

## The Perception of Congregational Assemblies in Improving the Quality of Christian Family Fellowship

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To cite this document:

Warwer,F., Aninam,A., Fatlolona, Y.A.(2022). The Perception of Congregational Assemblies in Improving The Quality Of Christian Family Fellowship. Conference Series, 4(2),110-116 <https://doi.org/10.34306/conferenceseries.v4i2.938>

### Abstract

The apostle Paul in most of his epistles wrote about teaching, nurturing or pastoralizing to members of the church in order to live as follows the will of God. It shows that in the time of the New Testament the apostles and other servants of God in building the congregation not only emphasized on the issue of numbers but also aggravated the problem of the quality of life of the congregation itself. This study aims to determine the perception of the congregational assembly in improving the quality of Christian family fellowship. This study was conducted at the evangelical christian church (GKI) klasis Sentani congregation Hermon Hollo Him Papua, using a qualitative method through the distribution of questionnaires to the congregational assembly. The results showed that the congregational assembly understood that teaching and guiding church members is an important task mandated (100%), must be done wholeheartedly (83%), and always guided by the Bible (61%). However, sometimes in its teaching the Congregational Assembly felt less certain that they were accepted by members of the congregation (61%), this was likely due to the congregation's lack of preparation and knowledge of how to properly teach and guide christian families (56%). The quality of christian family fellowship is judged by two things, namely having biblical knowledge of the christian family and having the example of Christ. Members of the congregation place Christ as the head of the family (100%), also knowing the basis for the formation of a christian family, even if they do not understand very well how to form a quality christian family fellowship (67%). The attitude shown in Christ's example is to make the Bible a guide for life (56%), active in participating in worship (39%), active in spiritual activities (44%) and always having an attitude of mutual love for others (44%). Based on these results, it can be concluded that aspects of teaching and guidance for members of the congregation have been carried out by the congregational assembly, but still require good guidance for members of the congregation, especially the congregational assembly as the leader of the church so that the quality of christian family fellowship occurs better.

**Keywords** : Christian Family, Congregational Assemblies, Fellowship, Perception

## I. INTRODUCTION

The life of the early church strongly identified the true attitude of the Christian life, where they were always persevering in the teaching of the apostles and in communion and they always gathered to break bread and pray (Acts 2:42). But in later developments many churches began to do things that were not in line with what the apostles taught. This is what made the apostle Paulus in most of his epistles write about teaching, coaching or pastoralizing to the citizens of the congregation to live according to the will of God. The Apostle Paul also visited them in the Gospel Bible Journey that he did. This shows that in New Testament times the apostles and other servants of God in building the congregation not only attached importance or attention to the issue of numbers but also paid attention to the quality of life of the church itself. Departing from the teaching of the apostles and what they did to the growth of the church, the church today also has a great responsibility in maintaining and expanding its presence in this world. In order to realize this, all components in the church must work hand in hand in carrying out this noble task.

The congregational assembly is one of the components that has a very large role in carrying out service to the members of the church, therefore the congregational assembly as servants of God is required to be servants who are able to live out their duties and responsibilities (Melgienza, 1). The congregational assembly consists of pastors, congregational teachers, elders, deacons and teachers. The duties and responsibilities of this congregational assembly are generally summarized in the Tri Vocations of the Church, namely communion (*koinonia*), testimony (*marturia*), ministry (*diakonia*). However, one of the responsibilities in the field of ministry is to carry out pastoral ministry or better known as "grazing" for members who experience problems, be it personal problems or family problems (GKI Church System in the land of Papua, 5). Based on this, it is necessary to conduct a study to determine the perception of congregational assemblies in improving the quality of Christian family fellowship.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted at the Evangelical Christian Church (GKI) Klasis Sentani Congregation Hermon Hollo Him Papua, using qualitative methods. The data used were obtained through the distribution of questionnaires to congregational assemblies. Congregational assembly is one of the components that has a very large role in carrying out service to members of the congregation. The improvement of the quality of Christian family fellowship is observed from the aspect of teaching and guidance which is the task of the congregational assembly and the description of the quality of Christian family fellowship is observed from the existence of Biblical knowledge of the Christian family and having the example of Christ.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Overview of the Congregation

