



CORRUPTION & COLOUR CODES

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What is this craze about colour codes I see everywhere? Almost every invitation card and party now has a colour code without any clear distinction between believers and unbelievers; Christians and non-Christians. In fact, some church leaders now rarely have any social function without imposing colour codes or uniforms on their church members. Who started this ungodly practice, how, when and where was it introduced into the Church of Christ in Nigeria that some now see it as a norm? The Lord will judge!

The practice started subtly as 'aso ebi' which in Yoruba language means family uniform. That name in itself suggests clearly that the practice started from Yoruba land or the western part of Nigeria but has now spread like cancer to virtually every part of the country. There may be nothing wrong for a couple or family that chooses to wear any uniform outfit to do so but it is outrightly outrageous and wrong to intimidate or coerce others who are not related to you by blood or marriage to buy your 'aso ebi' or observe your colour code.

More than 80% of Nigerians still wallow in abject poverty yet it's so sad that the few ones among us who are well off cannot think of better ways of spending money than throwing extravagant parties and imposing their 'aso ebi' or colour codes on would be attendees. They even quarrel with friends or close associates who don't attend. So, should anyone who does not have your chosen party colour or who cannot afford your 'aso ebi' go to steal in order to buy one? This is one of the ways corruption is being promoted in the land.

Many who are now sucked into the vortex of this wrong practice are poor but see 'aso ebi' as a way of enriching themselves by profiteering from the inflated rates

they sell the fabrics to their party attendees. Usually, they end up disappointed and in debts.

For the so called rich, how many of them made their money in a good and godly way? We already know that corruption is the major problem confronting Nigeria. If the way a man spends money is a pointer to the way he made it then, much of the wasteful spendings at parties in Nigeria betray the fact that they are ill-gotten wealth. We are left only to wonder why such money being wasted at parties by Nigerians at home and abroad every weekend is not plowed into gainful ventures to create employment and bring development to the country.

Much of the parties mentioned in the Bible were thrown by ungodly men and ended in tragedies! Party making promotes sensuality and carnality. It is a wasteful spending, an unnecessary display of extravagance and vanity fair. It is a worldly practice that Christians are warned against in scripture (John 17: 14-16; 2Cor.6: 14-18; James 4: 4; 1John 2: 15-17).

The Lord Jesus Christ never for once encouraged the accumulation of wealth in the Bible as it is being erroneously presented. Instead, He taught that those with true riches should use money for charitable purposes like helping poor widows, fatherless, homeless and beggars as a means of laying up treasures in heaven (Matthew 19: 21; James 1: 27).

Really, genuinely born again Christians have no choice but to distance themselves from this ungodly practice of throwing extravagant parties with colour codes or 'aso ebi'. We must never be seen to aid or abet corruption in any way. As stewards of God's treasures, let us remember at all times that we shall give account eventually to God of whatever grace and gifts He has given us (which others lack anyway). These grace and gifts are given to us not to squander but to win souls for Christ and influence lives for Him.

Never gloat because of increased riches (Psalm 62: 10) but think soberly and remember that you have been blessed to be a blessing. And, the principle is, the more you have, the more account you will give to God in the end. So, never waste God's resources in your care!