation Organization's declaration of the rights of women has prompted the struggle.
- The desire to protect the rights of women in marriage who are being exploited by their husbands through domestic violence and other forms of abuse of human rights in families.
- The zeal to create a good relationship between husband and wives has led to the movement because men had made the home a hostile environment for women.
- The need to remove the inferiority complex among women in families which had left behind in terms of national development and self-awareness.
- The need to promote good health among women because many were living in poor health and above all die prematurely at child birth.
- The desire to help women control the number of birth by use of family planning because traditionally they had no say in the number of births in the family has prompted the movement.
- Women were initially subjected to bad cultural practices which had caused a lot of suffering to them. Hence need to reverse this trend, for example female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages.
- For so long women have been denied justice hence the movement aims at promoting justice to women. For example the right to own property since traditionally men and women has also prompted the movement.
- The need to bridge educational gap between men and women has also prompted the movement.
- In Uganda the majority of women do not either writing or reading hence keeping them uninformed in any things.
- Traditionally women were denied chance of enjoying leisure. The movement therefore aims at providing leisure opportunities to the women.

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE SOCIETY HAS BENEFITTED FROM THE IMPROVED STATUS OF WOMEN IN UGANDA.**

- Women have achieved position of leadership in churches , for example there are female reverends in Anglican churches, and there are female choir leaders ushering people in the presence of God.
- There are a number of families being headed by women today where they provide food, water , accommodation and school fees for the children.
- There promotion of girl child education in the country has been improved. For example the introduction of Universal primary Education has led to increase in the number of female literate Ugandans.
- Women are now holding high offices in government and the private sectors. For example the Hellene Johnson is the president of Liberia; Uganda's former Vice President Dr. Wandera

Kazibwe, the current speaker of parliament of the republic of Uganda Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, Jennifer Musisi former director of Kampala city council authority among others.

- Women are now enjoying the privileges of work like allowances, good accommodation because of the positive impact of liberation movement in Uganda. They also enjoy other benefits like sick leave and maternity leave.
- Women have attained justice through forming organizations that work towards promoting and protecting the rights of women. For example **FIDA** working to protect the rights of women exploited by their husbands.
- The health of women have also improved as there is reduction in the number of maternal death due to establishment of hospitals and health centres where they are provided proper medical care easily.
- The backward cultural practice such as female genital mutilation has been fought against in communities like Sabins in Eastern Uganda. Those found doing have been prosecuted and punished if found guilty.
- Charity works have been rendered towards the support of women. For example they have been given blankets and beddings for the babies as part of primary health care.
- Many women have come up in the music industry to positively challenge men in the entertainment industry, for example Judith Babirye, Desire Luzinda, Juliana Kanyomozi, Irene Namubiru, Fiona Mukasa.
- Women have also been economically empowered whereby they own a lot of wealth accumulation from work as a result of earning salaries and allowances.

#### THE ROLES OF THE CHURCH IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN IN UGANDA TODAY.

- The church has encouraged women leadership in the church as a way of bridging the gap between men and women. The Anglican and the Pentecostal churches do ordain female Reverends and Pastors to serve God alongside men. For example Imelda Namutebi and Irene Manjeri of Kampala.
- The church has involved women in different activities in church to help uplift their religious status. For example preaching choir.
- The church has encouraged equality between men and women through the regular sermons hence promoting equality between men and women.
- The church has encouraged unity between men and women in the church through organizing fellowships and other prayer meetings where men and women share ideas about the kingdom of God together.
- The church has encouraged men and women to tolerate each other through the word of God. It stresses the equality between men and women as illustrated in the Bible right from the book of Genesis.
- The church has preached the gospel of reconciliation between men and women where there has been disagreement between husbands and wives. The church has therefore encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation in order to promote harmony in families.
- The church has supported marriage through marital counseling and above all encouraging monogamy in order to help the woman have full control and enjoyment of her husband.
- The church has formed women groups to help women develop economically. For example mother's union.

- The church has improved the health of women through building health centres to provide health services to women in the rural areas.
- The church has opened up schools for girls in order to uplift the status of women. For example St. Mary's Namagunga, Gayaza High School.

## **SEX DIFFERENCES IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

### **WAYS IN WHICH SEX EDUCATION WAS IMPARTED TO THE YOUNG ONES IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

- The parents played an upper role in imparting the knowledge of sex to the young ones through teaching them about sex roles during fire places in the evening.
- Every stage of growth in the children was closely observed and this helped to impart the knowledge of sex according.
- There were places that were organized secretly where the knowledge regarding sex would be passed to the young ones. For example at the river side, lake side or in the forests.
- There was initiation rituals performed in order to link the young ones from one stage to another, for example circumcision, puberty rituals, breaking virginity.
- Virginity was highly valued and therefore girls were urged to remain virgin so as to fetch big bride price. The uncles and aunts played role of training those who had reached adulthood their sex roles.
- Premarital sex was highly condemned and those who were caught were severely punished. That why all mature adolescents was married off.
- Sexual affair with a close relative or with animals was a taboo. Anyone caught would be heavily punished.
- Use of obscene language was strongly discouraged among the young. Instead private parts such as penis were carefully given symbolic names like spear, animal, grass.
- Young girls were trained not to expose their body parts that would seduce men to fall in for them, for example breasts, thighs were covered properly, unnecessary smiles discouraged.
- There were taboos associated to sex before marriage from community to community, for example sex before marriage would cause some ones parent to die.
- Boys and girls had separate beds and rooms in order to avoid sexual temptations during the night.
- Sex education was also taught around fire places by the elders where both were taught their sex roles.

### **HOW WOMEN WERE REGARDED TO MEN IN THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

- Women had specific fixed roles concerned with domestic work, for example cooking, taking care of children among others.
- Women were regarded as inferior to men through payment of dowry while marrying a woman.
- The dowry could be negotiated through bargaining equating women to a mere commodity.
- Women were regarded as inferior to men by forcing them in marriage against their will.

- Men were allowed to practice polygamy while women were not allowed because they were regarded as inferior to men hence did not have the capacity to compete with men in marriage.
- Women were blamed for any misfortune in the community such as death and other natural disasters.
- A woman was counted as property a man had like cattle, land, goats hence inferiority to men.
- Women were expected to do household work, for example cooking, caring for children to show her inferiority.
- The birth of the baby boy was more welcomed than that of a girl to show that she was inferior to them.

## SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE EARLY CHURCH

### WAYS IN WHICH WOMEN WERE SIDELINED/DISCRIMINATED IN THE EARLY CHURCH

- Women were not given chance to lead in the early church and yet they were very committed in church activities such as sweeping and planting flowers and wedding the compound.
- Several times men blocked women from preaching in the early church claiming they had low understanding of the gospel.
- Women were denied of being priests. Chance was only given to men and yet they are all equal before God.
- It was only men committed who were given chance to do missionary work and yet women were not.
- Men dominated all the duties in the church and women were denied such opportunities to serve God.
- Women were not given chance to pray in congregation or even in families but would present their issues through men.
- Women were not given chance to read scriptures and even interpreting in public worship except men.
- No chance was given to women to repent of their sins especially in the Catholic Church. These were done through men who were priests.
- Women did not have enough time for spiritual development because they were given no chance to practice their faith.
- Women had very limited time to attend fellowships as it was dominated by men while women were required to prepare meals while the men were fellowshiping.
- Male Christianity with exemplary Christianity was more venerated than the female counterpart.
- Married men ignored their families of the work of God and left them in the hands of their jobless wives.

### SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that God created man male and female in his own image and likeness signifying equality between men and women.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that God women deserve equal rights to justice. Ex. 23:1-3.



- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that God human dignity is a right for all whether male or female by sex.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that God both men and women should rest on the Sabbath day to reflect on God.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that some women played very important roles in the Israelites community in the same way men played, for example Esther and Deborah were great women.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that God created man and woman to be companions and depend on each other Gen. 1:18 for the glory of His name.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that God created man and woman to be co-creators. That is to have control.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that in the exodus event, Moses liberated both men and women to show that they are both equal before God.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that the Ten Commandments were given to both men and women.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that in marriage, the man unites with his wife and become one.
- The Old Testament teaching on equality is that in Genesis 3, when man and woman disobeyed God, they were both punished.

### **EXAMPLES OF ISRAELITES WOMEN WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY**

- i. **Jael:** Was a courageous woman who fought for the Israelites and gave Israel victory. ( Judges 4:17)
- ii. **Esther:** Plead with king Xaxes not to destroy Israelites.
- iii. **The woman of Token:** Faced David and pleaded with him to forgive his son Absalom ( 2Sam 14:1-24)
- iv. **Ruth:** She approached Boas and she became the great grandmother of Jesus.
- v. **Miriam** : She was a sister of Moses who worked as a prophetess.
- vi. **Hannah** : A barren woman who prayed to God and because of her faith she gave birth to Samuel who became a great judge and a prophet. She also prayed for the women to be recognized in the community.
- vii. **Bathsheba** : She was the mother of the wisest king in Israel – Solomon. She was also King David’s favourite wife.
- viii. **Deborah** : Judges 4:1-10, she ruled Israel as a judge and prophetess at a time when the survival of Israel was threatened. She solved people’s disputes and fought the enemies of the Israelites. ( Judges: 4: 17-22)
- ix. **Judith** : Killed a king who was oppressing the Israelites.
- x. **Abigail** : The wife of David pleaded for the people 2Sam 25.

### **WAYS IN WHICH WOMEN WERE DISCRIMINATED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- In the Old Testament women were considered inferior while men were considered superior because of the selfish minds of the men towards women.
- In the Ten Commandments, women were categorized among the property of men. Ex. 20:17.
- Women were allowed to do domestic work of cooking on the Sabbath day and yet all men observed the Sabbath of resting without doing any work.
- The barren women were tortured emotionally because they would not count on their husbands.
- Their husbands could instead stress them emotionally through abuses and support other people to mock them. Women were restricted from playing official roles in worship. Worship was therefore conducted by only men.
- Polygamy was condemned in Israel but it was practiced against women by their husbands and yet a woman could not be allowed to marry more than one husband.
- The law allowed the man to divorce his wife as long as he had just reasons yet women were not allowed to initiate divorce even though they were badly treated by their husbands.
- The women were subjected to heavier work unlike men. For example looking after the children, cooking, looking for food to feed the entire family, fetching water and fire among others.
- Women were believed to be the source of any bad omen in the Israelites society. They were even blamed for the misfortunes such as defeat at war.
- Women were denied inheritance rights by men. In case the family had no boy completely, close or distance relative would be invited to the heir to the deceased's family even if he had big daughters.
- NB. Inequalities against women in the Old Testament is similar to that African Traditional past.

## **SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

### **THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON SEX DIFFERENCES**

- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus died for all to have eternal life both men and women.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that God loves all people equally irrespective of colour or sex.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus' ministry God called both Men and women to serve God.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus said he is the only way to life for both men and women for those who want to enter the kingdom of God.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus established a firm relationship for both men and women as partners in building God's kingdom
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus promoted peace for both men and women to show equality.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus socialized with both men and women during his earthly ministry to show equality between men and women.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus had compassion for both men and women who were suffering.

- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus ministered to both men and women.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus promised eternal life for both men and women.
- The New Testament teaching on sex differences is that Jesus was crucified for both men and women to be forgiven.

### **LESSONS CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON THE POSITION OF WOMEN.**

- The New Testament stresses equality between men and women as they were all created in the image of God therefore Christians should encourage equal treatment of women in the service of the Lord.
- The New Testament teaches that God loves both men and women therefore Christians should love one another irrespective of the sex.
- The New Testament teaches that God sent his only son Jesus to die for both man and woman therefore Christians should accept Jesus as lord and savior irrespective of sex of a person.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus improved the position of women by bringing them closer to himself therefore Christians should draw more women in the service of the lord.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus forgave a woman sinner who was caught in the very act of adultery therefore Christians forgave those women who sin against them because Jesus Himself forgave.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus had friends who were both men and women, for example Martha and Mary therefore Christians should make friendship with women and win them for Christ.
- The New Testament teaches that there should be mutual love and respect of human relationship regardless whether a person is a man or woman.
- The New Testament teaches that St. Paul taught Christians to be united in Christ irrespective of sexes because through Christ they are made one body.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus is coming to judge both men and women therefore all Christians should be prepared for God's judgment. Jesus performed miracles to benefit both men and women, for example He healed Jairus' daughter, and a woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12 years.

## **CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

### **COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.**

#### **COURTSHIP IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.**

**COURTSHIP:** Refers to the process of developing a close relationship with the person of the opposite sex especially with an idea of marrying her. It is normally done by sharing experiences with each other, dating one another, knowing each other more with the big intention of marriage. Today it is commonly called dating.

#### **ADVANTANGES / IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP.**

- Courtship enables the intending couples to make mature decisions before coming into a permanent relationship.
- Courtship ensures permanency in marriage due to love developed during the time of discovering one another.
- Courtship gives room to identify the character of each other as they appreciate each other, for example during courtship one can discover whether the person is humble, greedy, noisy or loving.
- Courtship enables one can discover whether their family background, for example rich or poor family.
- Courtship leads to a right choice of a partner due to strong affection developed during the process of interacting with one another.
- Courtship leads to discipline of both partners because they learn to respect each other and defend.
- Courtship promotes cultural heritage, for example foods to be eaten and language to be spoken.
- Courtship helps in proper planning for the family, for example the number of children to be produced.
- Courtship helps the intending couples to get to know each other's family members through several visits.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF COURTSHIP.

- Courtship causes the bad mannered people fail to get marriage partners since one can easily be dropped after discovering the bad mannerism in her/him.
- There is pretense during courtship in order to get a partner as a result the marriage may end up in divorce because courtship does not bring a clear picture of a person.
- People from poor background may not get married since they can easily be rejected after discovering during courtship.
- Mixed marriages may be discouraged due to cultural differences when discovered during courtship. Courtship may lead to disappointment / frustration in case one changes his mind abandons the relationship.
- Courtship may lead to unwanted pregnancies due to too much closeness which results into unwanted sex.
- One can easily acquire sexually transmitted diseases due to lack of self-control due to closeness and exposure during the time of courtship.
- Courtship may lead to loss of a career in case one partner is not yet ready for married because some people get over taken with affairs and neglect their duties.
- Courtship may lead to fornication which is sin before God and this could result to other problems such as unwanted pregnancies, quarrels with parents among others.
- Courtship leads to financial constraints especially when the lady is so demanding. The boy may end up stealing in order to please the girl he is dating.
- Courtship may lead to completion from rival lovers and this may tarnish the name of the concerned people who are dating each other. If the people in courtship are in long distance far away from one another, the love/relationship may decay.

