

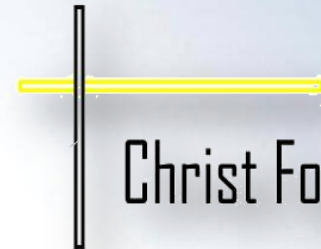
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MINISTERIAL ETHICS AND ETTIQUETTE



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Ministries, Inc.

"Building God's People on a Firm Foundation"

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*Based upon a study originally
created and taught by Pastor
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The Basis of Ministry



Ministry is based on three premises:

A call from God. (Ex. 3:10-12, Jer. 1:4-10, 17)

A commitment to God. (Jn. 4:34, 1 Cor. 6:20)

A commitment to serving and ministering to people. (Matt. 9:36)



Having The Right Attitude Towards Ministry



Matthew 20:21-29-

20: Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

21: And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

22: But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

23: And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

24: And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

25: But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26: But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your **minister**;

27: And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to **minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many.

29: And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.



What Is A Minister?



Minister (*Strong's # 1247 Gr.*)
diakōnia, *dee-ak-on-ee'-ah*;
attendance (as a servant, etc.); *aid*
(official), minister (-ing, -tration, -try),
office, relief, service (-ing). **diakōnōs**,
to *run* on errands; an *attendant*, i.e. a
waiter (at table or in other menial
duties); spec. a Christian *teacher* and
pastor (tech. A *deacon* or *deaconess*)-
deacon, minister, **servant**.

Ministry Myths



Myth #1: You need to have a “title” to have ministry.

The Truth: There are no titles in the church, but functions. Although God does call certain ones to occupy leadership positions in the church (ie. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers) what one does in the church does not indicate that one is entitled to a place of superiority or importance over his brothers and sisters, but rather, is given greater responsibility. (Luke 12:47-48, James 3:1)

Myth #2: Those who occupy the pulpit are somehow higher, better, or more spiritual than others.

The Truth: The pulpit is *not* a place of exaltation, but of *service*. God has placed us there to see (to) the needs of His people. (1 Peter 5:1-4)



Ministry Myths



Myth #3: It is wrong to aspire to leadership in the church.

The Truth: It is biblically acceptable to aspire to a position of leadership in the church.

1Timothy 3:1- “This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.”

Bishop (1 Tim. 3 1-7) (*Strong's # 1984(5) Gr.*)
ěpiskōpōs, overseer.

Discuss: *Why does this statement of Paul's not apply to the ascension gifts given by Christ to the church in Ephesians 4:11?*

However, the following conditions must be met...



Motives for Ministry



Our reasons for aspiring to a ministry position must be Godly ones. We must desire God's will above our own.

(Matt. 26:42)

We must be willing to submit to Godly church leadership, and endure God's building process to enable us to carry the anointing (gifts + Christlike character = power) that He has placed on our lives.

(1Tim. 3:6)

We must be sure that God has called us to a place of leadership in the church. It is dangerous and presumptuous to attempt to step into a ministry office that God has not called us to. (Heb. 5:4)



1 Peter 5:1-4



1: The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3: Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4: And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Ministers Set the Example



1 Timothy 4:12-15-

12: Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an **example** of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13: Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14: Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15: Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Peter 5:2-3-

2: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3: Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being **ensamples** to the flock.

So again, a **minister** must therefore be a **servant**.

