

The Influence of Women in the New Testament on Christian Women in Pentecostal Churches towards Evangelism in Kano State

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Abstract—This study is on the influence of women in the New Testament on Christian women in Pentecostal churches towards evangelism in Kano State. This is a survey research which covered nine Pentecostal churches in Kano State. There were (110) registered Pentecostal churches in Kano State and (52,923) Christian women. However, (500) women were used as sample. The instrument used for this study was questionnaire. Two hypotheses were formulated and data from the tested hypotheses were analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Analysis were based on (452) respondents who completed and returned their questionnaire. The results of the study were presented. Hypotheses I, and II were all rejected. The major findings of this study were that age of Christian women in Pentecostal churches significantly influenced their participation in evangelism. Marital status of Christian women in Pentecostal churches significantly influenced their participation in evangelism.

Index Terms— Christian Women in Pentecostal Churches, Evangelism, Kano State.

I. INTRODUCTION

Evangelism is the activity by which the church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To evangelize is to preach the gospel. To share the good news of Christ, in order to convince someone to join or accept it. In the New Testament, it was observed that some of the women who participated in evangelism were of different ages and marital status. Those married include: Peter's mother in-law (Luke 4:38 -39), Mary the mother of James and Josses (Mat. 27: 56), Salome, Mother of James and John (Mat. 20:20). Joanna the wife of Chuza (Luke 8:3) and Mary, mother of John Mark (Luke 24-10; John 19-25), Eunice (2 Timothy 5), Priscilla (Acts 18). Women like Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42), Mary, Lazarus' sister (John 11), Mary Magdalene (Luke 7:38-39), Phoebe (Romans 16:1), Philip's daughters (Act 21:9) were not married. The marital status of other women were not clearly defined, for instance, Lydia (Acts 16), and Martha (Luke 10:40). This presupposes that women of various marital status in the New Testament participated in evangelism.

The compelling basis for women's role in evangelism perhaps is an understanding of the freedom of God's Spirit to bestow gifts upon women and men (Joel: 2:28). For women to be willing to take part in evangelism despite the repressions

occasioned by culture, denominational beliefs and other factors, there must have been models or motivational factors influencing them.

II. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research questions proposed for this study include:

- i. How does the age of Christian women in Pentecostal churches in Kano State influence their participation in evangelism?
- ii. How does the marital status of Christian women in Pentecostal churches in Kano State influence their participation in evangelism?

III. HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were postulated in the course of this study.

- i. The age of Christian women in Pentecostal churches does not significantly influence their participation in evangelism.
- ii. Marital status of Christian women in Pentecostal churches does not significantly influence their participation in evangelism.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A survey research design was used for this study. The instruments employed to carry out the survey was the questionnaire. The population for this study consists of all Christian women in Pentecostal churches in Kano State, Nigeria, comprising of (110) registered Pentecostal churches. The total number of women in all of the registered Pentecostal churches were (52,923) Christian women according to the records given by the Secretary, Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Kano State Branch.

V. SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The sample was drawn from the population of all Christian women in Pentecostal churches in Kano State in order to get a fair representation of all the churches and women. Cluster random sampling was used to get representative from each population cluster in proportion to actual size of the group. The number of Christian women required and used for the study were (500). Therefore, the clusters were first identified among which are: Fagge, Nassarawa, Kumbotso, Sumaila, Tiga and Bichi Local Government. To ease sampling procedure,

churches were classified in terms of congregation as large (above 500 members), average (between 200 and 500 members) or small (below 200 members). Nine churches were selected, three each from large, average and low congregations. The churches were selected in proportion with the population, seven churches from Fagge and one each from Nassarawa and Bichi Local Government. From these churches, 500 Christian women were randomly selected and used for the study.

VI. INSTRUMENTATION

To collect data for this study, a questionnaire titled: Women in New Testament and Women in Pentecostal (WINTAWIP) was distributed. Items requests information of respondents such as, age, occupation, qualifications, marital status and name of church. Data analysis was done based on the hypotheses formulated. Descriptive data analyses were presented. Relationship between the variables were also measured, the first and second hypotheses (Ho1) and (Ho2) involved the use of frequency and percentage.