The Hermon Hollo Him congregation is an evangelical Christian church congregation in Papua that is organized according to the GKI church system in Papua and is included in the Sentani classicist ministry area. Administratively, the location of the Hermon Hollo Him congregation is located in Hinekombe village, Sentani district, Jayapura regency. This fellowship of believers, organized itself in a congregational service of Hermon Hollo Him on April 10, 2005 this fellowship then reported its existence to BP Klasis GKI Sentani through Raker II klasis GKI Sentani 2005 through the process of expressing mutual understanding between various elements of the church in Klasis Sentani, then BP Klasis Sentani issued Decree Number

32/A-1.b/b12/V/2005, dated May 27, 2005 concerning the Formation of the Hermon Hollo Him Congregation whose Inauguration was on Sunday, May 29, 2005.

The important thing about the DECREE of BP Klasis GKI Sentani is the fourth point, the decision states that the congregational assembly of Hermon Hollo Him carrying out its duties is under the supervision and guidance of BP Klasis GKI Sentani. Praise God, because only with the guidance of the Holy Spirit can the fellowship of the GKI Hermon Hollo Him Congregation perform its ecclesiastical duties as well as possible and through the 2006 GKI Sentani Classicist session at the GKI Elim Ayapo Congregation, the GKI Hermon Hollo Him Congregation has been confirmed as a GKI congregation in the ranks of the GKI Sentani Classicist ministry. As for the characteristics of congregational assemblies as in table 1.

**Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents**

	Description	Sum	
		n	%
Age	30-39 years old	6	30
	40-49 years old	11	55
	50-59 years old	3	15
Gender	Man	11	55
	Woman	9	45
Education	High school/equivalent	9	45
	College	11	55
Work	Civil Servants/TNI/Polri	14	70
	Self employed	6	30
Service Status	Pastor	1	5
	Elder	11	55
	Shamas	8	40

### 3.2 Perceptions of Congregational Assemblies in the Pastoral Field

The perception of congregational assemblies in the pastoral field includes teaching and guiding. The congregational assembly realized that teaching and guiding was an important task to be performed. Such teaching and guidance should be guided by the teachings of the Bible and always pray for instructions from god to conform to god's will. The perception of congregational assemblies in the pastoral field can be seen in tables 2 and 3.

**Table 2. Teach**

No.	Question	Response					
1	Do you as a congregational assembly understand that teaching (giving lessons) to members of that church is an important task that has been mandated to you?	Understand	100%	Lack of understanding	0%	Don't understand	0%
2	Are you guided by the teachings of the church in the church in the church in teaching?	Always be guided	61%	Sometimes	39%	Unconcerned	0%
3	Have you conducted teaching activities to members of the congregation?	Always	28%	Sometimes	72%	Never	0%
4	Do you have a good knowledge of the conduct of teaching activities to members of the congregation?	Very own	33%	Lack of ownership	67%	Does not have	0%
5	Do you as a congregational assembly reach wholeheartedly or simply because of the demands of duty?	Wholeheartedly	83%	Half-hearted	17%	Not wholehearted	0%
6	Before teaching the church, do you pray for instruction from the Lord?	Always	44%	Sometimes	56%	Never	0%
7	Before teaching, have you prepared well?	Always	44%	Sometimes	56%	Never	0%
8	Do you feel that teaching about family fellowship to church members is important?	Very important	83%	Less important	17%	Not important	0%
9	Have you as a congregational Assembly taught the members of the congregation about the fellowship of Christian families according to God's will, be it through sermons, lectures, PA, etc.?	Always	22%	Sometimes	56%	Never	22%
10	Are you sure that you were accepted with members of the church?	Very sure	28%	Less sure	61%	Not sure	11%

In the process of teaching (table 2) and mentoring (table 3) to members of the congregation, there are still obstacles such as lack of guidance to the Bible, not having to carry out teaching regularly and lack of self-preparation. This causes the congregational assembly to feel less accepted by the members of the congregation. The assembly of the congregation should model the apostle Paul who gave his own life, time, energy, attention, feelings (love), money, for a purpose that many souls would be won for Christ and that he might have a share in the gospel (Damarwanti, 129-130).