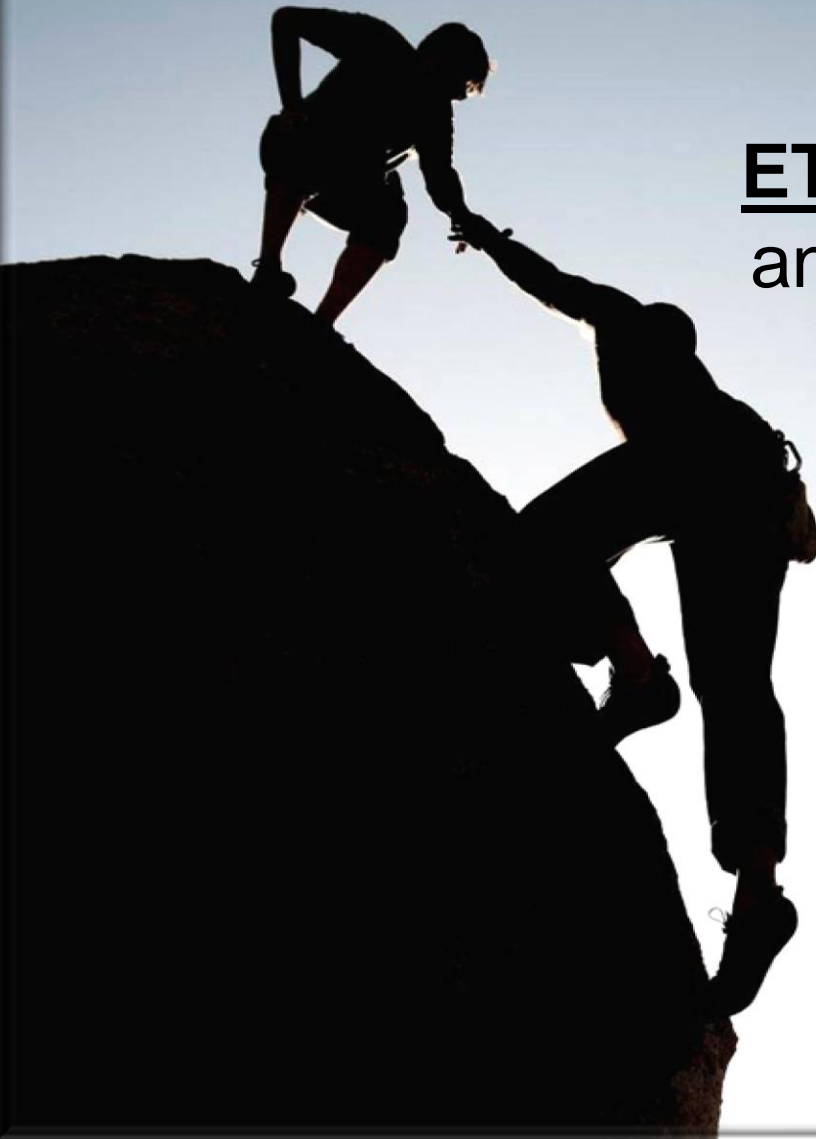


What is Ethics?




ETHICS- having to do with right and wrong. Good behavior and conduct.

eth'ics, *n.* 1. A system of moral principles. 2. The branch of philosophy dealing with right and wrong and the morality of motives and ends. (*Random House Webster's Dictionary*)



The Basis of Ethics:

A black silhouette of two people climbing a dark, jagged rock. One person is on top of the rock, leaning over and reaching down to help the other person who is hanging off the edge. The background is a light blue gradient.

Christian ethics is based on the knowledge of God. Without the love of God, true ethical behavior is impossible.

Ethical behavior cannot be imposed (forced) on us. It must come from within.

Starting Points for All Ethical Behavior:



We should learn to look over the mistakes of others as we would have them to do ours.

Relationships between ministers must be sound.

There is a direct relationship between the life of the minister and his or her relationships with other ministers, laity, and even unbelievers.

Therefore...



The starting point
for ministerial
ethics is found in
being **BORN
AGAIN.**





Ministers, like other professionals, are grouped together in the eyes of the public.



Ministers Must...



Respect the ministries
(and pulpits) of others.
Stay out of the internal
affairs of other
churches.

Never perceive another
minister as a threat to
one's ministry.

Brother-and sister-liness, respect,
and professional courtesy means
that ministers do not discuss other
ministers and their families with
members.

What is Etiquette?



Etiquette- socially correct behavior and good manners.

et-i-quette *n.* conventional requirements for proper social or professional behavior. (*Random House Webster's Dictionary*)



Examples of Unethical Behavior



- Lying About Credentials
- Plagiarism
- Misuse of Church Funds/ Property
- Improper Relationships With Members/ Fellow Ministers
- Hostility/ Indifference towards Fellow Ministers
- Involvement in Other Churches' Affairs

Etiquette and Ministry



Like the military officer, the minister must never find him/herself guilty of “conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.” (see *1 Tim. 3:1-7*)

The minister must never forget that he or she must be on guard against every temptation that could come up against him or her.

Many ministers have lost their ministries because of the “Death Trap.”

What is “The Death Trap?”



1. Sex

2. Money

3. Pride

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”-1Cor:10:12:

2 TIMOTHY 4:2



*"The servant of God who shifts from **"God Said!"** to **"did God REALLY say?"** **AUTOMATICALLY** becomes the servant of **satan**. No exceptions."*

INTEGRITY



Genesis 3:1-5-

- 1: Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 2: And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- 4: And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- 5: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Professional Courtesy in the Pulpit



The pulpit should never be used as a battleground, or to correct the behavior of any one individual. (see *2 Tim. 2:24-25*)

It is considered a general courtesy for preachers to listen to other preachers when they speak.

Plagiarism (taking and using another person's material) is a no-no. It is another word for **STEALING**. One should at least make mention of the source of the information.

When one is asked to participate in a service (i.e. read scripture, pray, preach, sing) one should stand up, do **EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE ASKED TO DO, and SIT DOWN**. God is not the author of confusion. The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet. You CAN help it! (see *1 Cor. 14:32-33*)



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