VII. TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis one:

The age of Christian women in Pentecostal churches in Kano State does not significantly influence their participation in evangelism

One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the influence of age on Christian women participation in evangelism.

Source	Sum of Square	df	Mean	Fob	P	Fcritical
Between	2550.12	4	637.53	5.47	0.05	2.39
Within	52118.38	447	116.60			
Total	54668.50					

From the table above (F, 4, 447) = 2.39; P<.05. This means that F observed is greater than F critical, hence at 5% level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that the ages of women determine the level of participation in evangelism. Since there is a significant influence of age, a post hoc analysis of mean is therefore required to determine which of the pair of means influence the significant participation. A presentation of the mean is therefore required.

Summary of mean of Christian women of different age groups

Age Range	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error
18 – 27	131	68.50	9.91	0.87
28 – 37	185	73.10	9.04	0.69
38 – 47	91	74.75	9.04	0.95
48 – 57	41	74.46	10.56	1.65
58 and above	4	80.25	11.95	5.98

This shows the summary table of mean of Christian women of different age groups with age group 58 and above having the highest mean and 18-27 age group having the lowest. Applying the Scheffe’s post hoc test, the table below gives the summary of

F ratio.

Hypothesis two:

Marital status of Christian women in Pentecostal churches in Kano State does not influence their participation in evangelism.

Scores of the respondents on the influence of marital status was carried out using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA).The use of the one way analysis of variance is due to the multiple levels of the independent variable (Marital status of the respondents) which require a multiple comparison of the marital status of the respondents. The analysis of variance model is presented in the table below.

ANOVA on influence of marital status on the respondents

Source	Sum of Square	df	Mean	Fob	P	Fcritical
Between	2149.85	2	1074.93	9.17	0.00	3.02
Within	52637.98	449	117.23			
Total	54787.83					

The result on the table shows that (F (2,449) = 3.02; P<.05). Since F calculated is greater than Fcritical at 5% level of significance, the Null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that marital status of Christian women in Pentecostal churches significantly influenced their participation in evangelism. In the effect that there is significance, it would be necessary to identify which of the status have the significant difference. To this effect, a comprehensive presentation of descriptive measures is required as in the table below.

Mean score of the participation of Christian women in Pentecostal churches in evangelism by marital status.

Status	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error
Married	289	73.75	9.22	0.54
Unmarried	150	69.03	10.61	0.87
Widowed	13	77.38	7.29	2.02

The mean scores of the participation of Christian women in Pentecostal churches towards evangelism by marital status indicate some differences. The widowed having the highest mean scores, followed by the married and then the unmarried. From the table showing the mean ratings of participation of married, unmarried and widowed women in Pentecostal churches, a Scheffe’s post hoc multiple comparisons of mean was done in order to know where the significance really existed and which pairs produced the difference. The Scheffe’s post hoc test revealed that 63.84 is greater than 3.02. It was concluded that there is a significant difference between mean rating of married and unmarried women; widowed and unmarried. It can therefore be concluded that there is a significant difference between mean rating of married and unmarried women. Similarly, there are significant differences between married and widowed; widowed and unmarried. This test summarily confirmed that all pairs of means compared contribute to the significant difference of marital status on Christian women’s participation in evangelism. Moreover, it can be concluded that, the widowed participate better than the married, while the

unmarried participate least in the group. This may not be at variance with what took place in New Testament days.

VIII. DISCUSSIONS

From the data analysis, it was discovered that age influences the participation of Christian women in Pentecostal churches in evangelism. Older women participate better than younger women. Again, the study revealed that marital status of Christian women in Pentecostal churches significantly influenced their participation in evangelism. The widows participate more than the married while the married participate more than the unmarried in evangelism.

IX. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were made.

1. Christian women in Pentecostal churches appreciate women in the New Testament who participated in one form of evangelism or the other, but greater number of them are restricted to just a few aspects of evangelism.

2. On the aspects of marital responsibilities which to some extent may serve as hindrance to Christian women involvement in evangelism, these women need to set their priorities right and avoid procrastination so that they will be able to fulfill all that is expected of them and be able to influence their world like women in the New Testament.

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