

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK NINE (9)

TOPIC : UNITY AMONG CHRISTAINS

CHRISTAIN ORGANISATIONS

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

The world council of churches is an interdenominational church organisation founded in 1984. Its members today includes mainstream Christian churches ,except roman catholic church. The world council of churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the lord and saviour according to the scriptures , and therefore seeks to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The WCC churches include most of the orthodox churches, numerous protestants, some Baptists, many Methodists and Presbyterians and other reformed. The goal of WCC, is to deepen the fellowship of Christian churches and communities . it seeks visible unity. Not as an end in itself but to give credible witness, so that the world may believe and serve the living God.

CHRISTAIN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CAN)

The Christian association of Nigeria is the largest body ever established in Nigeria and Africa. The head office of CAN is at National Christian centre Abuja. CAN was registered under the perpetual succession act cap 98 of federal republic of Nigeria.

CAN is an association of Christian churches with distinct identities , recognisable church structures and systems of worship of one God in Trinity of the father , Son and Holy spirit.

At first the founders of CAN classified the association member churches into three- the roman catholic church, the Christian council of Nigeria and others. Today CAN, is better known for its role of defending Christians rather than uniting them to a level of spiritual fellowship. The association is a fellowship working together to promote the glory of God by encouraging the growth and unity of the churches and by helping them to salvation.

TEACHINGS THAT WILL FOSTER UNITY

- **Faith and works (1:22-27)**

Hebrews 11:2-3, defined faith as the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence or conviction of things not seen. For by faith men of old received divine approval. By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word of God , so that what is seen is made up of things which do not appear.

Work is the manifestation of faith, believe and doctrine in practical terms. This means our life style and action should show what we believe in. James went on to teach the Christians to be the dowers of Gods word not just hearers.

- **Humility (phil. 2:3-11)**

This is the absence of pride and arrogance . it is one of the greatest attribute of a Christian as exhibited by Jesus Christ in his life and ministry.in Pauls letter to the Philippians , he described humility as an important virtue and instructs them as children of God . humility brings breeds love as shown by Jesus Christ whose life is free from selfishness, pride, personal ambition etc.

significance of humility

1. Humility attracts exaltation while the proud is always humbled.
2. God gives his grace to the temple
3. Whatever we do on earth attracts rewards and punishment
4. Christians should learn from Jesus Christ.

HOW TO SHOW HUMILITY IN THE SOCIETY

1. Giving respect to elders
2. Being obedient and not boasting .
3. Considering others
4. Rendering selfless service to humanity.

IMPARTIALITY (James 2: 1-13)

Impartiality is a virtue that recognises equality of men , irrespective of race, social background and influence. It is the act of not favouring one person over another.

FORGIVENESS (Gal. 6 : 2, 2Cor.2: 5-11)

Forgiveness means to show mercy to someone for a wrong done . the “Lord’s prayer”, which Jesus taught his disciples states that divine forgiveness is only possible when we forgive those who trespassed against us.

GIVING (Philippians 4: 14-19)

Giving is one of the practical aspects of true Christianity . Giving involves sharing with others, offering material help to less-privilege and donating for maintenance of the church and even for the well-being of society.

ASSIGNMENT

State three (3) attitudes among Christians that can foster unity.