#### THE VALUES OF ABSTAINING FROM SEX TILL MARRIAGE.

- Abstinence from sex before marriage enables one to gain dignity and respect before the partner if one is found a virgin after marriage.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage is pleasing before God because it is in His will that sex should be played only in marriage by mature adults who are ready to take responsibility of looking after the children.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage makes one healthy and free from sexually transmitted diseases.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage saves one from being guilty of sex misuse which carries with shame and disgrace to the entire family.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage enhances self control in a person hence a stable family in future.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage ensures emotional and spiritual security in a person because he/ she is faithful to God through keeping the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage strengthens faithfulness and trust among married couples even if they stay apart from each other for sometimes.
- One is able to achieve his/her dreams as a result of prolonged free disease and unwanted pregnancy. Abstinence from sex before marriage is cheap since it does not require any fiancés to facilitate.
- Abstinence from sex before marriage leads to good relation between parents and the children.

#### REASONS WHY SOME ADULTS HAVE CHOSEN TO STAY SINGLE TODAY.

- Some have financial problems hence choose to study as single because they are unable to run a family.
- Some are still perusing lengthy studies which cannot be mixed with marriage life because it has a lot of responsibilities that follow.
- Some have chosen to serve God therefore they cannot combine it with family life, for example nuns and priests in the Catholics.
- Due to natural or biological problems, for example frigid/ impotent which discourage them from marriage?
- Some have had bad experiences in marriage, for example over beating, alcoholic husbands. Some demanding jobs hence no time to cater for the family.
- Some people fear acquiring HIV/AIDS hence absconding marriage. Some people satisfy their sexual desires by visiting prostitutions hence no need to marry.
- Bad examples from married people, for example committing adultery, rape,. The influence of culture, for example the virgin girl called “Nakku” in Buganda.
- Influence of science and technology which make people too busy to think of marriage, for example machine operations.
- Some have rejected due to peer influence with the claim that you can’t enjoy life when married.

#### CAUSES OF PREMARITAL SEX (FORNICATION) AMONG THE YOUTH TODAY.

- Pre-marital sex is caused by permissiveness where one is free to do what he/she wants with the body.

- Pre-marital sex is caused by influence of western culture, for example poor dressing style or provocative that lure men to fall in for all ladies.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by pornographic literature and movies that arouse feelings for sex after watching or reading, for example blue movies. Magazines, internet.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by peer pressure, for example the common saying that “everybody is doing” why not me or “it is only me left behind.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by prolonged courtship which exposes one to sexual temptations because one has failed to control due to much closeness and interaction.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by some youths want to prove their manhood or fertility by going for sex.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by the decline in religious conviction where one does not feel guilty of any sin committed and yet the Bible states clearly that fornication is sin before God.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by desire for material wealth. For example money and clothes which are highly treasured by girls because they want to look good in public.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by fear in some girls that the boy can reject if you don’t give into sex.
- Pre-marital sex is caused by availability of contraceptives, for example condoms, pill plans, which people fear no pregnancies because of the preventive measures.

#### DANGERS OF PREMARITAL SEX.

- Pre-marital sex is sin before God 1Cor 6:9-10’ he who unites his body with prostitution sins against his own body. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit therefore it should not be sexually abused.
- Pre-marital sex is symbols of false love therefore those who engage in it face the challenges of rejection before marriage.
- The idea of proving manhood is wrong because one gains nothing after all. Instead it brings shame especially when a girl conceives or when the two are caught in the act because it is illegal.
- Pre-marital sex leads to a permanent loss of virginity moreover the one who breaks the virginity may not even marry that particular girl.
- Pre-marital sex leads to public humiliation/shame when caught in the act. The victims can be embarrassed in the public through newspapers, radios and other forms of communication. This may tarnish the name of the girl and the responsible men who marry her may end up avoiding her.
- Pre-marital sex may result into unwanted pregnancies hence producing bastards who are considered a disgrace in the family.
- Through pre- marital sex one can easily acquire sexually transmitted diseases, for example HIV/AIDS, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis.
- Pre-marital sex is lead to quarrels between the two families whose children are involved hence permanent hatred.
- Pre-marital sex may result into abortion if the boy does not want to take responsibility for the pregnancy. Those doing it end up abusing contraceptives such as condoms, pill and yet they are meant to be used by married people in controlling birth.
- Pre-marital sex may lead to child abuse because the couples are not ready to care for the child hence increasing rate of street kids and idlers on the streets.

- Pre-marital sex is disrespect of sex since this habit may even continue in marriage and yet sex is supposed to be given due respect.
- It may cause the female partner to lose the chance of marriage due to poor image created as someone weak sexually. If done with a girl below 18 years it may lead to imprisonment because it turns out to be called defilement.

#### MARRIAGE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

Marriage refers to the union of a man and a woman who make a permanent and exclusive commitment or as a social contrast between two individuals that unites their lives legally and emotionally.

#### **FACTORS CONSIDERED IN CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER TODAY.**

- The intending partners should have love for one another. For example extrinsic and intrinsic features.
- The religion of the two should be compromised, for example a catholic has to change in order to marry a protestant and vice versa.
- The physical appearance of both should be appreciated in order to come to a compromise to marry. For example the beauty in terms of the body shape and size, the hair of girl, smiles among others.
- The character of a person is also considered, for example is social or anti-social, greedy or generous.
- The health of the person is also considered, for example is the person suffering from chronic disease like asthma, sickle cells, HIV/AIDS among others.
- The moral virtues are also considered, for example honesty, transparency, obedience, faithfulness.
- The family background should be taken into account as well, for example are they social or anti-social, are they rich or poor, are they practicing witchcraft or they are not.
- The education level of the person is also important today, for example is the girl more educated than the boy or what gaps are there between the two as far as education is concerned.
- The person's habits are also considered, for example over eating, over sleeping, over travelling, too talkative among others.
- The culture of the person is also considered, for example type of food eaten, tribe and the language used.
- The economic position of the person is also taken into account, for example is the person poor or rich.

#### TYPES OF MARRIAGE TODAY.

**The customary marriage:** This marriage is based on traditional customs of a particular culture. It is initiated by two families, which is the family of the boy and that of the girl. This type of family is currently dying out because of modernization and influence of western culture. It is regarded as a divine institution whose success depends on the blessings of the ancestors in

African Traditional society. It is said to bring a permanent relationship between the family of the boy and that of the girl.

This marriage can be polygamous in nature whereby a man is free to marry as many wives as he can afford. However, women were restricted from marrying more than one husband.

**The civil Marriage:** This kind of marriage is officiated by the government authorities to become legalized thereafter the partners become husband and wife. It takes place before the government officials from the government offices. The two have to reach an agreement / concession without any influence for them to marry.

**Religious / church marriage:** This is a type of marriage recognized by the church and officiated by a pastor/priest. It is witnessed by the congregation.

It is believed to be blessed by God. It is a western form of traditional requirements for marriage, such as introduction ceremony or payments of dowry as required by tradition.

The partners exchange matrimonial vows publicly in church coupled with the rings in the presence of witnesses. These vows are irreversible until one partner dies then one can lawfully remarry. It's strictly *monogamous marriage* in nature, that is one wife and one husband as required by the scriptures/ Bibles.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF CHURCH MARRIAGE (WEDDING)/ ADVANTAGES OF MONOGAMY.**

- The church marriage is believed to be blessed by God because it is conducted and officiated by God's servants.
- It is a public declaration that a person is now officially married. He / she is no longer considered a single.
- Church marriage is in the will of God for one to marry, that is one wife and one husband ( monogamy)
- In church marriage it is easy to forgive and reconcile with each other due to Godly principles in the couple.
- The vows made by the couples before the congregation is a check against divorce and separation.
- Church marriage is always supported by the Christian community either financially, materially or spiritually.
- Church marriage is protected by the Christian community through continuous counseling of the couples.
- Church marriage gives the couple a respectable status and honour in the community at large.
- It enables children grow in a Christian discipline hence shaping the morals of children. It is recognized as a holy marriage divinely instituted by God and authored by God Himself.
- In church marriage love and faithfulness is emphasized hence harmonious living in the family.

#### **REASONS WHY MANY YOUTHS ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM CHURCH MARRIAGE (WEDDING)/ DISADVANTAGES OF CHURCH WEDDING.**



- The youths claim that a church wedding is very expensive hence they cannot afford to organize especially reception ceremony.
- The church marriage requires that the bride price is first paid or cleared then the wedding can take place and yet both require a lot of resources that some people cannot afford at once.
- Christian marriage is against polygamy which is treasured in many African communities hence making it contested.
- Church marriage today requires one to first be tested of HIV/AIDS before a wedding is conducted and yet many youths are not willing because they are not sure of health status.
- Some youths first want to test their fertility before wedding by producing children hence no need for church wedding.
- To some youths, traditional marriage alone is enough hence no need for a wedding after all it is costly.
- Some fear that God will punish them if they do not keep their marital vows hence avoid church wedding. Some youths are not yet decided to have a permanent partner for life hence evading church marriage.
- Some youths are sexually immoral hence cannot be faithful to one woman hence choose not to wed in church so that one can continue committing adultery with other women.

### **THE UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE TODAY.**

- Today marriage is understood as a free choice between the intending partners irrespective of tribe, race.
- Marriage is now driven by materialism rather than love hence the increase in marriage break downs.
- Marriage is also understood as a relationship between the two people who have mutually agreed to marry.
- Normally parents are required to bless their children who are intending to marry. This is done during the introduction ceremony.
- Marriage is understood to be obligation to fulfill sexual satisfaction in marriage unless the two have agreed to abstain and afterwards resume the exercise. This could be when one is sick or praying and fasting or has lost a relative.
- Bearing of children in marriage is also considered important although the number of children is limited.
- Marriage is also understood to be for companionship where they support each other in good faith.
- Faithfulness in marriage is strongly emphasized while adultery is condemned because it is sin before God.
- It is believed that a good marriage can improve the public image of the partners, that is they are seen as a role model.
- Marriage is also understood to be done in public where there are witnesses, for example in church so that the two are known in public as a husband and wife to avoid extra marital sex.
- Normally there are celebrations organized after marriage to appreciate the couples, for example under the tree shed hall or tents.
- Marriage is also looked at as a linkage to the family of the boy and that of the girl who have mutually agreed to come together as husband and wife.

- The health status of the partner is also highly considered in marriage. Before the two are joined together there is always a proof from the medical personnel that the two are of good health and free from HIV/AIDS hence marriage is understood to promote health.

## **DIVORCE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.**

Divorce is defined as a permanent dissolution of marriage between and wife. In most cases it is done before courts of law as a witness.

## **REASONS WHY DIVORCE IS COMMON TODAY.**

- Divorce is common today because of inadequate courtship between the partners. They therefore marry due to lust.
- Divorce is common today because of marital unfaithfulness/ adultery as a result of lust of the flesh. When the loves has finally disappeared the two stops trusting each other and begin cheating on one another hence divorce.
- Divorce is common today because of pride and arrogance in one partner which may lead to discomfort by the other.
- Divorce is common today because the partners tend to lose for one another after discovering their weaknesses.
- Divorce is common today because of the differences in religious beliefs, for example foods eaten such as pork may affect a Muslim person who is married to a Christian who eats pork.
- Divorce is common today because of the failure to harmonize culture. For example making a decision to use one language as means of communication and instructed to the children may cause divorce if the two fails to agree.
- Divorce is common today because of prolonged sickness of one partner. For example HIV/AIDS, being deformed for a long time as a result of accident may cause one partner to divorce the other.
- Divorce is common today because of the use of family planning methods without the consent of the partner. This may lead to resulting to bitter quarrels and fights between partners hence divorce.
- Bad habits which cannot be controlled may also result into divorce, for example drunkenness, gossiping, laziness, adultery and any other anti-social behavior if discovered may lead to divorce.
- Divorce is common today because of economic hardships in the family whereby they can no longer meet their needs due to unemployment. This therefore causes the female partner to look for men who can meet their needs.
- In some cases divorce mat also occur if the lady is barren. The man may decide to marry another woman in order for the man to get a wife who can produce for him children.
- Anti-social behavior in one partner may also lead to divorce, for example witch craft, night dancing and wizardism.
- Sexual dissatisfaction in marriage may also cause one partner to commit adultery which ends up in divorce.
- The differences in academic levels may also lead to inferiority of one partner hence divorce. For example a woman with a degree in marriage with an O' Level leaver may feel ashamed of her husband among her peers hence divorce.

## **ADVISE TO CHRISTIAN WHO THINK THAT STAYING UNMARRIED SOLVES HIV/AIDS INFECTION.**

1. Single hood can be adopted by a Christian for a good purpose of serving the lord with all commitment but not a guarantee against HIV/AIDS because AIDS can be transmitted by any means. For example accidents which involve bodily injuries and blood contacts can transmit the disease.
2. AIDS is a threat to many families and a Christian has got many ways of avoiding it into his family. For example abstinence from sex, preventive measures like not sharing sharp objects.
3. A Christian couple needs to keep faithfulness to avoid immorality and its consequences such as acquiring AIDS.
4. A Christian couple needs to test for HIV/AIDS before marriage takes place to avoid marrying an AIDS victim.
5. A Christian should take guidance and counseling from the pastor/priest before and in marriage to avoid AIDS.
6. AIDS does not affect people only through marriage. Even singles can suffer from its effects because its channels of entrance are many. For example through deep kissings.
7. Besides, even the single persons can take care of sick people with AIDS and acquire the virus in the process of caring for an AIDS patient hence singlehood is not a total escape from AIDS.
8. Society is supposed to be built on love hence singles and married are supposed to show love to all kinds of people irrespective of health status.

