

**TOPIC: THE CHURCH AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IDENTITY AND UNITY**

Definitions:	
<b>church</b>	The Church is the body of or group of Christ-like believers gathering together in the worship of the only divine creator, God under the teaching of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as a body gear toward spreading the gospel and winning others to join them.
<b>national development</b>	A development package that affects a large spectrum of the 15 political sub-division ranging from economic to social to education, health care, agriculture, infrastructure, security, etc.
<b>national identity</b>	How a particular people see and consider themselves from the rest of the world. We in this part of the world are identified as Liberians. Our passport and identity card are used to identify us wherever we go.
<b>national unity</b>	A group of people acting together in oneness of mind with a single goal. I Cor. 12 speaks about a body with many parts working together with a common goal. All parts feel hurt when one is hurt and rejoice when one rejoices. Unity is to come together and stick together thus becoming inseparable and undefeatable. United we stand!
<b>THE ROOT CAUSES OF WHY THE CHURCH IS NOT THE WAY IT SHOULD BE</b>	1. The refusal or failure of the church to take part into national politic and decision.
	2. Lack of integrity and the compromising of the truth-gospel of Christ
	3. Lack of adequate education on the Church leadership
	4. The building of tradition within the Church
	5. Lack of visionary leadership within the Church
	6. Lack of honesty and bad leadership in the Church
	7. Refusal to delegate responsibilities
	8. The greed for power and wealth within the Church
	9. Corruption being born in the church. etc

<b>THE ROOT CAUSES TO THE UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION</b>	1. Lack of a sound development agenda or plans to be implemented by national leaders.
	2. Lack of a visionary leadership in national government.
	3. Lack of exposures/experience on the part of national leaders
	4. The refusal or unwillingness of incoming leadership to accept and implement development agenda/plans of the out-going ones
	5. High class corruption, power, greed, selfishness on the part of national leaders
	6. The refusal and or failure of the national leadership to make local leadership part of decision-making with regards to crafting a development agenda
	7. Injustice and bad governance

<b>THE IMPACT</b>	1. Continued misunderstanding and breakaway within the church
	2. Low educational standards in most of the churches
	3. No vision for the church's development
	4. Most churches in the country do not have a vision (or cast it) or set goals for their church
	5. People continue to live in poverty, sicknesses, hunger & educational darkness
	6. The church continues renting homes for use by government to house ministries/agencies
	7. Un-wise spending of the nation's funds and or resources by past and current leadership of government
	8. The continuation of the conflict before, during and after the declaration of independence
	9. Insecurity, injustice, disunity in the country
	10. Bad roads condition, poor health care delivery system throughout the country
	11. Centralization of education facilities in the country
	12. Undefined national identity/unification programs
	13. Bad governance
	14. Importation of foreign culture into the society

<b>THE WAY FORWARD</b>	1. If the church is to serve as a role model in the society, the Christian leaders should consider an active plan for general mediation, reconciliation and unification within the various denominations and Christian churches at large and in communities in Liberia, for the house divided against itself can never stand
	2. The church's leadership should strongly engage the state to the extent that they will begin encouraging and counseling their membership to take up assignment in high government offices and begin to apply good governance within every sector of the national society in line with Biblical ethic.
	3. The churches need to seriously promote positive national identity policy by encouraging Liberians to appreciate their value and culture. Special attention should be given to the use of our Liberian/African arts and crafts in the decoration of our churches and the wearing of traditional fashion designed by clergymen, choir and other worshipers
	4. The church should constructively engage and encourage government to complete ministry and agency buildings that are under construction, so as to harness the limited financial resources for vital areas such as a health care delivery system, quality education, agriculture etc.
	5. The church should seek to understand the positive values of a traditional society and try to teach and apply them within the context of the Christian religion
	6. The church should initiate a dialog at the national and local levels aimed at involving national policy that will clearly spell out the hope and aspiration of the Liberian people for national unity, peace and progress.
	7. The church should consider having intentional youth and young adult ministries that would build their capacity and get them involved in community and national development projects within their respective localities and beyond
	8. The church should now begin to preach messages of peace on national tolerance in respect of political differences, religion, tribal background, etc.
	9. The church should be very pro-active in peace-building and reconciliation programs in every community across the country
	10. The church should now redefine its educational, health, agriculture and capacity building role and begin to work towards achieving progress of other developing nations around the world