

The Role of the Church in the Education of the Congregation or People to Influence the Surrounding Community

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ABSTRACT

Society is a group of people consisting of several humans. In society, Indonesia has six religions, namely Protestant Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Islam. Of these religions have different ways of worshiping or worshipping and also have different reinforcement of faith. As five people who believe in the existence of a Christian God worship the Lord Jesus in the church. The church opens the building that we see where we worship but the church is the person or the church is ourselves. The foundation of Christian faith comes from the Bible which is the source of strength. So the Church must continue to take part in education in order to be able to carry out its greater role in society. The church must also be a place to educate and a place to be educated.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the basic needs that must be met by modern society, to carry out all its activities (1 Kings 3:1-15), but it is still an interesting discussion, although not much socialization.

Education is essentially a mandate received by the church and is part of the church's vocation or can also be said to be the house of liberation (Genesis 12:18; Matthew 5:13-16). For this reason, the implementation and management of education cannot be seen only as an effort to educate the nation's life as mandated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution but must also be carried out within the framework of the duties

and responsibilities of Christians, including members of the congregation.

In the world of education which is characterized by Christianity, looking for a conceptual and essential relationship between the predicate "Christian" and "education" has been a long and quite deep struggle. This deep struggle is because it is often in the practice of education that is characterized by Christianity only showing "Christianity" or just a label of validation. The predicate of Christianity in organizers with Christian characteristics is often also "Christianity" only as a "clothing" attached to the body, and not as a "soul" that animates or nourishes the body.

II. METHODS

The method used in this research is the interpretation of the passages in the Bible that are directly related to the importance of teaching in the church is the framework of the formation and improvement of the faith, moral, and ethical qualities of members in the church.

III. DISCUSSION

The Importance of Education in the Church

The importance of teaching in the church is the framework of the formation and improvement of the faith, moral, and ethical qualities of members of the congregation. In this way members of the congregation are encouraged, guided, and trained to fear God (Deut. 4:5, 10; Ps. 32:8; Isa. 25:9). Through teaching members of the congregation are enabled to judge things in the light of God's word, they will "become accustomed" to the behavior that teaching produces (Amos 22:25). With teaching, church members can know and distinguish between good and evil (Gen. 3:5; Isa. 60:16), have wisdom and are wise (Prov. 5:13; Ps. 105:22). And have a Christ-centered life.

Teaching in the church is very important to be carried out, so that the congregation clearly knows salvation in Christ, that Christ is a personal Savior and has given salvation to everyone who believes and has faith in Him (John 3:16, 18, 36).

That his sins were forgiven and blotted out on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24), and through that salvation every believer is called to live in obedience to Christ.

Education and teaching will bring the congregation to a personal encounter with God in Jesus Christ. That encounter will continue to grow through constant fellowship with God. Thus, members of the congregation can love God with all their heart, mind, and strength. Teaching will enable every believer to translate God's word in real life in his daily life.

Some of the important reasons why the church should teach.

1. So that the members of the congregation have a clear knowledge of God. The introduction is not just knowing, but having a beautiful, close, harmonious, and very personal relationship and communication with God.
2. Teaching the Bible as the only source of teaching that has the power to completely change everyone's life.
3. So that the lives of believers are centered on Christ.
4. Encourage members of the congregation to develop throughout their lives as believers. This development includes the intellect, emotions, will, attitudes, and behaviors related to spiritual life.

The Church and Its Involvement in Education

Since the first century, when the church began to exist, the church has been concerned with education. This is said by Sherrill in his book *The Rise of Christian Education*. He said that the church had been involved in education since the first century. The education carried out by the church is to carry out teaching which is identical to preaching. In the teaching that is

taught is about the gospel. Meanwhile, according to him, the church was involved in education in formal schools, only starting around 633.

What Sherrill said was corroborated by Robert R Boehlke, he said that the Cathedral School - the formal school which may have been intended - had been started since the Council of Toledo in Spain in 633. In that school the contents of the Bible, church law were studied. The school facilities were then separated from the church facilities, thus becoming a special educational institution. In Indonesia the church's involvement in education began when the Portuguese arrived on the island of Ternate in 1518. This was done in accordance with the orders given by the king to the commander of the Portuguese expedition. He founded a school on the coast of Ternate as a means to preach the gospel.

Scope of Education in the Church

In order for education in the church to be successful and efficient, education must always be contextual to the environment and the spiritual needs of the congregation, and take advantage of all the potential that exists within the church. The organization of education does not have to make changes to the existing system, but should take advantage of all the tools that are already available and owned by the congregation, because changes and reforms often cause suspicion and rejection from the congregation.

In general, the forms of education that can be carried out in the congregation are: children's education, youth education, adult education,

church worker education, and group education to grow with the congregation. This division is in accordance with the formation commissions contained in the church. The step that needs to be taken is how to use the existing committees in the church to become a forum for effective education and teaching. Below is a description of the direction of education in each of the committees in the church.

1. Children's Education

1. Recovery Effort

- a) Develop children's spiritual education curriculum
- b) Train and equip coaches
- c) Get support from the church board
- d) Provide children's education budget

2. Education Direction

The qualities that need to be developed in children's education are the development of character, faith, morals, and ethical values so that children have faith and piety to God. By teaching faith, it is hoped that children will know the consequences of being obedient and the risks of rebellious actions. Understand the meaning of dependence on God and have an understanding of the meaning of right and wrong. Through the education given to children, even in his old age he will not deviate from the right path.