## **REASONS WHY THERE IS UNFAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE IN UGANDA TODAY.**

1. There is lack of sex education to the young people by their parents since they are too busy with work thereby causing them to live in a chaotic marriage.
2. Some couples live in poverty, so a wife may go for adultery to get basics in a home, for example salt.
3. Some wives are nagging such that husbands commit adultery as a way of looking for comfort elsewhere.
4. The nature of one's work may also cause marital unfaithfulness. For example business people who travel a lot to different places may develop interest in some people they meet, for example in Dubai, Nairobi hence unfaithfulness.
5. Greed for money may cause some people to become unfaithful to their partners and end up cheating on each other.
6. Peer influence has also led some people to become unfaithful partners because they are misled with unfaithfulness.
7. The presence of pornographic literature on the market like news paper, magazines has encouraged unfaithfulness.
8. The media houses like Television and Radio influence unfaithfulness through their programs, for example immoral programs on Bukedde, and East African televisions promote unfaithful partner.
9. Long periods of separation due to further studies may force the couple to cheat other due to the desire to have sex which may not be controlled

10. High libido (sex urge) which makes a wife to become unfaithful because she cannot be satisfied by one man or she cannot stay for a certain period without sex while the husband is away.
11. Alcoholism especially on the side of the husbands may render them useless to wives because they come back late and over sleep without fulfilling sexual obligation hence desire to have alternative men for sex satisfaction.
12. Suspicion of one another may lead to unfaithfulness especially if a wife suspects the husband may pay him in the same way by going with other men.
13. Having a partner who has produced children elsewhere before marriage may be tempted to go back to such a woman or man because they are already used to each other since they are united with child produced together.

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE CHURCH CAN HELP MARRIAGE COUPLES SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS.**

1. The church can give such people counseling services about the dangers of marital unfaithfulness. For example acquiring HIV/AIDS.
2. The church also enlightens these people about the value of marriage as an institution being holy and ordained by God himself hence the need to protect it.
3. The church can provide employment to those who are poor to enable them get money for use at home so their families do not break because of financial hardships.
4. To solve the problem of quarrelling, the couples should cultivate love through settling their differences by dialogue.
5. Wedding officially in church can solve the problem of peer influence because it will put them in a different class of marriage where temptations and trials in marriage can be resisted.
6. The church teachers that partners should have time for each other. It will solve the problem of long period of separation hence couples should avoid separations for long periods without justifiable reasons.
7. Church teachers that spiritual rather than earthly materials will lead people to heaven. So money should not divide the couples but should help them in harmony.
8. Lack of sex education among couples can be solved by church programs on sex through seminars and workshops.
9. High libido in a couple can be solved by having constant prayers from elders/individually so that God can make a person self-controlled to avoid the sexual temptation with other partners.
10. Alcoholism can be solved through advising the couple to get saved and use the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
11. Suspicion can be solved by advising them to build confidence and trust in each other through mutual understanding.

### **MARRIAGE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.**

- Marriage was regarded as a communal affair whereby all members were concerned about its welfare hence protection.
- Dowry was also paid so as to build a strong relationship between the husbands and the wife. It also acted as a certificate of marriage between the husbands and wife.

- Research was done by the relatives, neighbours about a concerned partner before giving a hand in marriage so as to guard against divorce hence marriage protection.
- Marriage was also protected through giving advice, counseling and guidance to the young men and women before marriage so that they would be able to cope up with the challenges of marriage.
- The people married from within their communities where the people were well known in behavior and conduct hence protection against divorce and other.
- Marriage was also protected through giving offerings and sacrifices to the ancestors were also done to protect marriage from any threats.
- Polygamy was also practiced in order to protect marriage relationships, for example if the first woman was barren, she was not sent away about the husbands married a second wife to produce him children.
- The society also protected marriage relationships by working hard to ensure that the family had all their basic needs.
- Marriage was also protected through marriage relationships by ensuring that all traditional rituals had been fulfilled before marriage, for example circumcision among the Bagishu boys.
- The society also protected marriage relationship by the adults living an exemplary life to the young people to emulate in order to have a happy and good marriage.

#### BRIDE PRICE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

PRIDE PRICE: refers to the payment done/ made to the girls' family by the boys' family for the upbringing of their daughters for marriages, for example in form of cattle, goats, chicken and beer.

#### IMPORTANCE/ADVANTAGES OF BRIDE PRICE/BRIDE WEALTH IN AFRICAN TRADITION.

- Bride price in African Traditional Society acted as a legal bond for marriage between a husband and a wife.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society represented love and appreciation from the boy to the parents of the girls for upbringing of their children.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society acted as a compensated for the loss of a girl and her parents from the family and more so it acted as a source of wealth to the family of the bride.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society enabled the brothers of the bride/woman to get wealth so that they could marry and have families as well.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society offered religious significance, that is as a way of sharing with the departed ones through asking for blessings.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society showed that the girl is somebody's wife hence she could bear children for the clan for its expansion.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society showed the capacity of the boy's family to look after the bride as revealed through hard work to raise the dowry.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society enhanced kinship and unity between the two families as close relatives.

- Bride price in African Traditional Society promoted morality since virginity was highly rewarded in marriage, For example the Basoga, if the girl was found a virgin her parents would be given the gift of goats.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society provided security against divorce which is a threat to marriage.
- Bride price in African Traditional Society was a source of prestige to the two families whose children m in marriage.

### **DISADVANTAGES/ REASONS AGAINST BRIDE PRICE/ PRIDE WEALTH TODAY.**

- Bride price is too expensive for some people hence causing poverty in the family of the boy paying it.
- Bride price has turned out to be for showing off than appreciation for the good upbringing of the girl. For example some parents ask for too much money and animals just to boast around if given by the bridegroom.
- Bride price subjects a woman into violence from her husband and his relatives, for example beating, abuses because they have bought her with a price.
- Bride price is form of exploitation of the boy by the girl's parents especially when the demand is too high would leave the boy in a state of misery because of debts incurred in the process of gathering the bride wealth.
- Bride price reduces a woman into mere commodity that people bargain for her price hence a shame.
- Some people feel it is a backward practice to pay bride price hence for uneducated people to observe because they are uncultured.
- Bride price denies women the chance of choosing a right partner because the parents want wealth from a rich person.
- Bride price has subjected some young men to remain single they can't afford. They therefore live unmarried lives against their will leading to sexual immorality like fornication and defilement.
- Bride price leads to frustration and death in case the boy fails to raise what is being demanded by the in-laws. Bride price encourages polygamy for those who can afford to pay bride price. They are free to marry as many wives as their resources could dictate.

### **THE CHRISTIAN STAND ON BRIDE PRICE.**

- Christians should uphold cultural values which do not contradict with Christians values, for example appreciation of the parents for the good upbringing of their daughter in form of gifts during marriage.
- Bride wealth discourages divorce hence it is important for Christians to embrace in order to ensure permanency in marriage as intended by God the author of marriage.
- The sharing of bride price is a Christian virtue of harmonious living hence Christians should support it.
- Bride price cements unity in marriage hence it is important for Christians to embrace because of the resources and the time invested while the two preparing to come together as husband and wife.
- It is a sign of commitment in a Christian to take responsibility in marriage.

- Through raising the bride price one is able to realize that is capable of taking responsibility in marriage.
- Bride price is a public recognition and declaration of marriage between husband and wife therefore Christians should support it because it shows that ne is fully committed in marriage as witnessed in a public gathering while receiving the bride wealth.
- Bride price is an expression of the man’s love for the girl through paying of cows, goats and other valuables as evidence. This is given freely from the heart as a sign of love and commitment for the partner. However, marriage should be based love not materialism.
- Parents should allow their children to marry with or without bride wealth because a good marriage is built on mutual understanding between husband and wife not the material things paid.
- The decisions of the intending couples should be respected by all the parties concerned, for example parents.

#### POLYGAMY IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

POLYGAMY is a situation where a man marries more than one wife. It was highly valued in African traditional society but with the coming of Christianity and the economic hardships, polygamy has greatly become unpopular and it is slowly dying out especially among the committed Christians and the educated class in urban centres.

#### ADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

- Polygamy provided a solution to bareness through marrying other women with the capacity to produce for the clan.
- Polygamy helped in the expansion of the clan through production of many children bi one man with many wives.
- Polygamy gave an opportunity for all women to at least get married to the few men available.
- Many wives to a man were a sign of prestige and popularity in the community and would make him attain leadership positions.
- Polygamy also provided manual labour in the family hence cultivation of the gardens and grazing of animals was made easy in such a family.
- Polygamy helped to guard against prostitution since all women had the chance of getting married hence no room for single ladies.
- Polygamy was a tool for sexual satisfaction to men with extra sexual appetite. This checked the cases of sex abuses such as rape and bestiality.
- Polygamy was also practiced just for cultural heritage that is because their ancestors also practiced it.
- Polygamy helped men at old age because their young wives would care for them and gave them warmth.
- Polygamy was a solution for balancing the sex of the children in case the first wife was producing only one sex.

#### DISADVANTAGES / DANGERS OF POLYGAMY IN AFRICAN TRADITION.

- The polygamous system favoured only the rich old men other than the young men who could not afford to pay for their bride wealth hence it encouraged forced marriages.
- There was no equal love of the man shared among the women. The men in most cases would side with some wives who were hard working and cared for them while the lazy and unhygienic wives suffered.
- Polygamy led to sexual dissatisfaction to women because the men could not balance sexual activities equally among the women hence adultery by women who were sexually starved.
- Quarrels between the co-wives were also extended to the children hence permanent hatred between the children of the co-wives leading to fight, the practice of witchcraft and sometimes deaths.
- The disciplining of children was a hard thing since the father had little time to be with them as did the work of rotating between the wives. This therefore left children to grow without proper discipline of their father.
- Polygamy led to poverty because it could become too difficult for the man to support the families economically since the expenditures were very high in terms of food and other basic needs.
- There was a danger of contracting sexually transmitted diseases since there was lack of trust in this kind of marriage. For example the women who were sexually starved would go in for adultery and contract sexually transmitted diseases and would bring to their husband who would also distribute to his wives.
- Children in a polygamous family lacked love and parental care because they were too many to be cared by one man moreover with meager resources.

#### REASONS WHY CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS DISAPPROVE POLYGAMY.

- Polygamy is a sign of unfaithfulness to the first wife and yet she remains committed to her husband.
- Polygamy is the breaking of the covenant made between husband and his first wife. This leads to mistrust.
- In a polygamous marriage, a husband cannot equally give love to several wives and children since love cannot be equally distributed among the many wives with different children.
- Polygamy creates competition amongst women which may result into conflict and hatred thereby death.
- Polygamy is the source of quarrels and misunderstanding in a family hence love and harmony disappearing.
- In a polygamous family, if many children are born then economic and social problems are also found in the home, leading to social evils such as theft and other anti- social behaviours.
- In polygamous the husband is over worked sexually or some wives are sexually starved leading to adultery and besides the husband is over worked to sustain a large family and may develop health problems leading to premature death.
- Due to polygamy the young people are deprived the chance of getting married to men of their choice but imposed.
- Polygamy may lead to divorce and family breakages because it is practiced out of love but to fulfill selfish interest of the men.
- Polygamy destroys completely the love and respect between the husband and the wife since they cannot relate positively with one another due to competition for the husband.



- According to the creation story, God created man and woman to complement each other therefore polygamy is against the Christian teaching on ideal marriage.
- Man and woman unite to become one body but not two therefore polygamy is wrong before God because it destroys God's original intention of a monogamous marriage.

## MARRIAGE IN THE EARLY CHURCH.

### THE UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE IN THE EARLY CHURCH.

1. Marriage in the early church was understood to be monogamous in nature, that is one husband and one wife therefore polygamous marriage was regarded as an abuse of a marriage.
2. Marriage in the early church was understood as a free choice between husband and wife, therefore forced marriage was also discouraged.
3. Marriage in the early church was understood as permanent relationship between husband and a wife therefore anything that tried to destabilize marriage was carefully handled.
4. Marital faithfulness was highly valued. Therefore extra marital sex such as Adultery was heavily condemned and punished.
5. Marriage in the early church was understood as two people brought and bound together in love and affection for a lifelong experience.
6. Marriage in the early church was understood as means through which production of children was carried.
7. Marriage was also meant for companionship between husbands and wives whether the two produced children or not.
8. Marriage in the early church was understood as a mean by which the good upbringing of children was carried out for the good of the family and the community at large.
9. Marriage in the early church was understood as means by which an individual was free to enjoy sex because of the blessings of both parents. Therefore, sex before marriage was highly condemned.
10. Marriage in the early church was understood as a communal affair whereby it had to be witnessed by the church congregation in a broad day light. Marriage between believers and non believers was condemned unless one became a believer when he or she was already married to anon believer.

## MARRIAGE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### WAYS IN WHICH MARRIAGE WAS PROTECTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

1. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through emphasizing permanency in marriage while condemning situations that would lead to divorce.
2. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through promoting monogamous marriage as the ideal marriage designed by God Himself for the good of mankind.
3. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through focusing on God as the initiator of marriage.
4. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through emphasizing on love as a key to successful marriage.

5. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through production of children in marriage so as to seal the relationship between the husband and the wife.
6. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through disciplining of the children so that they would grow in the way of the Lord and bring respect to the parent's hence family stability.
7. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through promoting faithfulness between partners while condemning adultery.
8. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through condemning all forms of sexual immorality that would disrupt the marriage. For example incest, rape, bestiality was heavily condemned.
9. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through widow inheritance in order to protect the family lineage of the late or the deceased. Gen 38: 1ff. For example Ruth remarried to Boaz the relative of late husband.
10. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through long courtship in order to build a strong relationship, for example Jacob courted Rachael for 14 (fourteen) years.
11. Marriage in the Old Testament was protected through prohibiting intermarriages especially with other races/tribes because of fear of negative influences from the other cultures.

#### QUALITIES OF A GOOD WIFE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (PROVERBS 31:10-31)

1. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be hard working so that the family would not suffer in lack.
2. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be strong and industrious, for example making table clothes, mats.
3. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be an investor, for example buying land for the future.
4. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be someone able to plant a vineyard (gardening) for the survival of the family.
5. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be the one charitable to the disadvantaged group of people that is able to help the poor and the needy.
6. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be one who does art work, making clothes for summer and winter periods.
7. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be full of love for one another and above all her husband and the close relative.
8. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be who is compassionate to those suffering and sick.
9. A good wife in the Old Testament had to have self respect in order to win the respect of others.
10. A good wife in the Old Testament had to be one who honours the lord with her heart and her belongings.

