

Correlation Of The Discipline Of Church Ministers Based On Proverbs 10:17 With Church Growth In Gkb Kadosh Hammer

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Abstract. Discipline is an important aspect in church ministry, especially in the leadership of pastors who serve as spiritual role models. This research explores the correlation between church ministry discipline based on Proverbs 10:17 and church growth in Kadosh Church, Palu. Using a theological approach and descriptive method, this study shows that discipline, including spiritual commitment, punctuality, and ministry management, has a significant influence on the spiritual health and growth of the congregation, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The findings of this study provide a foundation for the development of more effective ministry strategies.

Keywords: discipline, church service, Proverbs 10:17, church growth, GKB Kadosh Palu.

1. INTRODUCTION

The church, as the body of Christ, is called to be a beacon of light and a living testimony of God's transformative power in the world (Wong, n.d., p. 14). Central to this calling is the critical role of church leadership, particularly pastors, who are entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and shepherding the flock (Resane, 2020). The importance of discipline in church ministry cannot be overstated, as it serves as the foundation for effective leadership, spiritual growth, and the overall health and well-being of the congregation.

In the Book of Proverbs, we find profound and timeless wisdom that addresses the importance of discipline (Roper, 2024). Proverbs 10:17 states (Tarigan et al., 2022), 'He who heeds instruction leads the way of life, but he who ignores reproof goes astray.' This verse underscores the pivotal nature of discipline in one's personal and spiritual journey, emphasising its role in leading individuals towards a purposeful, growing, and fulfilling life. For pastors, the call to exercise discipline is not a mere suggestion, but a fundamental aspect of their God-given mandate (Bangun, 2022). They are responsible for ensuring that the church remains faithful to its core values, upholds the true teachings of the Bible, and guides the congregation towards spiritual maturity. Discipline, in this context, encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, from maintaining personal holiness and integrity to effectively addressing issues within the church community.

One of the primary ways pastors demonstrate disciplined leadership is through their unwavering commitment to the study and proclamation of God's Word (M.Th, 2021). As

stewards of the divine message, they are called to faithfully expound the Scriptures, provide correct biblical instruction, and challenge congregants to align their lives with the truths revealed therein. This disciplined approach to preaching and teaching not only nurtures the spiritual growth of believers, but also guards the church against the infiltration of false doctrines and unbiblical practices (The Accountability of Spiritual Leaders in Mushrooming Independent Churches, n.d.).

In the context of church ministry, the discipline of ministers, especially pastors, not only serves as a foundation for effective leadership, but also as an example of moral and spiritual character for the congregation. Proverbs 10:17 reminds us that ‘He who establishes discipline is on the path of life.’ This principle is very relevant in the pastoring and ministry of Kadosh Palu Church, where pastors are expected to demonstrate integrity and discipline in their daily lives.

As spiritual leaders, pastors are expected to not only teach the word of God, but also live a life that reflects the spiritual values they teach (Wulandari, 2024). This includes maintaining a consistent prayer life, deepening a relationship with God, and practising spiritual disciplines such as fasting, meditation, and self-reflection. When pastors are able to embody these attributes, they not only set an example, but also inspire the congregation to follow suit, fostering a culture of holiness and discipleship within the church.

However, pastoral discipline also includes handling disciplinary issues that may arise in the church. In reality, there will always be moments when congregation members experience difficulties or fall into sin (Meo et al., 2023). In such situations, pastors should respond with wisdom and love, and demonstrate a strong commitment to restoration. A balance between holding individuals accountable and providing compassion is essential in maintaining the integrity of the church as well as creating an environment that supports repentance and healing. Discipline applied by pastors serves as a means to maintain the unity, purity, and spiritual vitality of the congregation (Lepa et al., 2022). When pastors model and enforce biblical standards of holiness, they create an atmosphere that encourages the entire congregation to grow in Christ-like character. This contributes to the fulfilment of the Great Commission, where the church is expected to be a witness to the world.

GKB Kadosh Palu, as an influential church in the city of Palu, Indonesia, faces challenges in effectively implementing and maintaining discipline. As a growing community, the church realises that the discipline of its ministers directly affects the spiritual health of the congregation and the effectiveness of the ministry. Thus, this study aims to examine the correlation between the discipline of church ministers based on

Proverbs 10:17 and congregational growth at Kadosh Church in Palu. This research is expected to provide deep insight into the relationship between the discipline of church servants and church growth. By understanding the factors that influence discipline, churches can formulate more effective strategies in pastoring. The results of this study will not only benefit Kadosh Church in Palu, but can also serve as a reference for other churches in improving the quality of their ministries.

