



Fulfilling your Destiny

A Compendium of Messages for all
Teenagers and Youths

Edited by Inyang Etim Okon

THE TEENAGERS' RIGHTS AND THE LAW

by



Barr. (Mrs) Idorenyin Eyo,
LL.B, B.L, Ph.D (in view),
UNICEF- Trained Child Right Activist,
Chartered Arbitrator (UK),
Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Uyo



"Rights are either God-given as part of the divine plan, or they are granted by government as part of the political plan. If we accept the premise that human rights are granted by government, then we must be willing to accept the corollary that they can be denied by government."

*Ezra Taft Benson,
The Constitution: A Heavenly Banner*

"When we struggle for human rights, for freedom, for dignity, when we feel that it is a ministry of the church to concern itself for those who are hungry, for those who have no schools, for those who are deprived, we are not departing from God's promise. He comes to free us from sin, and the church knows that sin's consequences are all such injustices and abuses. The church knows it is saving the world when it undertakes to speak also of such things."

THE TEENAGERS: RIGHTS AND THE LAW

Then the word of the Lord came to me, "before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Ah, sovereign LORD, "I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child. " but the LORD said to me, "do not say, I am a child. You must go to every one I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD, then the LORD reached out his hands and touch my mouth and said to me, "now, I have put my words in your mouth (Jeremiah 1:4-9)

Introduction

The gift of life cannot be bestowed on any human being except it comes from the Almighty God, Author and Finisher of our faith. We all have the gift of life in this perilous world and are expected to be eternally grateful to Jehovah for His grace towards us. Lord, we

thank you.

The laws of the society are very numerous and extensive and as such the sub topics of this paper will be based on selected relevant branches of the law. We will also x-ray the Bible in order to see what the Bible says about laws. The rights of the teenagers will also be the focus of this paper.

It is always expressed and believed that children (in this case, the teenagers) are leaders of tomorrow. However, it must be reiterated that these teens must be responsible and charismatic in every situation or role that they find themselves in order to efficiently and effectively execute the leadership roles and qualities that are expected of them when their time finally comes to rule. In Christianity, the biblical verse which imposes the optimization of oneself in the service of our God emphasizes that these roles are best carried out in the period of being young:

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them (Ecclesiastes 12:1 - NIV).

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a

prophet to the nations. " "Ah, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant (Jeremiah 1:4-10 - NIV).

Therefore, the all important role of the teenagers in any given society cannot be over emphasized as it is obvious that they are the bridge between the children and the adults. A *teenager* is a person who is still within the age limit of thirteen and nineteen years. Such a person is thus within the period of childhood and maturity. It is a state of being young. The Law thus sees the teenager as coming within a specific bracket of persons under which certain aspects of the law will be applied. Some laws therefore clearly state that some of these teenagers are within the bracket of 'the Child' i.e. those who are aged below the age of 16 years (The Child Rights Act of 2003). This Act, from which Akwa Ibom has its own Child Rights Law of 2008, spells out the

rights, privileges, the responsibilities of the Child and other attendant matters. Herein too, the teenager who is above the age of 16 is protected from various harmful practices such as early marriage, harmful cultural practices, etc. On the other hand, the word 'Rights' can, in the context of this paper, be understood to mean human rights. These are rights claimed by individuals against others in the society by virtue of their humanity.

The Blacks law dictionary defines human rights as the freedoms immunities and their benefits that according to modern values, all human beings should be able to claim as a matter of right in the society in which they live. The same dictionary defines fundamental rights derived from **natural**.

According to Prof. Hector Gross Espiell, whatever the philosophical, political, or legal theory or system on which they are based, human rights are the basic faculties, powers and needs of every human being which are declared, recognized and attributed by the legal order and which resulting as they do from the eminent dignity of every human being, are now the essential and necessary basis of any national political organization or system and for the international community itself.

A. HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are grouped into three main generations; the first generation of human rights is the

LIBERTARIAN RIGHTS

These rights are entrenched in most national Constitutions as **fundamental rights** and are also referred to as political and civil rights. They are the main focus of this presentation. The second generation of rights is the **ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**. They are egalitarian in nature. This generation of rights materially affects the standard of living of the citizens. They are provided for in Chapter two of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) under the caption *fundamental objectives and directive principles or state policy*. These are however non justifiable. The third generation of rights is the **GROUP OR SOLIDARITY RIGHTS** which relates to solidarity among the comity of nations. This category deals with the interdependence of states and their enduring common interests. The teenager is of course firstly a human person, and is thus embedded with these rights.