#### **THE BIBLE TEACHING THAT CAN HELP MARRIED PARTNERS LIVE A HAPPY MARRIAGE.**

- The Bible teaching on marriage is there should be equality of both partners in marriage; therefore, married partners should complement each other in their roles as equals. Gen 22:1-25.

- The Bible teaching on marriage is there should be monogamous marriage in order to help them build love and in live harmony.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is there should be permanent and what God has put together no one should separate therefore Christians should encourage permanency in marriage and condemn divorce.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is there should live in peace and harmony through mutual understanding therefore Christians should encourage harmony in families through guidance and counseling.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is there should be unity in marriage between the couples therefore husbands and wives should remain united in order to have a happy marriage.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is that husbands should love their wives while wives should submit to their husbands in order to have a happy marriage.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is that the partners should forgive each other and reconcile, for example Hosea and Gomer reconciled after her adulterous acts therefore, Christians should forgive each other so as to live harmoniously.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is that the married partners should respect each other in order to line in harmony therefore married couples should honour and respect each other to have a meaningful marriage.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is that the parents should love their children so that they can have a happy marriage therefore parents should treat their children fairly by disciplining them in love.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is there should tolerate each other's weaknesses so as to live in harmony therefore Christians partners should bear with one another's weaknesses so as to live peacefully.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is that they should
- ..... help each other cement their relationship through mutual understanding therefore partners should listen to each other to give room for mutual understanding.
- The Bible teaching on marriage is that there should be faithful in their marriage so that there is trust in each other therefore Christians should be faithful and keep the marriage bed holy so as to win the support of each other.

## MARRIAGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

### THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON MARRIAGE.

1. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that marriage is a will and will and blessing from God therefore every Christian should honour and give it due respect.
2. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that in marriage the husband and wife become one flesh when the two are joined together in both emotional and physical union.
3. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that in marriage there should be respect of each other in order to live in harmony and appreciate each other's contribution.
4. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that faithfulness of partners should be exhibited in marriage so as to close the gap for marital unfaithfulness which leads to divorce if not carefully handled.

5. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that the acts of adultery destroy the original purpose of marriage therefore it should be strongly condemned while faithfulness is exhibited
6. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that monogamous marriage is the only ideal marriage that God recommended for Christians. Therefore Christians should condemn polygamy because it is a sign of dishonor to the first matrimonial wife.
7. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that the married partners should seek guidance and counseling from God through prayers in order to help them have a successful marriage.
8. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that forgiveness and reconciliation in marriage should be encouraged so that the two can live in harmony. Forgiveness and reconciliation heals the broken relationship in marriage.
9. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that in marriage the parents should be polite in disciplining their children so that they bring them up in the fear of the Lord hence giving glory to God for the gift of children.
10. The New Testament teaching on marriage is that marriage husbands should love their wives just as Christ has loved the church in order to win their hearts and likewise wives should submit under the leadership of their husbands so that they can win their favour.

### **LESSONS CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT MARRIAGE.**

- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that marriage should remain permanent except when one partner commits adultery against the other therefore Christians should keep their marriages permanent for the glory of God.
- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that marriage should be permanent therefore separation and divorce should be condemned. What God has brought together no one should separate therefore Christians should keep their marital vows and guard against divorce.
- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that there should be forgiveness among the married partners so that God can guide their marriage therefore Christians should be tolerant to each other and forgive one another so as to live a happy married life.
- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that Christians should appreciate what God has given them therefore Christians should guard against covetousness and lust for other people's wives/ husbands because it is sin before God.
- They should guard against admiring other people's wives / husbands because it is sin before God.
- The New Testament encourages Christians to attend the celebration of the Lords' table in order to help them renew their relationship with God therefore Christians should attend the Holy communion in order to renew their marriages as they part take in the bread and the wine to remember Jesus' death for all sinners to have life in its fullness.
- The New Testament teaches that there should be mutual understanding between husbands and wives through talking and communication from time to time therefore Christian married partners should have time to talk to each other in order to help them solve marriage problems amicably.
- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that married partners should have enough sexual intercourse with each other in order to avoid sexual temptations therefore Christians couples should have enough sex to avoid trails.

- They should only abstain from sex after agreeing and for a short time and thereafter actively resume.
- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that marriage should be genuine love between husbands and wives in order to cement their relationship therefore Christians should love and respect each other in marriage so as to cement relationships.
- The New Testament teaching on marriage is that Christian widows are free to remarry as long as they wish to do so however it is also better if they stayed as singles in order to serve God well therefore Christians should give the widows the freedom to remarry if they do wish to do so and also respect their choice to remain unmarried because any of those choices brings glory to God.

## **CHAPTER FOURTEEN**

### **MANS QUEST FOR GOD**

The word quest means searching for something with the intention of understanding it better. Therefore man's quest for God refers to man's continuous effort to find out the truth about the truth and obtain knowledge about God

#### **WAYS IN WHICH MAN SEARCHES FOR GOD TODAY**

Man searches for God today in the following ways

- Man searches for God through prayers which are recited individually or collectively to communicate to God
- Man searches for God through repenting sins to be right with God for example fornication
- Man searches for God through baptizing new believers, welcoming them into Gods family
- Man searches for God through preaching the gospel following Jesus' command of preaching the gospel to all nations
- Man searches for God through paying tithe and offerings so that he can be blessed by God
- Man searches for God through reading Gods word to understand the word which reveals Gods truth and will
- Man searches for God through organizing and attending fellowships which help to strengthen believers
- Man searches for God through composing Christian songs which help believers express their faith and appreciate God for whatever he has done. For example Phone Mukasa, pr Wilson Bugembe.
- Man searches for God through doing charity works for example helping the needy with food and shelter
- Man searches for God through forgiving those who have wronged him so that God can also forgive him.
- Man searches for God through fasting where Christians deny themselves pleasures like food, sex for a given period of time to engage in meditation
- Man searches for God through making pilgrimages to holy places for example in Uganda, every 3<sup>rd</sup> June Christians go to Namugongo to celebrate martyrs day

- Man searches for God through writing Christian literature to express their knowledge about God and his mighty works for example the catholic church releases the Munno paper every Sunday
- Man searches for God through constructing churches in order to bring Christians together for prayer for example Rubaga miracle centre under pastor Kayanja
- Man searches for God through living a self-denial life for example the nuns and priests in the catholic church who vow poverty in order to serve God
- Man searches for God through attaching himself to Gods work for example reverands, priests. For example pastor Robert Kayanja of Rubaga Miracle Centre.

#### REASONS WHY PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING FOR GOD TODAY.

People are searching for God because of the following reasons

- People are searching for God today to get guidance in everything they do in order to be successful
- People are searching for God today because he is the controller of everything both living and non living
- People are searching for God today because some fear death yet he is the giver of life therefore seek him to get life
- People are searching for God today because they want to attain eternal life which God is believed to be the only source to those who seek him in truth and righteousness
- People are searching for God today because of the misfortunes they encounter in life. For example sickness, death, of their loved ones. They therefore seek him to get guidance on such problems
- People are searching for God today because they want to acquire wealth such as money, buildings, since he is the source of wealth.
- People are searching for God today because they want to get closer to him and understand him as their personal lord and savior from this sinful world full of darkness.
- People are searching for God today because they want to compare him with science and technology which tries to answer complex issues that people want to find solutions
- People are searching for God today because he is believed to be the source of protection from their enemies hence those in fear of attacks from enemies seek for protection from God
- People are searching for God today because they want to live in peace and harmony with one another since God gives grace to those who love each other regardless of tribe and race
- People are searching for God today because they want to understand his nature for example he is believed to be the creator, provider, sustainer among others

#### ATTRIBUTES OF GOD (FACTORS THAT PROMPT MAN TO SEARCH FOR GOD)

The attributes of God push man to search for God. The following are the attributes of God as seen in the bible

- God is the creator ie he created and has powers over all earth and heavens
- God is omnipotent that is he is all powerful and mighty
- God is omniscient that is he is all wise and knowing therefore man seeks him for wisdom

- God is the alpha and omega that is he is the beginning and the end, therefore man seeks him for this reason
- God is impartial. he treats all people equally and people seek him for salvation
- God is all perfect so people seek him to correct their imperfections for example theft, adultery
- God is all hearing and understands all languages even the secret thoughts, and is therefore accessible to all people who search for him
- God is eternal and people seek him to have eternity
- God is loving and people seek him for his love
- God is holy therefore man seeks him for purity and ask for forgiveness
- God is immanent that is he is very close to people in problems and man seeks him to help him in problems
- God is all seeing and sees everything in the world at the same time, man seeks him to understand his greatness
- God is omnipresent and is everywhere at the same time; man seeks him to get guidance wherever he is
- God is the provider and sustainer of life. Whoever prays to god gets what he or she wants

### **WAYS IN WHICH GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO CHRISTIANS TODAY**

- God reveals himself to Christians today through the Holy Scriptures which is god's word in written form; this is through bible studies and fellowships
- God reveals himself to Christians today through religious leaders like pastors/priests who conduct services and proclaim the word of God to the flock
- God reveals himself to Christians today through being in the midst of Christians whenever they are gathered in fellowships
- God reveals himself to Christians today through the works of the holy spirit for example the gift of healing, prophesy among others
- God reveals himself to Christians today through convicting Christians to care for the poor and the needy in our midst
- God reveals himself to Christians today through the fruits of the spirit manifested in acts of love, patience, and care for each other
- God reveals himself to Christians today through answering prayers whenever believers turn to him genuinely in faith.
- God reveals himself to Christians today through performing miracles whenever believers gather in faith to praise and worship him for example healing the lame, casting demons
- God reveals himself to Christians today through dreams and visions Christians receive when meditating on him in prayer and fasting
- God reveals himself to Christians today through loving Christians by giving them joy and happiness in their lives
- God reveals himself to Christians today through the Holy Communion as Christians partake in commemoration of his body and blood on the cross for the forgiveness of sins
- God reveals himself to Christians today through his relative nature as he continues to create things like stars, moon, sky, plants among others
- God reveals himself to Christians today through religious historical events like Christmas and Easter]

- God reveals himself to Christians today through personalities like bishops; pastors who do Gods work of preaching.

## PROBLEMS FACED BY CHRISTIANS IN THEIR SEARCH FOR GOD

Christians face the following problems in their search for God

- Christians face a problem of poverty/ lack of money for transport, assisting the poor, needy among others
- Christians face persecution which involves, insults, mockery by fellow Christians and government
- Christians face conflicts/divisions between churches/religious denominations and oppositions

## ACTIVITIES THAT A STUDENT CAN DO TO SHOW HIS BELIEFS IN GOD

- A student can show belief in God through carrying out charity works, for example helping the needy and the sick
- A student can show belief in God through attending fellowships organized to praise and worship God in Church
- .A student can show belief in God through going for bible study and forming bible study gropes to help build their faith through studying the word of God
- .A student can show belief in God through joining choir groups and composing songs for praise and worship
- .A student can show belief in God through preaching the gospel to fellow students to bring them to Christ
- .A student can show belief in God through receiving sacraments like baptism, Eucharist and confirmation
- .A student can show belief in God through joining Christian clubs like scripture union and Young Christian Society to help build their faith in God
- .A student can show belief in God through attending Christian seminars to help strengthen their faith in God
- .A student can show belief in God through attending/praying mass on Sundays as a way of expressing faith in God
- .A student can show belief in God through participating pilgrimage journeys to holy places, for example third June at Namugongo martyrs shrine and Rome every year

## THE ROLE OF PRAYERS IN THE DAILY LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

- Prayer is an expression of faith and love towards God by Christian's .this can be done through speaking to God, singing and worshipping
- Prayer is a sign of surrender and dependence on God for everything both in future and the present
- Prayer introduces one to better understanding of God through meditating upon Him and seeking His counsel
- Prayer creates awareness about God in the life of a believer so that he or she can develop an intimate relationship with God, the creator of life



- Prayer enables one to experience the presence of God in His/her life through testimonies of the power of God in their lives
- Through prayer one gains communication with God through making requests and petitions known to God
- Through prayer one is able to ask for forgiveness of sin and repent and confess the sins to God
- Through prayers one is able to pray for the sick people to receive super natural healing from God
- Tone is able to pray for the sick people to receive super natural healing from God
- Through prayers one is able to ask God for provision such as food, money, good health and care.
- Through prayer one is able to attain eternal life by seeking g the way,truth,and the life which is inly found in Jesus Christ the savior of all people
- Through one keeps hoping for a better life ahead by Gods grace and mighty powers .

## **QUEST FOR GOD IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE AFRICANS SEACRHED FOR GOD IN SOCIETY**

- The Africans searched for God through worshipping in songs ans dances during the puberty rituals. For example a circumcision ritual among the bagishu of eastern Uganda locally known as “imbalu dance”
- The Africans searched for God through believing in other spirits who could appear to them in form birds, animals ,fire as their ancestors examples of gods are Ddungu ,Mukasa and Musoke in Buganda .
- There were religious personalities such as diviners who could be consulted in case problems because they were believed to be the mediators with the ancestral spirits.
- The Africans searched for God through prayers which were in the form of singing, dancing and offering sacrifices of both animals and human beings to the Gods of their ancestors
- The Africans searched for God through believing in divinities who were believed to be gods of their fore fathers. For example Masada among the Bags of eastern Uganda
- The Africans searched for God through giving the names of the gods to the newly children born children, for example byaruhanga in bunyoro and tooro
- The Africans searched for God through observing religious objects like drums, spears which would be put or carried in their bags for protection by the gods.
- The Africans searched for God through building of shrines for worshipping and offering sacrifices to the gods. For example a goddess called Nakayima in mubende for the baganda.
- The Africans searched for God through prayers in various ways, for example dancing, singing and clapping of the hands in gratitude to God for the things he had done for them.
- The Africans searched for God through believing in the ancestral spirits because they were believed to be near their gods and such spirits could take people s complaints and requests to the gods.