Thus, the researcher is interested in conducting a study with the title Correlation of Discipline of Church Ministers Based on Proverbs 10:17 with Church Growth in Kadosh Church in Palu, comprehensively combining Biblical principles, local church context, as well as a focus on leadership, so that it is expected to provide a solid foundation and clear relevance for the discussion of discipline in church ministry.

2. METHODS

This research uses a descriptive approach with a combination of theological studies and qualitative data analysis. Data were obtained through interviews, observations, and a study of church documents. The main focus was on identifying relevant disciplinary elements and measuring their impact on congregational growth both quantitatively (number of members) and qualitatively (depth of faith).

3. RESULTS

A. Discipline in Church Ministry

Discipline in church ministry is a vital aspect that contributes to the spiritual health and growth of the congregation. In the context of ministry, discipline not only includes adherence to rules and procedures, but also involves a deep commitment to a healthy spiritual life (Legi, 2022).

Discipline can be defined as the ability to self-regulate and adhere to established principles. In church ministry, discipline includes aspects such as punctuality, task completion, and the development of a consistent prayer life (Kurniawan et al., 2024). This discipline is not only important for church ministers, but also for the entire congregation. When ministers demonstrate discipline, they set a good example for the congregation to follow. Discipline contributes directly to church growth. When ministers are disciplined in performing their duties, they create a positive and supportive environment for the congregation. In the article, it is explained that discipline can encourage congregation involvement in various church activities, such as services,

ministries, and other programmes. This leads to growth that is not only quantitative, but also qualitative.

Discipline in church service is also closely related to the spiritual life of the servants (Masrina et al., 2021). Good discipline will affect an individual's relationship with God. When ministers practice spiritual disciplines, such as praying regularly and reading the Bible, they will be better able to deepen their faith and inspire the congregation to do the same. These spiritual disciplines are essential in maintaining spiritual health and preventing a fall in faith.

In the context of ministry, daily disciplinary practices may include setting time for prayer, meditating on God's word, and attending church meetings regularly. This will help ministers to stay connected with God and perform their duties more effectively. While discipline has many benefits, there are also challenges faced by church ministers. One of the main challenges is the busyness and demands of various ministry activities. In the article, it is explained that often ministers feel pressured by the demands of fulfilling various responsibilities, making it difficult to maintain discipline. Therefore, it is important to have good time management and set priorities in ministry.

Discipline in church ministry is a very important element in achieving ministry goals and congregational growth (Rua & Simbolon, 2023). By demonstrating good discipline, ministers can create a supportive environment and inspire congregants to engage more actively. In addition, discipline also contributes to the spiritual health of individuals, enabling ministers to perform their duties more effectively. Although there are challenges in implementing discipline, with good time management and support from the community, ministers can overcome such obstacles and continue to grow in their ministry.

B. A Growing Church

In general, a growing church is characterised by quantitative and qualitative developments in the body of Christ, which manifest in visible and tangible ways. This growth goes beyond mere numbers; it encompasses a deeper transformation in the lives of its members. A vibrant church not only sees an increase in its membership but also fosters a community where believers are actively engaged in their faith (Sasi & X, 2023). This engagement often translates into outreach efforts that bring unbelievers into fellowship, foster a close relationship with God and nurture them into responsible church members. The church, as described in the Bible, is a living organism with Christ as its

head, and this divine relationship emphasises the importance of growth in both spirit and number (Rauna, 2023).

The biblical foundation for church growth is rooted in the understanding that the church is not a static institution but a dynamic entity that reflects the life and mission of Jesus Christ. As the living God, Christ empowers the church to grow and flourish (Rauna, 2023). This growth is not merely a human endeavour; it is a divine mandate. Scripture often describes the church as the body of Christ, where each member plays an important role in contributing to its overall health and vitality. Growth is therefore an indication of the church fulfilling its purpose and calling in the world, serving as a beacon of hope and a source of spiritual nourishment for its members and the surrounding community.

Measuring congregational growth involves both quantitative and qualitative metrics. While the number of participants or members is an important indicator, it does not tell the whole story. The quality of growth refers to the depth of faith among the congregants and their involvement in church life. This aspect includes active participation in worship services, small groups, community service, and various church activities. Churches that prioritise quality growth foster an environment where members feel connected to each other and to God, cultivating a sense of belonging and purpose that can lead to deeper spiritual maturity (Marbun, 2020).

The church growth theory states that the involvement and commitment of church servants such as pastors, leaders, and volunteers significantly influence the motivation of congregants to engage in church life (Marbun, 2020). When church leaders demonstrate discipline, integrity, and commitment to their roles, it creates a culture of accountability and inspiration. This can increase congregational participation as members see their leaders embodying the values and principles they preach. For example, a disciplined leader who prioritises prayer and spiritual growth can inspire congregants to develop their own spiritual disciplines, leading to a more vibrant and engaged church community.

