

AFRICA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

THE RELEVANCE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE TO CHURCH GROWTH
IN KENYA: A CASE OF SELECTED CITAM
ASSEMBLIES IN NAIROBI

BY

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ABSTRACT

Until we embrace discipline as a ministry of mercy and genuine fellowship in our African Churches today, we disregard the power of God's grace displayed through his judgment. The progress of deterioration in the church is dependent on the level of discipline maintained by its members. The main objective of this study was to establish the contribution of church discipline to church growth as perceived by clergy members of Christ Is The Answer Ministries (CITAM). The study explored the spiritual, numeric and financial growth and determined the relationship between these three dimensions of church growth to church discipline. Church-sect theory and church-strictness theory underpinned the study. Mixed methods research design was used. The target population was CITAM clergy and elders serving in three selected assemblies in Nairobi. The assemblies were: CITAM Valley Road, CITAM Woodley, and CITAM Karen. Data was collected from a sample of 42 respondents using stratified sampling technique. Data was collected using a questionnaire. The data was then analyzed using simple descriptive statistical analysis which involves generating frequencies and percentage distributions and presentation of the findings in tables, graphs and charts for ease of interpretation. Data collected from open-ended sections of the questionnaire were summarized into themes and subthemes through content analysis. It was found that the relevance of church discipline to spiritual growth of the church was greater than its contribution to numeric and financial growth. It was recommended that church discipline should be packaged and promoted as a tool for effective discipleship and spiritual growth in churches. Administrators of church discipline should put equal emphasis on both the process and the result of discipline. Future scholars should conduct in-depth interviews with church members who have been subjected to church discipline to reveal nuanced views that may lead to a whole new discovery of how church discipline is perceived.