### **WAYS IN WHICH AFRICANS OFFERED PRAYERS**

- The Africans offered prayers through giving sacrifices to the gods in form of animals, birds and humans. This sacrifices helped to invoke God for many things such as healing, protection and success,
- The Africans offered prayers through thanks giving to God for the things he had done for them. This could be done through singing and dancing, praising their and remembering their dead ancestors.
- The Africans offered prayers through singing and dancing in tradition songs and ways to appease gods. These songs were composed by people who were believed to have been inspired by ancestors.
- The Africans offered prayers through carrying out symbolic action spitting water on the ground before drinking in honor of the ancestors. Others could wear charms on their waists for protection.
- The Africans offered prayers through poems and poetry praising Gods creation work and the mighty works of God around his people.
- The Africans offered prayers through visiting shrines and sacred places to appease God .This could invoke God to bless them. Examples of sacred places are river banks, big trees (omutuba tree in Buganda), and caves among others.
- The Africans offered prayers through evoking God by calling his name, for example (katonda) among the Baganda meaning the creator or ACWEC among the langi meaning creator to recognize God and praise Him.
- The Africans offered prayers through religious leaders like traditional priests, mediums and healers who were believed to be messengers of the gods and the gods would answer them on the behalf of the people.
- The Africans offered prayers through veneration of ancestral spirits by honoring their demands such as libations in form of food ,blood and drinks.
- The Africans offered prayers through observing rituals that praised their ancestors, for example circumcision and body tattooing.
- The Africans offered prayers through naming children using the attributes of God, for example Byaruhanga among the Banyoro, lubanagakene among the Acholi meaning only God.

## **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY AND CHRISTIANITY BELIEFS ABOUT GOD**

- Africans traditional society believed in God as the creator of all things both living and not living in the same way Christianity believes that God is the creator of everything both living and nonliving.
- Africans traditional society believed in God is mightier than other beings both on earth and in heaven just as Christianity which believes that God is the greatest of all things both on earth and heaven. God is self-existent.
- Africans traditional society believed in God is the provider of all things needed by humans just as Christianity which believes that God is the provider of all things and sustainer of our needs .it says that those who lack should go to Jesus.
- Africans traditional society believed in God is a forgiving God just as Christianity believes that God is a loving and forgiving God who forgive all who repent of their sins genuinely and turn back to Him remorsefully.

- Africans traditional society believed in God as a mediator between Him and man just as Jesus in Christianity who is believed to be a mediator between sinful mankind and God. He intercedes on behalf of believers for god to protect and guide all Christians.
- Africans traditional society believed in God as a source of life just like Christianity which believes that life belongs to God alone. He knows when to give and when to take it away according to His will. Jesus is believed to be the way, the truth and the life.
- African traditional society worshiped God in sacred places such as shrines caves and river banks just as Christianity were God is worshipped in churches, under big trees, rivers during immersion on water and other erected shelters.
- African traditional society believed that God and punish the wrong doers by using any means such as floods, famine just as Christianity which believes God is a judge who can punish the unrepentant sinners.
- African traditional society believed that God is spirit hence with no physical body just as Christianity believes that God is the spirit and those who worship Him should worship in truth and in spirit. Those gods with physical bodies are referred to as idols representing Satan.
- African traditional society believed that God works through people whom He has appointed to work on His behalf. For example tradition priests and healers just as Christian believe that God can send His ambassadors to guide the people in form of prophets and pastors.

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AFRICAN TRADITION SOCIETY AND CHRISTIAN BELIEFS ABOUT GOD**

- Christianity believes in rituals as means of being cleansed from sins while African tradition society believed in rituals like circumcision as a way of knowing God and drawing closer to Him.
- Christianity believes in on God but in trinity, that is God the father, the son and the Holy Spirit while ATS believed in many gods/divinities. Every community had its own gods.
- Christianity accepts the Holy Spirit guidance every activity while in ATS sought guidance from ancestral spirits who were believed to be the custodian of the society.
- Christianity gives offerings and tithes to God in appreciation for what He has done for them while ATS gave sacrifices in gratitude to God in form of libation, animals and humans
- Christianity preaches the gospel of Jesus for the redemption of all mankind from sin while ATS preserved cultural beliefs and customs for the continuity of life here after.
- Christians pray to God for healing through Jesus while because Jesus is believed to be the only way, truth and the life while ATS had medicine men to heal the sick through powers given by the ancestral spirits to them
- Christianity gives children names of the saints in memory of what they have done for the Christian communities and the expansion of God`s kingdom while ATS gave the names of ancestors so that their memories and characters could not depart from the surviving relatives.
- Christians have a special day of worshipping God (Sundays) while ATS worshiped any time as long as the need arose regardless of the days of the week.
- Christians have written scriptures/Bible so that the members can read and understand more about God while the ATS had oral literature in their hearts and minds that could be recalled.
- Christians pay tithes and offering during the worship for the glory of God while ATS only play to God through sacrifices of birds, animals or human beings.

## **MANS QUEST FOR GOD IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

### **WAYS IN WHICH CHRISTIANS IN THE EARLY CHURCH SEARCHED FOR GOD**

- The early Christians searched for God through committing their lives to serve God for example Francis of Assisi devoted his entire life in the service of the lord until his death
- The early Christians searched for God through taking long journeys to holy places as a way of strengthening their faith in God for example they visited places with religious significance like Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
- The early church searched for God through living a righteous life following the example that their master Jesus had set for them before he went to heaven
- The early Christians searched for God through accepting water baptism as a sign of repentance and turning to God in order to have permanent relationship with God.
- The early Christians searched for God through helping the needy people in their communities with material items such as food, money, clothes, and shelter where necessary. This helped them to meet God.
- The early Christians searched for God through accepting to die as martyrs during the time when early believers were being persecuted for following Christ. Examples of martyrs included Simon peter and Apostle Paul who were gruesomely murdered for being witnesses of Christ. However they never gave up.
- The early Christians searched for God through prayers on Sundays, during fellowships and as individuals. This enabled them to meet God and he was able to direct and guide their affairs even in the trying moments.
- The early Christians searched for God through accepting Jesus as lord and savior. With Jesus in their lives, they became courageous and bold enough to preach the gospel without fear or favour to all kinds of people.
- The early Christians searched for God through taking Christian names as a symbol of being the followers of Christ. For example some were named after apostle peter, Paul, John, Andrew
- The early Christians searched for God through making missionary journeys to different parts of the world to witness Christ to those pagan communities. For example Apostle Paul witnessed Christ in places like Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus and Thessalonica.

### **EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO SEARCHED FOR GOD IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

#### **ROBERT DE NOBILE**

- He was a missionary of Jesuit order in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. He made a missionary journey to India in his search for God.
- He respected the people and was very humble to the people of India in his search for God
- He studied the culture of India (languages, dressing and food eaten) in search for deeper truth about God instead of forcing them to at once denounce their culture
- He found that Indians were true seekers of God in spite of being lost to the religion of Buddhism and idol worship.
- He evangelized the Indians alongside their culture. Indians slowly accepted to follow him with his Christianity.

- He slowly taught Indians how to pray to God so as to solve their problems which Buddhism and Hinduism could not solve.
- He encouraged Indians to take sacraments such as baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, repentance and holy marriage so as to annex the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.
- He encouraged Indians to give charity to the vulnerable classes of people like widows, orphans, lame and those with chronic diseases.

### **MATTHEW RICCI**

- Mathew Ricci was a missionary of Jesuit order in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century
- He made missionary journey to China in his search for God
- He respected the people of china in his search for God
- He studied the culture of Chinese (language, dressing and food eaten) in search for deeper truth about god instead of forcing them to at one denounce their culture
- He saw that Chinese were true seekers of God in spite of them being lost to the religion of Buddhism and idol worship
- He evangelized the Chinese alongside their culture
- He slowly taught the Chinese how to pray to God so as to solve their problems which Buddhism and Hinduism could not solve.
- He encouraged Chinese to take sacraments such as baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, repentance and holy marriage so as to annex the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.
- He encouraged Chinese to give charity to the vulnerable classes of people like widows, orphans, lame and those with chronic diseases.

### **CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA**

- He was born in Athens around 150AD. His parents were pagans but got converted to Christianity and were baptized.
- After conversion, his search for God started and never ended
- He went in search of the best Christian teaching to south Italy, Syria and Egypt
- In all these places, he found very remarkable preachers who impressed him especially pantaenus as chief Christian leader in Alexandria in Egypt
- He made many writings on Christian life showing that even if he took rest from travel, he remained a seeker of true knowledge about God.
- Clement later succeeded pantaenus as chief Christian leader in Egypt
- He searched for God by undertaking a study in philosophy at the university of Athens
- He searched for God by humbling himself and learning from communities where he went

### **ST AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**

- He was born in AD 354 in Numidia in North America(united states of America)
- Though born of Christian mother (st Monica), Augustine was not a Christian
- For long he searched for scriptures for an answer to the meaning of life without much success.
- His search took him to Milan in North Italy where Ambrose was Bishop of Christian community

- Bishop Ambrose's teaching impressed him and he began to understand the meaning of scriptures truly
- He later came to realize that in order to find God, he had to change his life.
- He got baptized and this marked the beginning of search for a deeper understanding of the Christian faith
- He made every effort to defend the Christian faith against wrong teachings (docetism)
- His search continued and he came to realize that man's heart is restless until it rests in God alone.

### **REV EZEKIEL APINDI OF KENYA**

- He was born of a wealthy family in 1885 in siaya district. He died in 1959.
- He became a Christian in 1905
- He served as a school teacher
- He converted many people to Christianity
- He worked as a spokesperson for the African grievances about colonial rule in Kenya.
- He extended his services to not only his people but as far as Mara in Tanzania, Nairobi and Mombasa
- He founded schools for formal education of his people in a bid to fight ignorance, illiteracy and disease.
- He also founded Christian congregations in many parts of Kenya
- As a dean, he founded the union schools especially for children of all religions to study in Kenya to harmonize their religious beliefs
- He lived an exemplary life that he is remembered up to now
- He was well disciplined and hardworking that he almost lacked nothing He taught the people how to pray since he was such a prayerful person leading by example hence a good leader and organizer among his people.
- He fought for his people's rights through great oppositions by use of non-violence against the colonial rule in Kenya that had brought in untold suffering to his own people.

### **MANS QUEST FOR GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE ISRAELITES SEARCHED FOR GOD**

- The Israelites searched for God through observing the wonders of creation which God had put in place for the benefit of man. These included the sun and the moon, the oceans and the seas and everything in it.
- The Israelites searched for God through following events in their lives, for example the Passover event that separated them from their enemies, the Egyptians, the miraculous crossing of the red sea on dry grounds.
- The Israelites searched for God through following the prophets who were believed to be messengers of God almighty. For example the prophets included Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah and Amos.
- The Israelites searched for God through following the Ten Commandments which God had given to Moses to guide as a community of God's chosen people.

- The commandments stated clearly what they were supposed to do and what they were not to do if they were to have a relationship with God .
- The Israelites searched for God by building a temple /sanctuary for worshipping Yahweh as their supreme God . for example a number of people could go to the sanctuaries of Shiloh and Bethel and the temple of Jerusalem to worship.
- The Israelites searched for God through offering sacrifices to God in form of animals, birds and grains as a way of appeasing Yahweh as their only God.
- The Israelites searched for God through feasts that were celebrated in order to remember Yahweh and turned back to him if they had left him. Examples of such feasts were the covenant feast, the feast of tabernacle and the atonement feast were all conducted for various reasons in their search for God.
- The Israelites searched for God through praising and worshipping God in songs and hymns in adoration for the great things he had done in their midst.
- The Israelites searched for God through observing certain rituals that their ancestors the patriarchs were ordered by God to observe. For example the circumcision, purification of women and leprosy rituals.
- The Israelites searched for God through paying pilgrimages to holy places that were believed the presence of God was there, for example Shiloh and Jerusalem temples.
- The Israelites searched for God through honoring the ark of the covenant which was believed to be God's physical presence in the midst of his people disrespect to the covenant would cause suffering to the concerned people .

## **WAYS IN WHICH GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- God revealed himself in the Old Testament through his voice whenever he wanted to communicate to his people. for example during the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants , there spoken words from God assuring them of protection and guidance throughout their missions.
- God revealed himself in the Old Testament through the smoke. For example during the Abrahamic covenant with God and also during the burning bush incident when God called Moses to go back to Egypt to deliver his people from slavery.
- God revealed himself in the old testament through appearing in form of a cloud, for example during the exodus event he directed the Israelites in a pillar of clouds during day.
- God revealed himself in the old testament through appearing in form of fire when his people called upon his name. for example to Moses in the burning bush and to Elijah on Mt. Carmel when he prayed for the fire to come from heaven and burn the sacrifice to prove that Yahweh alone is God.
- God revealed himself in the old testament through appearing in form of thunder to show his power and might. For example at the foot of Mt. Sinai when the people of Israel had gone during the covenant ceremony.
- God revealed himself in the old testament in form of dreams that people received, for example he appeared to young Samuel and Joseph in form of dreams which later became realities.

- God revealed himself in the old testament through the floods as a way of punishing the people who had persistently continued to sin against him .for example during the time of Noah he sent floods as a punishment to the people who had become so insolent and stubborn in sin.
- God revealed himself in the Old Testament through visions that the people received from him. For example the vision that Jacob received from him.
- God revealed himself in the old testament through giving wisdom to the people that asked for it. For example he gave King Solomon to lead his people and Solomon was the wisest at that time.

## **QUEST FOR GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT THE PROPER SEARCH FOR GOD.**

- Jesus taught that the world is full of trials and temptations therefore one should resist temptations because they are for a short while in the same way she was able to overcome temptations. Matthew 4:1.
- Jesus taught that his followers should meditate upon the word of god in order to help them reach God therefore Christians should meditate upon God's word in order to be able to reach to God.
- Jesus taught that the proper way to search for God is through to prayers. He himself spent much time praying in solitude to seek for the will of God in his life.
- Jesus associated with all people regardless of their social status as a way of searching for God , for example the outcast, the poor people and the immoral as a way of bringing them in the kingdom of God.
- Jesus taught that he is the way , the truth and the life and no one can reach the father except through him. He therefore calls upon his followers to search for God through him alone.
- Jesus encouraged all people to be open to God through confessing and repenting of sins as a way of searching for God. This in essence cause God's grace to be with him.
- Jesus taught the proper search for God can be achieved through respecting the institution of marriage and keeping it permanent as God require of it because divorce disgraces God's original plan for marriage.
- Jesus taught about the equality of people before God because he made them in His own image and likeness that they may fellowship with him. Through this Christians are able to reach God.
- Jesus taught about the love of God for all mankind. He said that because of love, God sent him for all t o have life in its fullness. Therefore the proper search for god is about love for god and fellow man.
- He taught forgiveness and reconciliation instead of revenge if one is to find god. He said god is a forgiving God and requires his followers to forgive those who have tress passed against them so that he can also forgive them their sins. This will draw them closer to God, a loving and forgiving God .