**Table 3. Guide**

No.	Question	Response					
1	Do you understand that the task of guiding is as important as teaching?	Very understanding	100%	Lack of understanding	0%	Don't understand	0%
2	Are you as a congregational assembly in guiding always guided by the Bible?	Always be guided	56%	Sometimes	44%	Unconcerned	0%
3	Have you performed mentoring activities for members of the church?	Always	22%	Sometimes	78%	Never	0%
4	Do you have a good knowledge of how to guide a Christian family?	Very own	33%	Lack of ownership	56%	Does not have	11%
5	Are you as a congregational assembly carrying out this task (guiding) wholeheartedly or simply because of the demands of the task?	Wholeheartedly	83%	Half-hearted	17%	Not wholehearted	0%
6	Is it in carrying out (guiding) you always instruct from God (praying)?	Always	39%	Sometimes	61%	Never	0%
7	Do you feel this task is asking that guiding a Christian family is important?	Very important	83%	Less important	17%	Never	0%
8	Do you feel that in guiding a good self-preparation is needed?	Urgently need	56%	Less need	44%	No need	0%
9	Do you always make pastoral visits to guide families in your Church?	Always	22%	Sometimes	61%	Never	17%
10	Do you think your and your family's attitude in life is one of the factors that help you in guiding a Christian family?	Very helpful	83%	Less helpful	17%	Doesn't help	0%

### 3.3 Congregational Assembly Perceptions regarding the Quality of Christian Family Fellowship

The quality of Christian family fellowship is viewed from two things, namely the knowledge of the Bible and the example of Christ. The Bible is the basis of the teaching of the Christian faith, thus as members of the congregation it is necessary to listen to the teaching of the Bible. As for living by Christ's example, members of the congregation must love each other, underlie all activities with prayer and diligent worship. The Bible is not just a physical book, but a source of goodness, the living water of God (His presence) that moves in our lives (John 7:38). In Hebrews 4:12 it says that "for the word of God is alive and stronger and sharper than any double-edged sword; he pierced deeply to the point of separating the soul and spirit, the joints and the marrow; he is able to discern the considerations and thoughts of our hearts."

**Table 4. Knowledge of the Bible.**

No.	Question	Response					
1	Does by teaching the Bible, members of the church understand the truth?	Understand very well	44%	Lack of understanding	50%	Don't understand	6%
2	Do members of the congregation enjoy listening to your teaching of the Bible?	Very happy	33%	Less happy	56%	Unhappy	11%
3	Have the families in your church all performed holy marriages?	It's all	0%	Most of it is already	100%	Most haven't	0%
4	Do members of the church already understand who Christ really is?	Understand very well	56%	Lack of understanding	33%	Don't understand	11%
5	Do members of the church already know what the family is based on?	Already know	56%	Lack of knowledge	44%	Don't know yet	0%
6	Do members of the church already understand the characteristics of a democratic family?	Understand very well	28%	Lack of understanding	56%	Don't understand	17%
7	Do members of the church understand how to form a christian quality family fellowship?	Very understanding	22%	Lack of understanding	67%	Don't understand	11%
8	Are there families in your church who still depend on their parents for their lives?	Most	0%	A small part	100%	None	0%
9	Do families in your church always put Christ at the head of their home?	Always	72%	Sometimes	28%	Never	0%
10	Are they sure that Christ will always be with their family, if their family life is in accordance with Christ's will?	Very sure	100%	Less sure	0%	Not sure	0%

We can live in triumph because the Bible cuts off everything that is not from God and replaces it with things that actually help us overcome it. Allowing God to correct us, by reading the Bible makes room for God to equip us as it is written in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 which states "all writings inspired by God are indeed beneficial for teaching, for declaring mistakes, for correcting behavior and for educating people in truth. Thus every man belonging to God is equipped for every good deed." The Bible states that Jesus is the spoken Word to create and redeem us all. Jesus is the Person of God and His presence flows in the Bible. When we read the Bible, we drink the presence of Jesus and all that good is contained in Him, as it is written in John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word; The Word is with God and the Word is God. He was originally with God. All things were made of him and without him there is nothing that has become of all that has been made."