Furthermore, the relationship between church leadership and congregational growth is reciprocal. As church ministers become more involved and committed, they create opportunities for congregants to participate in various aspects of church life. This may include organising events, facilitating small groups, or leading outreach initiatives. By empowering members to take on ministry and leadership roles, church leaders can foster a sense of ownership among congregants, making them feel valued and involved in the life of the church. This sense of ownership is crucial to fostering long-term commitment and engagement, ultimately contributing to church growth (Enoch, 2022).

Congregational growth also depends on the ability to effectively reach out to the surrounding community. A growing church recognises its role in evangelism and outreach, actively seeking ways to connect with those outside its walls (Putman et al., 2016). This outreach can take many forms, from community service projects to organising events that invite the community to experience the life and mission of the church. By demonstrating love and service to the community, churches can attract individuals who may be seeking spiritual fulfilment or a sense of belonging. This not only contributes to the growth of the congregation but also enriches the diversity of the church and strengthens its overall mission.

In addition, a church that emphasises growth must also be adaptable and responsive to the needs of its congregation and society (Nely & Rabung, 2022). This adaptability involves being open to change and innovation in the way the church operates and engages with its members. For example, utilising technology to enhance the worship experience or offering new programmes that address contemporary issues can help meet the evolving needs of the congregation. Churches that remain stagnant or resist change risk losing relevance in today's rapidly changing cultural landscape. Therefore, cultivating a culture of innovation and responsiveness is critical to sustaining growth.

In short, a growing church is one that experiences development in both quantity and quality, reflecting the life and mission of Christ as the head of the church. This growth involves not only increasing numbers but also deepening the faith and engagement of its members. The commitment and involvement of church ministers is crucial in motivating congregants to actively participate in church life (Marbun et al., 2019). By fostering a culture of discipline, accountability, and outreach, the church can effectively grow and fulfil its divine calling. Ultimately, a vibrant church serves as a living testament to the transformative power of faith, inviting both believers and non-believers into a deeper relationship with God and the faith community.

C. The Relationship between Discipline and Church Growth

The theory of the relationship between discipline and church growth states that disciplined church pastors play an important role in fostering a positive and inspiring environment for their congregation (Putri, 2024). Discipline among pastors encompasses various aspects, including organisational commitment, time management, and personal spiritual practices. When pastors demonstrate a high level of discipline, it reflects their dedication to their roles and responsibilities, which in turn, encourages congregation members to engage more actively in church activities.

Disciplined pastors are often seen as role models for their congregations (Sirap, 2018). By demonstrating commitment to their duties such as leading services on time, preparing sermons diligently, and maintaining a consistent prayer life they instil a sense of trust and reliability in the church community. This trust is important for building strong relationships among members, as it fosters an environment where individuals feel valued and supported. When congregants perceive their leaders as disciplined and dedicated, they are more likely to follow suit, leading to a culture of accountability and commitment within the church.

In addition, the positive environment created by a disciplined pastor can inspire congregants to deepen their own spiritual practices. When church leaders engage in regular prayer, study, and reflection, they not only improve their own spiritual lives but also encourage others to travel the same path. This can result in increased participation in church programmes, improved community outreach efforts, and a stronger focus on collective spiritual growth. When members witness the fruits of disciplined leadership such as vibrant worship services, effective programmes, and a strong sense of community they become more motivated to invest their time and energy in the life of the church.

Furthermore, a disciplined leadership approach often leads to better management of church resources, including time, finances, and volunteer engagement (Sukmana, 2022). When pastors are organised and strategic in their planning, churches can operate more efficiently, allowing for a greater focus on ministry and outreach. This efficiency not only attracts new members but also retains existing ones, as congregants feel they are part of a thriving, well-led community.

The relationship between discipline and church growth is important. Disciplined pastors foster an inspiring atmosphere that encourages active participation and spiritual development in the congregation. By modelling commitment and integrity, they build trust and attachment among church members, leading to a vibrant and thriving faith community. This theory underscores the importance of disciplined leadership as a foundational element in achieving sustainable church growth.

4. CONCLUSION

The discipline of church ministers plays a crucial role in fostering congregational growth. The implementation of the Proverbs 10:17 principle in church ministry provides a strong theological foundation to improve the quality and effectiveness of ministry at Kadosh Palu Church Centre. Recommendations for further research include the development of a

discipline training programme for church ministers and a broader study on the implementation of discipline in other local church contexts.

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