## MAN'S EVASION OF GOD

### EVASION OF GOD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

- EVASION OF GOD means running away from God or turning away from God or avoiding /illusion of God by the people. Evasion of God is cause by factors are politically , socially, economically and religiously motivated.

### WHY THE MODERN WORLD SEEMS TO BE LESS INTERESTED IN RELIGION.

- Some people regard Christianity as a foreign religion with little value for the wellbeing of Africans because it is based on faith that seems to offer less solutions to the African problems which require more practical solutions.
- The quarrels between religious groups discourage people from joining religious affiliations because they see no significance of religion apart from hatred, jealousy and ill fighting. For example war against.
- Introduction of science and technology which try to bring immediate solutions to day to day challenges that the people are facing has given religion a low profile in people's lives.
- Science and technology can heal diseases that the people are suffering from and it can control population growth which religion groups may not be so effective in that hence making some people to be less interested in religion.
- Failure of religion to solve some global problems which had proved to be a threat to mankind has caused some people to be less interested in religion. For example HIV/AIDS scourge that has endangered the entire universe has made some people less interested in religion because even the religious people are dying of HIV/AIDS .
- Corruption among religious leaders such as priests, pastors, reverends and bishops are discouraging people from joining the religious groups because they see that the leaders themselves are morally rotten meaning that religion adds no value in their social well beings.
- The occurrence of chronic / prolonged diseases in some people's lives which makes them suffer in pain for their entire lives cause them to be less interested in religion because religion can offer them a permanent rest or healing form strong pains that has eaten up their lives. For example diseases like asthma, sickle cells. High levels of education acquired by some people tend to confuse them about religion
- They are philosophically informed that God does not exist and therefore blind folded from seeking the truth about God which requires faith in order for one to understand him. Failure to know the truth about God therefore causes them to be interested in religion. Religion tea
- Some people claim that God is invisible and in form of spirit therefore it makes it difficult to believe in his existence and to communicate with him. Because GOD does not bear any physical features, some people think it is a myth to be what you cannot see hence less interested in religion .
- The delayed return of Jesus (Parousia ) has caused also some people to be less but the soon has taken thousands of years. This cause some people to think that the coming of Jesus is not a reality hence less interested in religion.

- Influence of western culture has also caused some people to be less interested in religion because of the way it packages the social conduct which seems to be in contrary with what religion teaches. For example western culture promotes same sex marriages (homosexuality), abortion and freedom to do whatever you want with your body and yet all those contradict with the religious teachings. This has caused people with weak faith to be less interested in religion in favour of the western culture which portrays false liberty.

### **WAYS IN WHICH WEALTH (MONEY) CAN BE A ROOT CAUSE OF MAN'S EVASION OF GOD.**

- Money can lead to sexual immoralities because one wants to acquire wealth or the desire to become rich. This leads to sex deviations such as prostitution, homosexuality which are sin before God.
- Those who trust their wealth always fail to trust in God because they think that wealth is everything to them hence evasion of God in their entire lives.
- Money can bring about death and killing of other people in a bid to acquire wealth. Murder in its self is evasion of God because life belongs to God, He can give and take away at his own will.
- Money can lead to practice of witch craft which is associated with un told suffering by the victims. For example witch craft can cause incurable diseases or conditions that can subject the victim to misery for life hence it is an invasion of God.
- Money leads to corruption in various forms such as bribery, embezzlement of funds which is evasion of God. The bible says that those who involve themselves in such things have no share in Gods' the kingdom
- The love of money can cause one to be tempted to steal and commit robbery in attempt to acquire wealth wrongfully. This means of acquiring wealth is condemned by God hence evasion of God
- Money involves child / human sacrifice at by some people who want to become rich quick and use short cuts. Human sacrifice is a form of murder and yet life belongs to God alone. The one who practice child sacrifice or human sacrifice is evading God.
- Money can lead to conflicts in families and between friends hence destruction of relationships and yet God requires his people to live in harmony. Such division s brought by money are therefore evasion of God
- Money can lead to kidnapping of children / people in attempt to demand for large money if the person is to be released safely by such bad groups of people who do evil before God and man
- Kidnapping is therefore evasion of God has designed that every human being should live in peace and freedom
- It can lead to divorce in marriages especially when the husband and wife begin to fight with each other on financial control and expenditure. Divorce is an evasion of God because it destroys the original purpose of God's plan for marriage which is permanence.

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE UGANDAN MEDIA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE EVASION OF GOD.**

- The examples of the media houses in Uganda include, Newspapers, Radios, Television, Internet and magazines owned by both the government and private individuals. The nature of

articles written in some newspapers contradicts with Godly teaching. For example some promote immorality through its presentation. For example East Africa television.

- Photos displayed in some media houses are immoral thereby promoting sexual immorality in the community for example bukedde, red paper and kamunye newspapers.
- Presentation by some Disco Jokers eg pillow talk on capital fm, late-night and abanonya on Bukkedde television which promotes sex out of lust hence evasion of God
- Languages used by some media houses are immoral there by promoting hatred and intrigues, eg vulgar languages used in describing women or girls.
- Some films contradict the Christian teaching which an expression of God is. Eg blue movies portraying sex abuses such as homo sexuality and lesbianism and big brother shows on television.
- Some adverts in media houses contradict with the Christian teaching on morality eg advertising condoms and pills on NTV as a means of protecting from un wanted pregnancies and sexual transmitted diseases has encouraged sexual immorality among the youths hence evasion of God
- Some media houses promote idol worship through advertising in news and radios the activities of witch doctors hence promoting paganism leading to evasion of God. Many traditional witch doctors are given special programs to present what they do in order to encourage people to visit them. Eg mama phina on CBS before it was temporarily closed by the government.
- Some media houses promote corruption indirectly through writing articles about prominent corrupt officials and amount swindle and they went freely without being punished. This is evasion of God indeed.
- The media also promote murder cases through publishing some gruesome murders in the country. Eg the killing of Christians in kanungu in the year 2000 by kibwetere with his church, the restoration of ten commandment church.
- Rape and defilement cases reported in the media encourages and popularize the vices leading to more evasion of God by the perpetrators.

#### THINGS THAT THE CHURCH IS DOING TO BRING PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.

- The church is organizing missions and crusades to reach out all people to know God and encourage them embrace Christianity so that the lost souls can turn back to God.
- The church is building schools that are church founded so that they are used for spreading the Gospel to the youths so that they are brought back to God. This is done through encouraging clubs with attractive programs such as music dance and drama so that many youths may be involved in church activities in schools.
- The law of love is being stressed among Christians through sharing material things, visiting and praying for the sick and forgiving those who wronged hence bringing back people to God.
- The church is encouraging prayer and fasting so that Christians can have a moment of meditation upon God and reflect on his goodness and mercy hence turning back to God.
- The church is spearheading freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ by calling upon all kinds of people to turn back to God by accepting Jesus as their personal savior who forgives their sins.

- The church is encouraging people to accept persecution and suffering for the sake of Christ because they last for a short time and there after God delivers them completely in great in victory
- The church is setting up projects to help the needy children in the country who have lost their parents due to wars and HIV epidemics to have the hope in life. These projects have catered for them both emotionally and physically through education and medical provision.
- The church is working for peace and reconciling people who were once enemies so that they receive grace and mercy from God. Eg reconciling people who were divided due political ideologies to come together on a round table talk rather than going for wars which lead to destruction
- The church is living exemplary lives through good morals and transparency so that the followers can emulate and turn to GOD who is able to transform them into honest and righteous Christians
- The church is condemning all form of immorality in the community as sin before and therefore punishable if not repented, eg fornication and adultery are condemned as sin against a person's own body.

## EVASION OF GOD IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

### WAYS IN WHICH THE AFRICANS TRIED TO EVADE GOD

- The Africans evaded God through dishonoring the demands of the ancestors in form of libations such as foods and drinks. This would lead to disasters and misfortunes such as defeat at war, sickness and diseases in the land because of disrespect of the ancestral spirits.
- The Africans evaded God through committing murder due to power struggle or through the practice of witchcraft due to hatred and jealousy. This was a form of evasion of God because required them to live in peace and harmony through preserving each other's life.
- The Africans evaded God through disregarding customs and traditions of their communities. This was a form of evasion because the practice the gods would not be happy with them.
- The Africans evaded God through the practice of divorce which was done against the will of the women and besides no woman was allowed to initiate divorce. This was therefore an evasion of God because marriage was meant to be a permanent contract between husbands and wives irrespective of the challenges it faced.
- The Africans evaded God through over taxing their subjects and mistreatment of the conquered states. This was an evasion because God required them to treat each other fairly regardless of the ethnic differences that existed in their communities.
- The Africans evaded God through being superstitious especially against women . E.g if a person was on a journey and met a woman, he / she would go back because of fear misfortunes.
- The Africans evaded God through disrespecting the sacred places like river banks big trees which were believed to be the dwelling places of the ancestral spirits that were the custodian of the society.
- The Africans evaded God through neglecting traditional gods and yet they were meant to offer sacrifices to them because they had the powers to protect and guide the society and the living at large.

- The Africans evaded God through neglecting prayers through traditional gods and this would make them live un lack or suffering between they were believed to be living under a curse since the gods were far away from them.
- The Africans evaded God through disrespecting traditional and yet these leaders were believed to have been appointed by the gods to guide the communities. Disrespect of leaders would therefore bring misfortunes in the society.

### **REASONS WHY WITCHCRAFT WAS A FORM OF EVASION OF GOD IN AFRICANS TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- Witchcraft was associated with destruction and destabilization of the people because it aimed at killing and destroying life. E.g it could be sent to destroy an enemy's livestock in revenge for a quarrels
- Witchcraft was used to defeat peoples' crops so that such a person would live in poverty hence laughing stock to the community.
- Witchcraft was used to defeat people in competition so that one would be praised as a powerful winner. E.g it was used during wrestling and hunting competitions by medicine men and fore- tellers f or their candidates to emerge victorious in such competitions.
- Witchcraft was used by step mothers on the step children to cause failures in life . Such children could become mad, sick, or wanderers because of the confusion caused by witchcraft on them.
- Witchcraft was used to get fame and prestige in the community .This was wrong because it was destructives means of becoming well known by acts of killing or deforming the opponent.
- Witchcraft was used to gain sexual power in case a person 's manhood had failed to function effectively . More so it was also used caused women to become barren so that they lived a childless life.
- Witchcraft was used by men and women to destabilize marriages of their neighbours leading to divorce .This were an evasion of God because it was against God's original purpose for marriage permanency.
- Witchcraft was used by witch doctors to deceive their clients in order to extract money or wealth from them in a very deceitful way. They could tell lies or fake miracles to convince their clients and yet they had no solutions to the problems of their clients completely.
- Witchcraft was used to promote sexual immorality by those practicing through women they had powers to do many things if that woman accept to have sex with him .E.g helping her give birth she was once barren.
- Witchcraft was used to make some people live in constant fear of their enemies because the negative consequences associated with it.

### **EVASION OF GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY**

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE EARLY CHURCH ABANDONED GOD**

- The early church abandoned God through the doctrine of predestination. This was a teaching that all those who will go to heaven are already known to God therefore if one was meant to go hell there was nothing that could be done about it.

- The early church abandoned God through the sale of indulgence for the forgiveness of sins by the early fathers especially in the Catholic Church. This made the poor people who could not afford died in guilt hence evasion of God.
- The early church abandoned God through the worship of idols was common, E.g the believers worshipped the saints, the cross, rosaries especially the catholic members more than God.
- The early church abandoned God through over emphasis of hell instead of heaven. This made many people to fear coming to God because they thought God was a harsh God who could hardly forgive but quick at punishing sinners.
- The early church abandoned God through fighting religious wars/crusades as a way of expanding their religious groups. This discouraged many people from joining Christianity since Christians were killing one another in the name of promoting their religious denominations.
- The early church abandoned God through the giving wrong teachings about Jesus Christ. Some false teachers taught that Jesus was only human. Others said Jesus was married and he never resurrected. The false teaching discouraged people from joining Christianity.
- The early church abandoned God through respecting religious patronages more than God and yet the Ten Commandments required that nothing would substitute God. E.g the pop took God's place in Catholicism.
- The early church abandoned God through misconception of trinity where some people taught that Gods were three and yet God is one but in three parts (trinity), that is God the father, the son, and the Holy spirit.
- The early church abandoned God through branding Christianity as religious for the poor who had no hope in life. This therefore discouraged the rich people from joining Christianity because they felt they were lowering their status to that of the undignified poor people.
- The early church abandoned God through over emphasizing on spiritual gifts other than salvation through Jesus himself .Those who could exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as speaking in tongues and making of miracles became so proud and undermined those unable to do so.
- The early church abandoned God through painting beautiful pictures which destructed people from worshipping God whenever they went to worship God. This made many to miss the message by meditating on the paintings other than meditating on God. They also gave reverence to beautiful building like St. peter's basilica in Rome (Italy) other than God himself.

## **FACTORS THAT SPARKED OFF REFORMATION IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

- Reformation in the early church was sparked off by the desire for material wealth and money by the leaders of the church. The members had become so materialistic and started fighting for the wealth that the church had acquired because it was only the few top officials benefiting. This therefore caused reformists like JOHN CALVIN and MARTIN LUTHER to spark of the reformation in the church.
- Reformation in the early church was sparked off by strict observance of rules and regulations than love for God and neighbor as Jesus had commanded the church. The catholic church had set strict rules that had made Christianity a burden to the members hence people had to break off in order to go back to true worship in love as Jesus had commanded them to do so.