On the definition of the word 'LAW', it can be defined as the rules and regulations which exist in a society, with the effect of controlling the behaviour of the persons who make up the society, disobedience of which carries civil and criminal sanctions or both, as the case may be. In Nigeria today, we are bound by both Nigerian Laws and International Laws with the legislature being the main Law Making Organ of government.

B. THE TEENAGER AND HIS/HER FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

The teenager's fundamental human rights are provided for in Chapter Four of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. These rights include the right to life, personal liberty, fair hearing, private and family life; freedom of thought, conscience and religion, expression, association, freedom of movement, freedom from discrimination and right to ownership of private property.

1. RIGHT TO LIFE

Section 33 (1) of The Constitution provides that every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria. Therefore, a person can only be deprived of his life in execution of the judgment of a court for offences such as murder, armed robbery, treason, etc. A person can also be deprived of his life in circumstances where- reasonable force was used in personal defense from unlawful violence or for defense of property. Also, law enforcement agents are authorized to use reasonable force to suppress riots or mutiny.

2. RIGHT TO DIGNITY OF HUMAN PERSON

Section 34 (1) of The Constitution provides that every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person and accordingly no person shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment, held in slavery or servitude or required to perform forced or compulsory labour. However, the section creates exceptions on the issue of forced labour in circumstances where such labour is required in consequence of a Court sentence, for members of the armed forces in emergency situations, communal service, and service which forms part of the education and training of citizens.

3. RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

This right refers to the right to freedom from restraint. Section 35 of The Constitution provides that every person shall be entitled to his personal liberty like the other rights. This right is also restricted in a number of ways which include the imprisonment of persons in execution of a sentence or order of a court, restrictions placed on persons under eighteen years for the purpose of his education, restrictions placed on people suffering from contagious disease, addiction to drugs or alcohol or mental illness, for the purpose of his care or the protection of the community and for the purpose of preventing unlawful entry of persons into Nigeria.

4. RIGHT TO FAIR HEARING

Section 36 (1) of The Constitution provides that "in the determination of his civil rights and obligations including any question or determination by or against any government or authority, a person shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law and constituted in such a manner as to secure its independence and impartiality"

This constitutional provision represents the rules of natural justice which stress the importance of procedural requirement in the process of adjudication. It encapsulates two fundamental principles known as the twin Pillars of natural justice' *audialterenpartem*, meaning that in any proceeding, both sides of the case should be heard and *nemojudex in causasua* meaning that no man should be a judge in his own case.

5. RIGHT TO PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE

Section 37 of the constitution provides that the privacy of citizens, their homes, correspondence, telephone conversations, and telegraphic communication is guaranteed and protected. This section provides protection against the agents or state as well as against persons.

Therefore, police officers cannot break into a man's home and search in order to procure evidence without authorization. However, the right is not

absolute and is limited in circumstances where there is a reasonable suspicion of a crime or where state security is involved.

6. RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

Section 38 of the constitution specifically guarantees liberty to manifest and propagate religion and beliefs through worship, teaching and practice and observations as well as freedom to alter religion or beliefs. However, the section prohibits mandatory religious instruction or ceremony in educational establishments except those maintained wholly by a particular religious community or denomination. Similarly, participation or membership in a secret society is forbidden.

7. RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

Freedom of expression encompasses the right to hold opinions and to disseminate information without interference. This right is provided for under section 39 of the constitution. Under this section, any person may own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions. However, the proviso to the section restricts the application of this right to invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society if it is

intended to prevent disclosure of confidential information, maintain the authority and independence of the judiciary, regulate telephony, wireless broadcasting, television or exhibition of cinematograph films or impose restrictions upon security agents.

8. RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Section 40 of The Constitution' confers a right on every person to assemble freely and associate with others for the purpose of protecting his or her interest. In particular, there is a right to form or join a political party, trade union or any other association for a similar purpose.

Conversely, there is no legal basis for compelling an individual to associate with others. Hence the drafting of any unwilling person into an association, even if mandated by customary law is unconstitutional.

9. RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Section 41 of The Constitution confers on every Nigerian citizen the right to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part of the country. Therefore, no citizen of Nigeria can be lawfully expelled from Nigeria or refused entry into or exit from the country.

However, derogation which in the eyes, of the law is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society is

permitted. This includes restriction on the residence or movement of any person who has committed or is reasonably suspected to have committed a criminal offence in order to prevent him from leaving Nigeria or provision for the removal of a person for criminal proceedings outside Nigeria or for the purpose of imprisonment in execution of the sentence of a court of law in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty.

10. RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

Section 42 of The Constitution provides that no law or its practical application or executive or administrative act shall subject any citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion to disabilities or restriction to which others of different communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions or political opinions are not subjected. Thus, Nigerians are by this provision protected against any deprivation based on the circumstances of their birth.

Conversely, the section also provides that no citizen shall be accorded either expressly or in the practical application of any law in force in Nigeria or any such executive or administrative action, any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, place of

origin, sex, religion, or political opinions.

However, the section does not apply in circumstances, where any law imposes restrictions with respect to the appointment of any person to public office, the armed forces, the Nigeria Police Force, or an office in the service of a body corporate established directly by any Law in force in Nigeria. Thus, the section does not preclude governments from implementing measures such as quotas to assist classes or persons that are disadvantaged. Furthermore, the provision regarding discrimination based on circumstances of birth have been constructed to improve the standing of illegitimate children who would be disinherited under English or Customary Law.

11. RIGHT TO ACQUIRE AND OWN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Section 43 of the constitution provides that every citizen of Nigeria shall have the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria subject to the provision of The Constitution.

To properly safeguard this right, section 44 provides that no moveable property or interest in an immovable property shall be taken possession of compulsorily and no right over or interest in any such property shall be acquired compulsorily in any part of Nigeria except in the manner and for the purpose prescribed by a Law that among other things requires

the prompt payment of compensation therefore and gives to any person claiming such compensation a right of access for the determination of his interest in the property and the amount of compensation to a court of Law or Tribunal or body having jurisdiction in that part of Nigeria.

The provision against compulsory acquisition of property does not apply in the following cases or affect any general law dealing with them; tax purposes; penalty or furniture where a law has been broken; rights and obligations arising out of contracts; administration of property or persons declared bankrupt or insolvent; persons of unsound mind, deceased persons and companies in the process of being liquidated; execution or court judgments or orders; possession of property to alleviate danger or prevent injury to the health of human, plants or animals; relating to enemy property; relating to trusts; precluding the filing of an action after a specific period of time; property vested in bodies cooperate directly and established by any law in force in Nigeria; relating to the temporary taking of possession of property for the purpose of any examination, investigation or enquiry, soil conservation and government developmental projects subject to prompt payment of compensation.

These Fundamental Rights are enforceable by the teenagers themselves, through their parents or Guardians, or through trustworthy interested persons.

C. THE TEENAGER AND CHILD RIGHTS LAW

The teenager, who clearly comes within the 16 years Age limit of the Child Rights law has his or her rights and responsibilities clearly spelt out by the law. Indeed, the primary intention of the Law is the promotion of the holistic well-being of the Akwa Ibom Child. This intendment is made manifest under S.1 wherein duty is cast on every individual, public or private body, institutions or services, court of law, administrative or legislative authority to ensure that in every action concerning a child, undertaken by them, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration.

S.2 of the law consolidates the provision of S.1 by providing that:

- (1) *A child shall be given protection and care as is necessary for the child, taking into account the rights and duties of the child's parents, legal guardians, or other individuals, institutions, services, agencies, organizations or bodies legally responsible for the child.*
- (2) *every person, institution, services, agency, organization and body responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform to the standards established by the appropriate authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, welfare, number and suitability of their*

staff and competent supervision.

The combined effects of these provisions cast duties on all persons, be they individuals, public or private body, institutions or services and all the organs of government - the executive (administrative), Legislative and the Judiciary, to take care of the Child. Again the qualifying and operative word is "shall". This implies that the duties towards the Child are mandatory. It must be noted that the Child here is inclusive of children who are not indigenes of Akwa Ibom State.

D. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD GUARANTEED UNDER THE LAW

All The Fundamental Rights guaranteed under CHAPTER IV of The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and those of successive Constitutional provisions are adopted and guaranteed by the Akwa Ibom State Child's Rights Law, 2008 as rights to be enjoyed by the Akwa Ibom State Child. The statute or law also makes additional provisions for the following rights:

- 1) Right to survival and development of the Child which is in Section 4 of the Act.
- 2) Right to name and registration of birth which is in Section 5 of the Act.
- 3) Right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities which is in Section 12 of the Act.

