

# Interactive Session with Rt. Rev. Prof. Samuel Sunday Obeka (JP)

VICE CHANCELLOR, WESLEY UNIVERSITY, ONDO, NIGERIA

*A Special Interactive Session on Leadership, Faith, Education, and Sustainability in honour of distinguished academic and spiritual leadership*



Sustain@

# Legacy and Purpose

My journey as a teacher, priest, and university administrator has been consistently guided by three enduring principles: integrity, service, and the fear of God. Leadership, I believe, is about responsibility, compassion, and accountability, not titles. I hope my legacy is remembered not just for buildings or policies, but for the lives shaped, faith deepened, and the culture of excellence and discipline strengthened at Wesley University.

**Integrity**  
Maintaining unwavering moral principles in leadership and decision-making

**Service**  
Prioritizing the welfare of students, faculty, and community over personal ambition

**Fear of God**  
Allowing divine guidance in educational mission and spiritual formation

I will be fulfilled if future generations can say our work helped them discover their purpose, fulfill their destiny, and live meaningfully with dignity.

# Faith and Education

Deeply rooted in theology and academics, I firmly believe faith and knowledge are not rivals but partners. Faith provides education's moral compass, while knowledge offers faith intellectual depth and societal relevance. In today's world, where young people face moral challenges and cultural pressures, this fusion of faith and scholarship is essential.

It helps raise individuals who are intellectually sound, spiritually grounded, socially responsible, and committed to the common good. This has always been the heart of our mission at Wesley University. Morality and educational excellence are our watchwords.

01

**Moral Foundation**  
Faith provides the ethical framework for education, ensuring it serves humanity's highest values.

02

**Intellectual Development**  
Knowledge deepens faith by providing tools to understand creation, society, and human responsibility.

03

**Character Formation**  
This integration produces graduates who are intellectually capable, spiritually mature, and socially responsible citizens.

**Our Educational Philosophy:** Faith-based education, moral excellence, intellectual rigor, social responsibility, spiritual formation, academic excellence, character development, service to humanity.

# Leadership and Service

Leadership, to me, is fundamentally about humility, courage, and service to others. Across my years of mentoring and administration, I have learned that a leader must listen more than speak, must correct with love, impact lives of future generations and must never allow personal ambition to overshadow the welfare of the people he is called to serve.

To the next generation of educators and clergy, my advice is simple: Remain teachable, stay prayerful, pursue excellence, and never compromise your values. Leadership is a sacred trust to serve, carry it with honesty and compassion and exhibit "servant" leadership style.



## Humility in Leadership

Recognizing that leadership is about serving others, not being served. A leader must remain teachable and open to learning.

## Courageous Decision-Making

Making difficult decisions based on principles rather than popularity, always prioritizing the common good.

## Compassionate Correction

Guiding and correcting with love, understanding that discipline should build up rather than tear down.

## Servant Leadership

Carrying leadership as a sacred trust, exercising authority with honesty, compassion, and genuine care for those served.



# Sustainability and Human Development

The theme sustainability resonates deeply with the future of education and theology in our contemporary society. A society cannot thrive if its development destroys its people, its environment, or its moral foundations. Education equips us with the knowledge to be resourceful and innovative, while theology reminds us that the earth and its resources are divine gifts entrusted to our care.

Hence, Education and Theology can shape communities to be more rational, equitable, and mindful of the future and its fulness thereof. For our society to thrive well, human capacity development and its moral value must be sustained. For Nigeria and Africa, sustainability is not optional; it is a moral obligation.



## Educational Sustainability

Building educational systems that continuously develop human capacity while preserving moral foundations for future generations.



## Environmental Stewardship

Recognizing our divine responsibility to care for creation and use resources wisely for present and future generations.



## Social Development

Creating equitable, rational communities that prioritize human dignity and sustainable progress for all members of society.

Our goal at Wesley University is to raise graduates who will not only excel professionally, but also contribute meaningfully to national and global well-being.

# Personal Reflection

At this occasion organised in my honour, my heart is filled with profound gratitude to God almighty for His sustaining grace. I thank my fellow clergy and colleagues for their unwavering support, my students for their energy and hope, and the entire Wesley University community for believing in our shared dream.

If I have one message to leave with you, it is this: Hold onto faith, pursue wisdom, and serve humanity with sincerity of heart and integrity. Our collective commitment is what will sustain Wesley University, Ondo, and ensure that its mission, vision, and light continues to shine from generations to generations.

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## Final Message

*"Hold onto faith, pursue wisdom, and serve humanity with sincerity of heart and integrity. Our collective commitment is what will sustain Wesley University, Ondo, and ensure that its mission, vision, and light continues to shine from generations to generations. God be our helper."*

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To God be the glory.

**Rt. Rev. Prof. Samuel Sunday OBEKA (JP)**

Vice Chancellor, Wesley University, Ondo