- Reformation in the early church was sparked off by failure to understand the doctrine of the church. Many believers had not understood the church teaching but were just following what they had found written by the early fathers and yet some were not applicable to their situation hence the need for reformation.
- Reformation in the early church was sparked off by worship of idols other than God. E.g a statue, the cross, rosary which was common in catholic church and was taking God's place in their hearts.
- Reformation in the early church was sparked off by interference of church affairs by the political leaders. The reformers felt that politics and the church could not match together unless the two institutions were separated hence the sparking of the reformation.
- Reformation in the early was sparked off by the expectation that Christianity was all perfect in all aspects (radicalism thinkers/groups). This forced them to break off from the main stream church because they felt there was sin in the church which needed to be rectified through breaking into splinter groups for perfection to take place.
- Reformation in the early was sparked off by the practice of syncretism that is worship of both God and the idols. The reformers felt double standard could no longer be condoned in the church unless radical reformation took place in the church.
- Reformation in the early was sparked off by heresies, which are wrong teachings which were going on in the church. E.g the doctrine of predestination which had discouraged some people from joining Christianity thinking they had no pace in the kingdom of God because of their past sins.
- Reformation in the early was sparked off by the persecution in the early church because Christianity was suspected to be a political movement because of its stand against the evils of the government at that time and also the rate which Christianity was expanding also scared the government. This brought persecution of Christianity hence the coming of reformers to show that Christianity was not political movement but a spiritual movement in building God's kingdom.
- Reformation in the early was sparked off by slavery in the church where some Christians were oppressed because of their social status. The poor Christians were marginalized and given no signification position during worship while the rich Christians were more recognized even when their relationship with God was not therefore the immediate reform to correct such errors.

## **EVASION OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE ISRAELITES TRIED TO EVADE GOD**

- The Israelites tried to evade God through worshipping idols that existed in the communities in which they lived. E.g during the reigns of Jeroboam I and Ahab, kings of Israel, there were rampant worship of Baal and the Asherah gods in the land to an extent where God had to punish the people to stop the practice.
- The Israelites tried to evade God through trusting in the pagan gods who could not provide solutions to the problems which they were facing. E.g the Ashera goddess of fertility could not provide fertility to their animals and the crops.
- The Israelites tried to evade God through neglecting the covenant laws and began murdering, stealing and grabbing the property of the people who could not defend themselves. E.g King

Ahab evaded God by killing Nabboth who lived him at Jezreel because he wanted Nabboth's vine yard for himself.

- The Israelites to evade God through worshipping the temple other God and yet was just center for gathering to worship God. E.g the temples of Shiloh and Jerusalem destroyed because they had taken the place of God in the people's lives.
- The Israelites tried to evade God through offering empty sacrifices to God and yet their ears were far away from God. Some kings like Ahaz even sacrificed his own son to God called Molech. This was an evasion of God because God never accept human sacrifice but the sacrifices of animals, birds and plants.
- The Israelites tried to God through oppression of the poor people in midst. E.g prophet Amos lamented that the rich were exploiting the poor by grabbing their garments and for that reason God was going to punish them for showing no mercy to the poor.
- The Israelites tried to God through disobeying God's prophets by rejecting them, their messages, beating and imprisoned by king Ahab while Jeremiah was imprisoned by Zedekiah for being un nationalistic.
- The Israelites tried to God through leading luxurious lives in palaces at the expense of the poor people who were stolen of their little resources by the officials. This made prophet Amos to pronounce God's judgment on them if they did not stop fattening themselves at the expense of the poor people.
- The Israelites tried to God through misunderstanding the day of the Lord. They thought that the day of the Lord was going to be full of joy, victories in wars and success over their enemies but in contrary it was going to be the day full of darkness and mourning because God was going to judge His people. Even the bravest soldier and fastest runners would not escape.
- The Israelites tried to God through marriage with the foreign women, e.g king Ahab married Jezebel who later brought in paganism in Israel leading to more evasion of God in Israel.
- The Israelites tried to God through making foreign alliances and yet God had forbidden them from making such alliances because they would entice them into pagan ideas that would lead to turn led to pagan building styles in Israel which in itself was evasion of God.
- The Israelites tried to God through the building of the Tower of Babel so as to reach God. This was an expression of pride and arrogance because of the knowledge that God had given man to live.

#### REASONS WHY THE ISRAELITES EVADED GOD

- The Israelites evaded God because of pagan influence in the land of Canaan which seemed similar to their way of life and yet the two were completely different. Some people therefore got taken up in paganism.
- The Israelites evade God because of apostasy due to idolatry whereby some people completely abandoned the worship of Yahweh and tuned to Baalism because it looked more flexible than Monotheism.
- The Israelites evaded God because of the practice of syncretism where some people worshipped Yahweh and the Canaanite gods. The compromises therefore led to evasion of God in the entire nation.



- The Israelites evaded God because they were misled by their leaders who should have guided the people correctly but instead went astray. E.g king Jeroboam I in his desire to separate the places for worshipping idols hence evasion of God.
- The Israelites evaded God because of emphasizing external religious observance like fasting and yet their hearts were far away from God. This external worship made many to be lured into the temptations hence evasion of God.
- The Israelites evaded God because of lack of faith in God. Many could not resist the pagan influence because they were not rooted in faith. They therefore yielded to the temptations of the pagan influence.
- The Israelites evaded God because they had violated the Ten Commandments and yet the commandments were meant to guide their way of life and defend them from any Canaanite influences which were contrary to the covenant way of life.
- The Israelites evaded God because of they made political alliances with pagan nations like tyre who knew nothing about Yahweh's demands for His chosen people. They therefore copied the pagan way without regarding Yahweh's demands hence evasion God.
- The Israelites evaded God because following false prophets who deceived them that they were God's prophets and yet they were liar. They led God's people astray by working for a pay to redeem people from their sins. Those who listened to them found themselves completely evading God. E.g king Ahab was deceived by a false prophet named Hannaniah and went and died In the war against Syria.
- The Israelites evading God because of the failure to resist the temptations they encountered as individuals, E.g king David committed adultery with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife when he had remained at home when the other Israelite men had gone for war.
- The Israelites evaded God because of greed for power and materialism, E.g king Ahab grabbed Naboth's vine yard his personal use by killing the rightful honour.

#### REASONS WHY THE BUILDING OF THE TOWER OF BABEL WAS CONSIDERED AN EVASION OF GOD

- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because the motive of the building was wrong.
- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because they had lost trust in God. They had instead started trusting in their own understanding and this was an evasion of God. That is why God destroyed the building and changed their languages to show his power over them.
- They wanted to reach God by using human knowledge or understanding which was wrong before God.
- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because they impatient with God. They could not wait upon God to come and direct them but decided to reach God using their own means. This was an evasion of God because they lacked patience in God's timing
- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because they had neglected prayers to God but they were using their own strength to reach God. This was an evasion because God requires His people to reach Him through prayers not by any physical means because He is spiritual.

- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because they had shown lack of faith in God by using their own knowledge to reach God.
- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because it was an act of disrespecting because the people wanted to equate God at the levels of a human being.
- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because it was a sign of competition with God in wisdom and yet it is God who gives wisdom to his people according to his will.
- The building of the tower of Babel was considered an evasion of God because it was pride of the highest order. Man had become so proud because of the ability that God had given Him to manipulate the environment. Instead of giving respect to God they were trying to compete with God.

## EVASION OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

### THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON MAN'S EVASION OF GOD

- The New Testament teaches that Jesus was rejected by his own people claiming that Jesus was using the power of chief demons (Beelzebub) and yet it was a lie against Jesus hence evasion of God.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus was denied in his own town (Nazareth) simply because he grew up from there and they never expected anything good to come of him hence evasion of God.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus was despised as a poor resident of Bethany because his parents were poor. Jesus' father Joseph was just a mere carpenter who was despised hence rejection of Jesus
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus was rejected because he had put tough laws on marriage in order to protect the marriage institution. He said that "what God has put together no one should separate" by committing adultery. This angered the rigid teachers of the law hence His rejection.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus encouraged forgiveness instead of revenge as it was done in the Greek laws, 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. This new teaching on forgiveness made Him to be rejected by the strong believers in the Greek laws.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus condemned the hypocritical worship of the Pharisees and yet their hearts were far away from God. This made them to pick up strong hatred and quarrel with Jesus hence His rejection by the Pharisees, teachers of the law and the judaizers.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus invited all people to follow him whether they were sinners or innocent. This did not go well with the Pharisees who had declared themselves self-righteous. They rejected Jesus he was associating with the sinners yet the righteous were to live separate.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus was betrayed by His own disciple that is Judas Iscariot because he was materialistic. They bought Him with money to betray his master because the Pharisees wanted to see Jesus dead because He was critical of Him.
- The New Testament teaches that Jesus was falsely accused of being a thief. They falsely accused Him of stealing timber as a way of trying to justify His death and yet he was very innocent. This was rejection.

### WAYS IN WHICH CHRISTIANS REJECT JESUS TODAY

- Christians today reject Jesus through committing sexual immorality, E.g adultery by the married people and fornication by youths and cars which take place of God in their hearts.
- Christians today reject Jesus through having spiritual pride as a result of receiving the gifts of spirit. E.g some people boast over the gift of speaking in tongues over those who are not able.
- Christians today reject Jesus through rejecting the goods news of Jesus Christ . E.g failure to go to church and any prayer meetings.
- Christens today reject Jesus through being materialistic by stealing, corruption and accepting bribes in offices and yet those are wrong means of attaining wealth hence rejection of Jesus who owns everything.
- Christians today reject Jesus through practicing witchcraft which aims at destruction of life and property .E.g sending evil spirits to magically destroy people's crops.
- Christians today reject Jesus through failure to repent of our sins and continue living in sin. E.g rumor mongering and killing.
- Christians today reject Jesus through failure to forgive those who sin against them. Some even go and a head and revenge on their enemies by murdering or causing suffering to them.
- Christians today reject Jesus through discrimination in churches basing on the social status of the people. E.g segregation against the poor by the rich.
- Christians today reject Jesus through neglecting prayers yet it's the only means of reaching God. This leads to the practice of visiting witch doctors which is an evasion of God.

#### WAYS IN WHICH SOME JEWS WERE EVADING GOD DURING THE DAYS OF JESUS

- The Jews evaded God through hating Jesus and wanting Him dead by plotting for His death. E.g king Herod who wanted to kill Jesus because he though Jesus would become a threat to him.
- The Jews evaded God through persecuting the early believers because they were followers of Jesus. E.g imprisoning John the Baptist due to his faith in God through condemning the sins of Herodias.
- The Jews evaded God through rejecting Jesus as the savior which forced Him to declare that he would also reject them in heaven in the father's house.
- The Jews evaded God through failure to believe in Jesus' power that enabled him perform miracles. They stubbornly claimed that Jesus as using the power of Beelzebub and yet God empowered Jesus.
- The Jews evaded God through minimizing Jesus as the one grown an insignificant family. E.g his home people rejected him at Nazareth as being the son of a poor carpenter.
- The Jews evaded God through denying Jesus during the time of arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. E.g apostles peter denied Jesus three times till the cock crew as Jesus had predicted.
- The Jews evaded God through betraying Jesus God's own son whom he had sent to redeem mankind from sinful nature. E.g Judas Iscariot accept the bribes to betray Jesus to die a painful death.
- The Jews evaded God through mocking Jesus and causing him to suffer like a sinner yet He was innocent, E.g they spat on him, crucified on the cross as if he was a thief and one of the thieves he was crucified with mocked Him to save Himself from the cross but He never replied.

- The Jew evaded God through bribing the soldiers who were guarding Jesus' tomb not to reveal that Jesus had resurrected. They convinced the soldiers to report that the disciples of Jesus stole His body.

#### WAYS IN WHICH JESUS 'TEACHING CAN HELP PEOPLE TO TURN TO GOD

- Jesus 'teachings can help people to turn to God through encouraging love for God and neighbours so that they are able to live in harmony as result by the kingdom.
- Jesus 'teachings can help people to turn to God through emphasizing permanency in marriage because the joy in marriage is a reflection of what will happen in heaven when te Christians finally get there.
- Jesus 'teachings can help people to turn to God through promoting respect of human rights for one another, E.g. respecting people in their various capacities regardless of age, sex and education.
- Jesus ' teachings can help people to turn to God through teaching equality between man and woman as the only that can reconcile man to God hence harmonious living between men and women.
- Jesus 'teachings can help people to God through emphasizing the greatest commandment that is the love of God and fellow man. This would help bring people back to God through peace and harmony created.
- Jesus' teachings can help people to God through encouraging forgiveness and reconciliation among his followers.
- Jesus' teachings can help people to God through performing miracles which are a call to Christianity. E.g miracles of healing and provisions to meet their needs such as food, clothes, education, and jobs.
- Jesus' teachings can help people to God through associating with all kind of people, E.g sinners, tax collectors, adulterous and the murders that people think are the worst sinners. This would draw them to God.
- Jesus was tempted just like any other human being but Jesus resisted all and obeyed his father's will not to lure any temptations therefore Christians should resist all form of tri

#### MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

##### WAYS IN WHICH THE YOUTHS ARE INVOLVED IN WORLDLY AFFAIRS TODAY

- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through participating in games and sports which include football, netball, volley, and athletics. E.g successful footballers like former Uganda cranes Midfielder David Obua.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through joining church activities to help build their faith in Jesus Christ. E.g joining choir group, music, dance and drama groups hence expanding the kingdom of God.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through engaging in trade by selling items such clothes, food staffs and jewelries a way of economic survival in this money economy.

- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through involving in community meetings aiming at improving the welfare of the community at large. E.g meetings on behavior change, politics and other youth projects.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through providing security to the people in the communities in which they live. E.g volunteering to fight for peace in the northern and eastern Uganda during the LRA insurgency by Amuka boys and Arrow boys in Lango and Teso respectively.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through involving in self-sustaining projects to help them earn a living. E.g farming, brick making and carpentry that aim at income generation to support themselves.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through participating in politics by voting and contesting for youth posts. They also help in civic education to guide people during election period.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through involving in implementing government policies. E.g embracing free education programs such as the UPE and USE programs which aims at eliminating illiteracy.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through protecting the environment by doing communal work. E.g tree planting to preserve the environment, digging and cleaning water source.
- The youths are involved in worldly affairs today through organizing and participating in get together activities such as the youth celebrations on “Youth’s Day” for empowerment of the youth.