- 4) Right to health and health service which is in Section 13 of the Act.
- 5) Right to parental care, protection and maintenance which is in Section 14 of the Act.
- 6) Right to free, compulsory and universal primary, secondary education, etc. which is in Section 15 of the Act.
- 7) Right of child in need of special protection measures which is in Section 16 of the Act.
- 8) Right of the unborn child to protection against harm or injury and entitlement to parents estates which is in Section 17 of the Act.
- 9) Right of child to enter into contract only for necessities such as food, education.
10. Right to clothing, medical care, shelter, etc., which is in Section 18 of the Act?

A child is also protected from several harmful practices under this law and thus the following acts are prohibited as it concerns the Child:

- 1). **Child marriage** - This is prohibited in Section 21 of the Law.
- 2) **Betrothal of a child** - This is prohibited in Section 22 of the Law.
- 3) **Making of tattoos and skin marks** - This is prohibited in Section 24 of the Law.
- 4) **Female genital mutilation** - This is prohibited in

Section 25 of the Law .This provision, for purposes of clarity, should be read with S.277, the interpretation section wherein the explication on female genital mutilation is made.

- 5) Exposure to use, production and trafficking or narcotic drugs, etc. This is prohibited in Section 26 of the Law.
- 6) Use of children in other criminal activities this is prohibited in Section 27 of the Law.
- 7) Abduction, removal and transfer from lawful custody. This is prohibited in Section 28 of the Law.
- 8) Exploitative labour. This is prohibited in Section 29 of the Law.
- 9) Buying, selling, hiring otherwise dealing with children for the purpose of hawking or begging for alms or prostituting, etc. This is prohibited in section 31 of the Law.
- 10) Unlawful sexual intercourse with a child, etc. This is prohibited in Section 32 of the Law.
- 11) Other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation not particularly mentioned in the Law. This is prohibited in Section 33 of the Law.
- 12) Other forms of exploitation not already mentioned in the law but which is prejudicial to the child. This is prohibited in Section 34 of the Law.
- 13) Recruitment of children into the armed forces.

This is prohibited in Section 35 of the Law.

- 14) Importation of harmful publication. This is prohibited in Section 36 of the Law.
- 15) Right to counsel and to free legal aid in the hearing and determination of any matter concerning the child in the court.
- 16). The labeling of a child as a witch. This is prohibited in Section 274-275 of the Law.

To make these prohibited actions and inactions against the child not to appear as lame incantations, the law provides for penalties in the events of their occurrences.

Thus, for sexual offences, the punishment is imprisonment for a term of 14 years or a fine of N500, 000.00 or to both such fine and imprisonment.

For the offence of child betrothal, the punishment on conviction is a fine of N500, 000.00 or imprisonment for a term of five years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

For the offence of causing a female child to be subjected to genital mutilation, the punishment on conviction is a fine not exceeding N100,000 or imprisonment or a term of 1 year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Other offences have their appropriate punishment provided for under the law.

Note that the law empowers the court to issue

warrant of arrest, summons, search, etc, for harmful publications vide S.38 and to order forfeiture of such publications vide S.39.

E. SECURING THE ENJOYMENT OF THESE RIGHTS

There are courts established to ensure the enjoyment of the rights in the statute. These courts are called The Family Courts. Section 150 of the law establishes The Family Court for the purposes of hearing and determining matters relating to children. The Court according to the provisions of S.151 of the Law shall be at two levels, namely, the **High Court and Magistrate Court** levels and the proceedings are usually not before the full glare of the public as it happens in the other Courts. The Law enforcement agencies are to treat the Child differently and well and as a matter of fact and law, the incarceration of a child should be as a last resort as even children who *"have committed crimes should be kept in correctional, reformatory homes, etc."*

There are also other arrangements aimed at guaranteeing parental care for a child and these include guardianship. Wherein guardians can be appointed for a child who is in need of parental care and where such has been denied the child. This however is upon application by the Court vide Section 85 and same

would be revoked by the Order of Court vide Section 87.

The Child Rights Law

Part XI of the law also provides for the making of child a ward of the court. Schedule 3 of the law specially sets out rules for application for ward ship. Part XI of the law also provides for the fostering of a child and this includes a child who has been abandoned by his parents, or is an orphan, is deserted by his relatives, is voluntarily presented to his relatives for fostering or voluntarily presents himself for fostering, where no relatives of his be found; or has been abused, neglected or ill-treated by the person having care and custody of him, etc. Part XII of the law also provides for the modalities necessary for the adoption of a child stating that adoption of a child can only be ordered by the court on an application by qualified person, such adoption which must be registered in the Adopted Children's Register of the State.