The education of children requires serious formation from the church and aims to bring them to the love of Christ. Education does not only aim for children to gain knowledge about God, but so that children have a close

relationship with Christ and renew their lives. Children's education is an attempt to help develop a personal relationship with God and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The church must always be aware that the ministry for children is in order to guide them to become disciples of Christ and the stages of their development. Therefore, the education of children should be evangelical, thus enabling children to change after accepting the Lord Jesus as their Savior.

2. Youth Education

a. Recovery Effort

1. Develop a youth development curriculum.
2. Train coaches to be more skilled.
3. Carry out various activities.
4. The meeting volume is not too long.
5. Worship is not monotonous.

b. Education Direction

Adolescence is a period of transition, they are leaving their dependence on their parents but are not ready to face the challenges of an increasingly wider social environment. Conflicts about the values of truth often lead to despair and turmoil of the soul.

Youth education must be directed to the formation of identity and laying the foundation, independence and willing to accept and respect oneself as a gift from God. Develop emotional and intellectual abilities and can fulfill social obligations and can establish good relationships with parents. Youth coaching in the church

requires a coach who can act as a friend and a place to ask questions about life's problems. The coach must be able to position himself as a spiritual idol who likes to be imitated and imitated. Adolescents are very sensitive to theory and practice related to faith. The coaches must be able to present themselves as examples of faith in daily interactions.

Psychologically, adolescents are experiencing difficult feelings because of the changes that occur rapidly in themselves. Therefore, the teaching given must be able to answer these needs. Teaching should not be theoretical but application.

3. Youth Education

1. Recovery Effort

- a) Develop a youth development curriculum.
- b) Improving the quality of coaches and trainers.
- c) Activities are carried out in various ways.
- d) The youth coaches must be able to become spiritual idols.
- e) Provide opportunities for the development of creativity.
- f) Get full support from the church board.

2. Education Direction

Youth is a defining time. Determine the future, determine the life of faith, and various things in life tomorrow. Youth is a difficult, turbulent, uncertain, full of trials and challenges. They have to prepare themselves to work, have a family, develop an understanding of the various

responsibilities in their lives, and enter an increasingly complex social world.

Youth education must encourage young people to make the right decisions in their lives, imitate Jesus who dared to make decisions in difficult situations, and be able to face the challenges they face. Through the education and teaching of young people, it is hoped that they can establish an attitude and commitment to faith in Christ.

God's assurance must be an important thing in the curriculum of youth formation, so that with that teaching they are not afraid to face the future, because God in Jesus Christ provides assurance and a sure future. The education of young people must have the scope of understanding and living faith, forming character and identity, involvement in God's mission, and an attitude of life that glorifies Christ.

4. Women's Education

1. Recovery Effort

- a) Develop a curriculum that suits your needs.
- b) Coaching is an urgent need.
- c) Train the coaches and administrators.
- d) Activities are carried out in various ways.
- e) Divide into smaller groups.
- f) Coaching involves the family.
- g) Obtain full support from the church board.

2. Education Direction

Women have a dual role in their lives,

namely in the family and the church. In the family, being a mother for the entire family, providing protection, affection, and attention and taking care of those related to the house as a place to live for the whole family. In the church women can be actively involved in various forms of ministry. In this regard, the teaching of women in the church must be directed at improving the quality and quality of faith so that women can become role models in the midst of their families and congregations.

Teaching should give ample space for sharing, study, prayer, and faith practices. It is very efficient if done in smaller groups so that coaching and teaching are more effective. The coaches in women's circles should be those who understand their lives and struggles every day.

5. Adult Education

1. Recovery Effort

1. The coaching curriculum is improved as needed.
2. Coaching of trainers and coaches.
3. Involve more adults in the church.
4. Adding the adult coaching group to a cell group.
5. The coach's energy needs to be added so as not to cause boredom.
6. Preparation of relevant curriculum.

2. Education Direction

Adults are different from children, both psychologically and in life experiences. The teaching and learning process in adults should emphasize togetherness, be guiding and directing and not patronizing.

Adults usually reject teaching and learning situations whose conditions conflict with their self-concept as independent individuals. The learning climate needs to be created in accordance with their conditions as adults. The learning atmosphere must foster self-esteem and mutual respect and appreciation. The mentor should not act as a teacher but as a trainer and facilitator.

Completing educational materials must be with the needs, struggles and professional environment greatly help the success of adult education. The education curriculum should be oriented to the problems faced every day. Adults tend to reject the new way even though it is better than the old way, because they feel safe in their old way. Adult education should be directed to the growth of faith, fellowship with God, and a close relationship with Christ, able to apply his faith in various lives that are faced every day.

6. Fellowship Commission Grows Together with Congregation

a. Recovery Effort

1. The curriculum should be continuously reviewed as needed.
2. The meeting frequency is increased to once a week.
3. Remain as a place of formation for church workers.
4. At certain times it is necessary to involve outside speakers.

b. Education Direction

Education for church ministers aims to bring about a change of life in Christ, broad

knowledge of God's word, appreciation of the church's vision, and improvement of skills in ministry. Church ministers must be able to present themselves as role models in all things. Thus their ministry can bring glory to God and be a blessing to the congregation.

Education for church ministers is a top priority so that they become skilled workers who are ready to experience spiritual growth first. If church ministers do not have spiritual qualities, then they cannot do their best through their ministry.

IV. CONCLUSION

Congregations that grow are those who can influence many people for good things, especially so that they know God. and to do all this cannot be separated from the role of the church and education in the real church.

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