

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT OF FAMILY AND CHURCH

Mr. Peter Asiimwe

KEY LEARNING POINTS

A. UNDERSTANDING THE TERMS

1. STRATEGIC -an adjective that means:

Planning related to identification of long term aims and interests of an entity and the means of achieving them

The overall calculated intentional planning for achieving long term aims

2. ALIGNMENT

To align is to give support to (a person, an organisation, a cause or an entity)

3. FAMILY: the basic foundational unit of a society. Usually comprising of parents and children

4. CHURCH (EKLESIA)

Those called out of the world to be sent out into the world. They are in the world but not of the world.

Thus, strategic alignment of family and church has to do with the intentional calculated long term planning for a family set up to support or give leverage to the overall aims of the church.

B. WHY SHOULD A FAMILY ALIGN WITH THE CHURCH?

1. Every member of the Church comes from a family. It is therefore to the interest of the church to build the church to build its DNA in its members (that come from families) for its aims to be realised. Strong families means a strong church. Equally true, a strong church builds strong families. There is a symbiotic relationship.

2. In places where churches are forced to close, the church becomes house of family based. Therefore, at the micro level the family is a church with ministering priests in every family. A family based church has strong bonds between members. The micro church Monday to Saturday becomes the macro church on Sunday.

3. As goes the family, so goes the church. The reverse is also true.

C. HOW CAN THE FAMILY SUPPORT THE OVERALL AIMS OF THE CHURCH?

1. Church leadership needs to paint a very clear vision and mission to every member of the family

2. Church leadership should paint the overall purpose of its existence: the fulfilment of the Great Commission

It must keep the MAIN THING the main thing. That is "Making nations Christ's disciples" Mt 28:19-20

That agenda must be kept before the family (church) members. Beloved, we exist for no other purpose.

Sunday after Sunday, the vision, strategy, and challenge for making disciples MUST be kept before the members. Find how to do it in a consistent manner.

3. Church leadership needs to mobilise, inspire, and equip every family member on how to influence the 7 domains of society (government, media, education, business, celebration industry, belief systems or religion and family). That is how she will become salt and light of the world. She needs to be church Monday to Saturday.

Sunday Adelaja's church in Ukraine has 3000 NGOs that impact the entire nation!

All Saints church by the constitution of its members cannot afford to do less. Please read my thesis on how the church can transform society.

4. The role of the father in strategically aligning his family members to the mission of the church

(i) The father should serve as a priest in the home: prays, mobilises, inspires, and equips every family member to be sent out to change the world Monday to Saturday.

(ii) The father helps to identify gifts and talents in every family member in order to deploy them according to their gifts.

(iii) The father models a godly life and a ministry of discipleship to the family.

(iv) The father names the children with prophetic names to secure their destiny. A name speaks of identity, purpose, and destiny. Eg. Jacob changed his sons name from Benoni to Benjamin. From son of my sorrow (as given by the dying mother), to son of my right hand see details in Gen 35:18.

(v) The father blesses his family eg Ps 128

(vi) The wife supports the husband as a suitable helper.

(vii) The family intentionally plans and acts on becoming a sent out micro church in the community

(viii) The children see themselves as salt and light in the community and in the marketplace accountable to their parents, to the church, and above all to God

All this is possible if we have effective transformational leaders at family and church level. Unfortunately, leadership is assumed to be known, while we make efforts to teach and learn all other disciplines. Do you see the trouble we are in?