WITH ALL THESE ENUMERATED RIGHTS, DO CHRISTIANS TEENAGERS HAVE TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE CHURCH AND THAT OF THE LAND?

My unalloyed and unequivocal answer is YES. In Romans 13:1-7, it is clearly written that:

Everyone must submit himself to the governing

authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. I would therefore be right if I state that the authorities that exist, in all aspects of our government were placed there by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted and breaks the laws that have been enacted, and will be made to face the full weight of the law, whether the person is a Christian or not. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. Because, as Christians, we have been charged to do so.

God created governments to establish order, punish evil, and promote justice (Genesis 9:6; 1 Corinthians 14:33; Romans 12:8). We are to obey the government in everything--paying taxes, obeying rules and laws, and showing respect. If we do not, we are ultimately showing disrespect towards God, for He is the One who placed that government over us. When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, he was under the government of Rome during the reign of Nero, despite the evil of the Roman Emperors, Paul still recognized the Roman government's power over him. How can we

do any less?

G. IS THERE A TIME WHEN TEENAGERS SHOULD INTENTIONALLY DISOBEY THE LAWS OF THE LAND?

If we examine Acts 5:27-29 it states, "Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. We gave you strict orders not to teach in this Name,' he said. 'Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teachings and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.' Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God, rather than men! It can therefore be understood that where the laws of the land go against the dictates of the Word of God, we should be wary in obeying them. Example, when it was a law then in Babylon that all persons should make sacrifice to the gods of Nebuchadnezzar. We see that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down and worship the golden image, even though the king's law so commanded'.

However, even in that instance, we are to accept the government's authority over us. This is demonstrated by the fact that Peter and John did not protest being flogged, but instead rejoiced that they suffered for obeying God and this can be seen in the book of Acts 5:40-42. We should thus be careful of which laws we say are good and which ones we say are bad.

May the Lord God Almighty help us and save us Christians from His wrath as we sincerely hope that through the efforts of the teenagers and the entire Christendom the world and its governments can find peace, prosperity and happiness for all.

H. WHAT IF THE ADULTS ARE HYPOCRITICAL AND DO NOT OBEY THE LAW?

If adults lie, cheat, steal and show evidence of corruption, are Christians exonerated from obeying these leaders and authority? It must be noted that Jesus Christ answered these questions when He gave His disciples the important instruction about the hypocrisy and terrible conduct of certain religious leaders who held power over the Jews:

The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye 'after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers(Matt. 23:2-4).

Remember;

Render therefore to all their dues tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Rom.13: 1-7).

Therefore, regardless of how leaders conduct themselves, either in their personal lives or in carrying out their official duties, they must be obeyed and the laws of the land too. BUT THEIR UNGODLY EXAMPLES ARE NOT TO BE COPIED.

I. INSPIRATIONAL BIBLE VERSES FOR THE CHRISTIAN TEENAGER.

- a. Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you (Exodus 20: 12).
- b. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king (1 Samuel 15:23).
- c. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teachings. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck (Proverbs 1:8-9 - NIV).
- d. Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old (Proverbs 23:22).

- e. Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right (Proverbs 20: 11).
- f. He who robs his father or mother and says. "It's not wrong" ... ' he is partner to him who destroys (Proverbs 28:24).
- g. Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and wild deer, not to awaken love until the time is right.
(Song of Solomon 2:7 NLT);
- h. And remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, of which thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them (Ecclesiastes 12:1- Darby);
- i. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29: 11).
- J. The most important one" answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, o Israel, the Lord our God. The Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these (Mark, 12:29-31).
- k. Do what your parents tell you. This is only right. Honour your father and mother is the first

commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, 'so you will live well and have a long life (Ephesians 6: 1-3).

1. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord (Colossians 3:20).
- m. Do not speak harshly to an older man, but speak to him as to a father, to younger men as brothers, to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters - with absolute purity (1 Timothy 5:1-2).
- n. Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you (I Peter 5:5-9 - NKJV).

CONCLUSION

The Bible is the greatest book in the world and the

most comprehensive book of the Law. However, due to the fact that teenagers live in the world, which is made up of countries and states, they have their rights which should be respected and protected by all. They are also expected to not only obey the laws contained in the Bible, but also the ones in the secular law books.

I sincerely believe in you, our teenagers and as I end this paper I strongly encourage you to continue in the Christian race. Abide in Christ Jesus and our Good God will make you the Christian leader of the tomorrow church and society, and above all Joint heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
God bless you!