#### WAYS IN WHICH A CHRISTIAN STUDENT IN SENIOR FOUR (S.4) VACATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS/HER COMMUNITY

- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through doing charity works. E.g helping the needy through giving food and praying for them.
- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through praying for the welfare of the community so that God can bless his/her people.
- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through as a way of bring them back to God.
- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through forming fellowship groups and attending them s away of winning more souls for Christ.
- A Christian student of senior vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through organizing Bible studies/ scripture studies so as to strengthen their faith in God.
- A Christian student of senior vacation can contribute to the development of is/her community through doing small scale income generating activities like bricks laying, piggery. Poultry and carpentry.
- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through clearing feeder roads leading to producing areas for items for sale such as coffee, beans and maize.

- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through involving in agricultural projects such plating trees, bananas, potatoes, vegetables for sale.
- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through counseling services to fellow youths with different challenges such as alcohol and drug abuse.
- A Christian student of senior four vacation can contribute to the development of his/her community through developing talents by forming different talent group such as singers, dancers, and drama for entertainment.

#### ADVANTAGES/IMPORTANCE OF A CHRISTIAN CLUB IN A SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- The examples of Christian clubs in a community include, scripture union, young Christian Association, legion of Mary and fellowship of Christian union.
- A Christian club in a school community helps in shaping the morals of its members through Christian teaching that aim at good behavior and responsible living.
- A Christian club in a school community enables students to come together and strengthen their faith in God by attending Bible studies and fellowships.
- A Christian club in a school community enables students share testimonies of what God has done in their lives hence strengthening their faith in God.
- A Christian student club in a school community gives opportunity for studying the scriptures so that the students are able to know the word in order to guard against false teaching and teachers.
- A Christian student club in a school community gives a good reputation in and out (good name) for the students who belong to it and besides it gives a good school image outside.
- A Christian student club in a school community enables old students live exemplary live for the lower classes to emulate hence promoting discipline in the school.
- A Christian student club in a school community helps the school to fight against injustices caused by indiscipline students. E.g bullying and teasing can be controlled condemning during fellowship.
- A Christian students club in a school community enables students to fulfill the obligations of Christianity, for example Baptism and confirmation that are conducted by the visiting priests or reverends in the school community.
- A Christian club in a school community promotes Christian values in a school, for example love, forgiveness, reconciliation, care mercy and compassion help them become better Christians in future.

#### REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS.

- Christians should participate in politics because they can use their political power to fight against discrimination which is very common among the non Christian politicians based on tribes and political party affiliation.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can use political power to eliminate corruption in the society which has been master minded by the non Christians.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can offer visionary leadership to take people to their destinies which aims are promoting unity and national development and above all building a Christian nation.

- Christians should participate in politics because they can promote peaceful transfer of power through dialogue and mutual understanding even though these are sharp disagreements due to differences in dialogues.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can promote true democracy by encouraging free and fair elections. . This promotes good governance in the country through transparency in the election process.
- Christians can participate in politics because they can use the opportunity to spread Christianity to non Christian politicians hence converting them to Christianity.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can use the opportunity to agitate for human rights to which have been grossly abused severely by politicians.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can use the opportunity to reconcile the conflicting parties divided into politics and bring them together for national development.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can bring harmony between politics and religion which is sometimes mistaken by politicians to be a forum to opposed each other.
- Christians should participate in politics because they can protect the image of Christians before the government officials that it is not a political movement but a spiritual movement meant to bring people back to God through peaceful and harmonious ways.

#### REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS.

- Christians should not participate in politics because seeking cheap popularity will make a Christian fail to condemn evils in the community in order to get votes.
- Christians should not participate in politics because politics involves too much time that one may fail to get time for prayers and doing work for God.
- Christians should not participate in politics because is difficult to serve under a corrupt government who is unwilling to listen to the complaints of his people.
- Christians should not participate in politics because politics creates enmity which is against Christian teaching on forgiveness and love for one another.
- Christians should not participate in politics because anti-religious politicians may cause conflicts with the church hence tarnishing the name of Christians there by discouraging no believers from joining Christianity.
- Christians should not participate in politics because it is not possible for a Christians to pass a capital punishment (unjust laws ).The bible forbids a Christian from passing a death penalty because life belongs to God, He knows when to give and when to take away at His won will.
- Christians should not participate in politics because politics is rarely clean since it involves hatred and propaganda for selfish interest.
- Christians should not participate in politics because politics divide people (it's partisan) hence discouraging people from joining Christianity.
- Christians should not participate in politics because politics may lead to marriage instabilities especially women who travel for political meeting to long distances that may take days to return home. Such activities cause family disability.
- Christians should not participate in politics because it may lead to death which is before God. This is because people fight for political positions carnally leading hatred and loss of loss in order for one to achieve his goals.

#### REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN BUSINESS AFFAIRS

- Christians should get involved in business affair because it is God's will that man should work hard to survive. Participating in business will there make a Christian acquire the basic needs such as food and shelter.
- Christians should get involved in business affair because Jesus Himself was a worker hence doing business is encouraging fellow Christians to emulate the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Christians should get involved in business affair because they are able to resist temptations of corruption in business since they are led by the holy Spirit who has power to control human nature such as cheating and stealing.
- Christians should get involved in business affair because they can charge fair prices and reduces exploitation from the non-Christians who cheat Christians.
- Christians are able to provide a humble business service to the community.
- Christians should get involved in business affairs because business involves socialization of which Christians can use that to preach the gospel to the non-believers who come to transact with them.
- Christians should get involved in business affair because they should pay tithe from the profits got from business hence building the kingdom of God.
- Christians should get involved in business affairs because they can sacrifice what they have for the sake of the gospel to reach the different Christian communities.
- Christians should get involved in business affairs because they are able to provide the right commodities in the market and in right quantities hence protecting from expired communities.
- Christians should get involved in business affairs because they are able to pay taxes to the government faithfully so as to support national development through taxes paid.

## MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

### WAYS IN WHICH TRADITIONAL AFRICAN VALUES AND ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN USED IN CHRISTIANITY

- Christians today submit to the authorities in the same way people in traditional African Society respected and honored authorities that were put in place to guide them.
- Christians today respect and protect of elders both in the church and the communities around them in the same way elders were respected and protected in traditional African society.
- Christians today offer formal education to their children so that they are able to meet day today needs in the same the Africans taught their children non-formal education such as skills for hunting and digging.
- Christians today encourage self-reliance or hard work in order to help them earn a living through the creative works of planting /digging, weaving, in the same way the Africans encouraged practical skills for self-reliance.
- Christians today encourage forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Christians today respect buildings or place meant for worshipping God as a holy place in the same way African traditional society respected the shrines that were believed to contain the presence of the ancestral spirits.



- Christians today are loyal to marriage as a holy institution meant to do God's work of procreation in the same way the African tradition society honored marriage by keeping it as a holy institution that nothing should break.
- Christians today observe and respect leisure through promoting music, dance and drama, games and sports as a way of promoting talents in order to promote leisure industry.
- Christians today give thanks to God through giving tithes and offering to God in gratitude for what God has done in their lives in the same way traditional African society offered sacrifices to the gods in appreciation to what God had done for them.
- Christians today celebrate important in their lives such as marriage, birth of the children and veneration of the dead Christians in same way the African traditional society celebrated important events in their history such as birth rates, celebration of marriages and installation of new leaders.

## MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

### WAYS IN WHICH THE EARLY CHURCH WAS INVOLVED IN WORLDLY AFFAIRS

- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through caring for the sick people in their communities . For example laying hands on people suffering from diseases such as fever, paralysis among others.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through performing miracles to set the captives free from demonic forces and attacks . the early church was involved in worldly affairs through preaching the word of God to all people irrespective of the tribe or race.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through teaching the members to pray to God so that their needs could be met.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through imparting new skills on its members , for example carpentry and building in order to earn a living.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through baptizing new converts with water and the holy spirit as a way of cleansing them from their sins.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through sharing material possessions with community members . for example material things like foods and clothes were shared .
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through suffering for the sake of Christ . for example preaching the good news to places where Christianity was not accepted led to their persecution.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through making missionary journey to plant Christianity in different places in a bid to do work of God.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through attending fellowships with community members as a way of sharing the kingdom of God with them.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through promoting education through building schools to educate the people in order to eradicate illiteracy and ignorance among the people.
- The early church was involved in worldly affairs through strongly de campaigning slavery and slave trade and brought it to an end as a way of promoting human rights in the community .

## MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### WAYS IN WHICH GOD WAS INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE ISRAELITES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through liberating them from slavery in Egypt where they had suffered from the Egyptian enslavement for 430 years.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through making a covenant with them on Mt . Sinai and gave them 10 commandments to guide them in their daily life , with Moses as mediator.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through helping them defeat their enemies for example with the help of God David was able to defeat philistine giant Goliath who had tormented the Israelites for long time.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through sending prophets to speak to them on his behalf and call them for repentance, for example Amos , Jeremiah , Isaiah and Ezekiel. God was involved in the life of the Israelites through appointing leaders to rule and guide his people for example king Saul, David and Solomon.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through giving them the land of Canaan, where they settled after wandering in the wilderness.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through giving power to people like Moses, prophet Elijah and Elisha to perform miracles to show God's power over nature.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through answering their prayers , for example Hannah Elkanah's wife who prayed for a child.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through rescuing the Israelites from exile in Babylon where they had suffered for over 72 years under the pagan enslavement.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through disciplining the Israelites whenever they went astray and started worshipping idols and other evils before Yahweh.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through protecting and guidance them with the pillar of fire during night and clouds during day to separate them from their enemies the Egyptians who were pursuing them .
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through saving them from death whenever calamities attacked them. He would heal them with his spoken word from all infirmities.
- God was involved in the life of the Israelites through blessing the Israelites with fertility of both animals and crops hence economic and political prosperity.

### **PROPHETS INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

- The examples of prophets who served in the old testament were Moses , Elijah, Elisha ,Isaiah , Amos , Jeremiah ,Ezekiel and Nehemiah among others.
- The prophets played a role of mediating between God and the Israelites .for example Moses mediated on behalf of the Israelites during the Sinai covenant when the Israelites received the ten commandments .
- The prophets played a role of encouraging true worship of Yahweh alone as a monotheistic God through condemning and destroying all forms of idol worship in Israel . for example prophet Elijah destroyed Baal prophets and the gods on Mt .. camel during the contest when God sent fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice.

- The prophets played a role of calling upon the Israelites to live by the ten commandments as the only means through which they would live in a good and perfect relationship with their God Yahweh.
- The prophets played a role of conducting worship on behalf of the people in order to usher them in the presence of God .for example prophet Jeremiah led people in serious worship of Yahweh.
- The prophets played a role of performing great miracles to show to the power of god in the midst of the people. For example Elijah prayed and fire came from heaven and burnt the sacrifice during the Mt camel contest with Baal gods.
- The prophets played a role of proclaiming the goodness of the lord from time to time to the people so that they would believe that Yahweh was still committed to His promises to blessing Abraham together with his descendant s
- The prophets played a role of giving hope to the people to those who had lost because of their sinful nature before God. The prophets assured them that God would forgive their sins if they repented. For example Amos and Hosea.
- The prophets played a role of condemning Idol worship in Israel and warned that God was going to punish the people who refused to stop worshipping the idols of the Canaanite land. for example Amos condemned idol worship in the northern kingdom of Israel.
- The prophets played a role of setting up moral standards amongst the Israelites through promoting good behaviors in Israel by encouraging them to live according to the covenant regulations and demand for moral standards.

## **MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **WAYS IN WHICH JESUS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COMMUNITY**

- Jesus contributed to the development of his community through paying taxes to the roman government as a way of being loyal to the state hence setting a good example for His followers.
- Jesus contributed to the development of his community through healing the sick , for example the woman suffering from severe bleeding for twelve bleeding for twelve years was instantly healed when she touched the cloak of Jesus.
- Jesus contributed to the development to the development of his community through making people happy, for example by providing the best wine at the wedding in Cana , feeding five thousand people with two fish and five loaves of bread.
- Jesus contributed to the development of his community through teaching people to be self-reliant, for example he told his disciples to go and fish and earn money as to meet their different needs . he also worked as a carpenter .
- Jesus contributed to the development to the development of his community through creating peace and harmony among the different nationalities by preaching the gospel of salvation for all tribes and races who believed in Him .
- Jesus contributed to the development of his community through encouraging forgiveness and reconciliation among the people who were living in hatred and enmity Thus building the kingdom of God.

## **PROBLEMS / OBSTACLES THAT CHRISTIANS FACE WHILE SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS**

- Christians face the problem of resistance from other religions sects such as Islam , Judaism , Buddhism and African traditional religions while spreading the gospel.
- These religions present their teachings in a compromising way which seems to be easy to follow than Christianity hence posing opposition to Christianity.
- Christians also face the problem of persecution from non-believers while spreading the gospel. Sometimes they are tortured , imprisoned or even beaten to death.
- Christians face the problem of lack of finances to support the activities of preaching which among others include transport costs, hire of venues and other facilitations .
- Christians face the problem of inadequate man power since the spreading of the gospel is associated to voluntary work therefore there is an automatic shortage of preachers to deliver the word of God in different places.
- Christians face the problem of remoteness of some places due to bad roads , lack of accommodation and the geographical terrain at large may not favor easy movement of people to such places hence hindrance to the gospel .
- Christians face the problem of strong culture from some communities that are strongly attached to their culture and are unwilling to give some practices , for example circumcision among the Bagishu and Sabins are valued much.
- Christians face the problem of inadequate knowledge about the bible and therefore interpret according to their own understanding hence wrong information given to the followers about Christ and His mission.
- Christians face the problem of language barrier in some communities because of the many languages spoken because of the different races or tribes . For example a Muganda may not spread the gospel among the Langi unless there is an interpreter.
- Christians face the problem of hostility of some tribes such as karimajongs who are warriors by nature and may not be willing to enter strangers who have come to challenge them to change their way of life and become better people.
- Christians face the problem of sickness and diseases in some areas with no proper hospitals to treat them in case they fall sick during the course of spreading the word of God in such remote areas.