**Table 5.** The Example of Christ



No.	Question	Response						
1	Has in the daily life of the families in the church you have practiced an attitude of mutual love both to God and to others?	Always	44%	Sometimes	56%	Never		6%
2	Do the families you guide always base all their activities with prayer?	Always underlying	39%	Sometimes	61%	Unsubstantiated		0%
3	Do the families you guide always follow worship such as family worship, elemental worship, Sunday worship, etc.?	Always follow	39%	Frequently follow	50%	Not following		11%
4	Do the families you mentor always use the Bible as their life guide?	Always	56%	Sometimes	33%	Never		11%
5	Do the families you guide, always carry out core household worship (RTI)?	Always	44%	Sometimes	50%	Never		6%
6	Have the families you mentored, performed their duties as witnesses of Christ, be it to those of the faith, or the unbelievers?	Always	39%	Sometimes	56%	Never		6%
7	Do the families you guide, in everyday life reflect families that live in God's peace?	Strongly reflective	33%	Less reflective	50%	Does not reflect		17%
8	Are the families you guide faithful to the Lord?	Very loyal	56%	Less loyal	39%	Disloyalty		6%
9	Are the families you guide active in spiritual activities?	Very active	44%	Less active	50%	Inactive		6%
10	Have the families you mentored practiced living examples that live in accordance with Christ's example?	Always	44%	Sometimes	56%	Never		0%

The purpose of a Christian's life is to have a life similar to the image of God. The meaning of Jesus' birth is to give us an example to follow in His footsteps. Proverbs 22 verse 1 says that good name is more valuable than wealth and love is greater than gold and silver. One of the life examples of believers and as God's people is the command to proclaim the kingdom of God. Just as the apostle Paul did, he was always in the synagogue, engaged in talks and discussions with many people, because by exchanging ideas, asking questions and answers, Paul got the opportunity to preach the gospel of Christ (Damarwanti, 95-131).

The Apostle Paul taught to live in assembly and communion (Acts 2:42). Without the support of the community, it is impossible for today's people to live Christianly, this is because if they live alone, they will undoubtedly be drawn from the life of the world. Christian fellowship is the basis for us to provide all the necessities of the Christian life (Bob, 59-77). Followers of Christ are mandated to carry out gospel evangelism to all nations. This mandate is often referred to as the Great Commission. So, all Christians, whoever they are without exception are called upon to obey the command of the injunction (Haans, at al., 140-156). The apostles' perseverance, obedience, and strong commitment in carrying out the Great Commission have paid off, with 3,000 people giving themselves to believe in Jesus Christ and being baptized. This was the fruit of the apostles' obedience and commitment in carrying out the Great Commission to preach the good news of repentance and the remission of sins. The early church was well built and maintained through the teaching of the apostles, the communion of believers, the diakonian ministry performed out of the love of Christ, and the testimony that the early church continued to experience tremendous development and they were favored by many (Acts 2:41-47; 4:12) (Haans, at al., 140-156). Believers have a mission role and duty that is in harmony with discipleship as part of the responsibility carried by the Lord Jesus Christ to all Christians or believers (Darmawanti, 95-132). For it is certain that missionary discipleship by the church and believers to produce a congregation capable of performing the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Subekti, 157-172). The Church as an organization that is inseparable from the person of Jesus, in it consists of the

communion of believers to Jesus, Jesus Himself gathers, sanctifies it, makes the people his favorite property (Budi, 59-77).

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The congregational assembly understands that teaching and guiding members of the congregation is an important task that must be performed, both life and ministry should be guided by the Bible in order to emulate Christ.

#### **V. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The congregational assembly feels that it is not accepted by the members of the congregation in the ministry, this can be due to the lack of preparation in doing the ministry, thus it is suggested that as christians both members of the congregation and the congregational assembly should always be prepared in proclaiming the kingdom of God.

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