



# **MINISTRY CODE OF ETHICS**

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# ***Ministry - Codes of Ethics***



## **Vision**

Building people and transforming lives!

## **Mission**

'Deliverance' by Evangelism, 'Discipleship' by Education,  
'Development' by Empowerment & 'Deployment' by Enterprising.

## **Ethos**

"Whole life = Whole person"  
(Mind - Body - Soul)

## **Assignment**

"Worshipping God and Serving people"

## **Five Fold Ministry Gifts**

For the perfecting of the Saints, For the work of the Ministry,  
and for the Edification of God through Christ.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



- ❖ **Learn:** Role of having a Code of Ethics in regards to ministry.
- ❖ **Discover:** The importance of having a Code of Ethics in ministry.
- ❖ **Explore:** The value of having a Code of Ethics applied in the life of a minister.
- ❖ **Plan:** To apply a Code of Ethics in ministry activities.
- ❖ **Execute:** A Code of Ethics actively in everyday ministry life.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **What are Ethics?**

The ***Webster's Dictionary*** defines ethics as...

1. The study of standards of conduct and moral judgment.
2. The system or code of morals of a particular person, religion, group or profession.

The ***Advanced Learner's Dictionary*** defines ethics as a system of moral principles, rules of conduct.

- Ethics are a set rules or standards governing the conduct by which a group ***agree*** to follow and make decisions.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **What are Ethics?**

Ethics are a set of rules or standards governing the conduct by which a group agrees to follow and make decisions. One of the best ways of thinking about ethics is to take a quick look at our statement of faith and what we believe and then think about how you would react when those beliefs are challenged.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **What are Ethics?**

Ministerial ethics serves as a guide and must be allowed to govern the conduct of everyone in the fellowship within ministry.

- This course outlines ministerial ethics and divided in two parts:
  1. Personal Ethics
  2. Professional Ethics

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **What are Ethics?**

- Ministerial Ethics is a system of moral principles, rules of conduct, and moral compass for ministers.
- Ministerial ethics deals with the things ministers should do and the things ministers should not do.
- One of the best ways of thinking about ethics is to take a quick look at our statement of faith and what we believe in and then think about how you would react when those beliefs are challenged.

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

In the Church body of Saints we believe that each person of the body of Christ are responsible for self-discipline and growth and for the maintenance and strength of the body. (1 Corinthians 12:14-26)

We also understand that when individuals are called forth and accept responsibilities for ministerial leadership, they are...



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- To exhibit, in relation to their spiritual calling, growth of training, skill, maturity, integrity, and commitment (1 Timothy 4:6-10)
- To exhibit spiritual, moral, and ethical values that are exemplary and challenging in the Christian community (Galatians 5:16, 22-26)
- To be accountable to one another in the body of Christ (Colossians 3:12-13, & 1 Peter 5:2-4)

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- In affirming the covenantal ministry of all baptized believers, we disciple that we are “A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9)
- As such, we are under love’s directive: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10)

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- Effective ministry demonstrates good stewardship of our gifts.
- The varied gifts described in Ephesians 4 come from Christ for enhancing the church's ability to accomplish its mission. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- Good stewardship leads the believer/minister to exercise these gifts in service to God.
- We have become covenanted disciples of Christ's incarnate, living body,
- God's agent to save creation. We live under the covenant sealed in baptism to minister to serve God with our whole lives.

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- From our earliest beginnings, sisters and brothers have sought to live as Jesus' faithful disciples, guided by the conviction that whatever we do to others we do to Christ and therefore to God (Matthew 25:40, 42-43)
- This is symbolically acted out by the community of faith at the love feast, where we recall that we are ministers sent to serve as Christ served (John 13:15-17)

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- In the act of washing one another's feet, we both serve and are served. As we eat the common meal together, we participate as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.
- In the service of the bread, we recall our covenant with Christ to be his body, broken for others. In the service of the cup, we renew our covenant of love and ministry to God and God's children everywhere.

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- We recognize that initiation into ministry and discipleship by baptism are not so much an appointment to elevated position and prestige as they are an invitation to obedient faithfulness.
- It is a call to so rely on Christ that we model a lifestyle pointing to God. “Whoever says, ‘I abide in him,’ ought to walk just as he walked” (1 John 2:6)

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- Because of our relationship with Christ, we are called to live by the highest ethical standards. “As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct” (1 Peter 1:15)
- Our covenant is not only with God, but with each other in the body of Christ.
- We stand in direct violation of our covenant with God and each other when our actions betray trust.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- We are one and are therefore “disciples one of another” (Romans 12:5)
- We are disciples of Christ’s body, called to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice” so that “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are disciples one of another” (Romans 12:1- 5)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- Our covenant is not only with God, but with each other in the body of Christ.
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# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- We are disciples of Christ's body, called to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice" so that "we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are disciples one of another" (Romans 12:1-5)
- Being part of the body of Christ necessitates ethical behavior not only with other Christians, but with people outside the church. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
- We subvert the cause of the Christ we serve when we exploit or betray the trust of people outside the church.

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## **Ministry Ethics Overview**

- We are called to live lives worthy of the covenant granted us by God's good grace. (1 John 4:14-16)
- God calls all disciples, including those in leadership, to live by the high standards upheld in the Scriptures.

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## **Called to Leadership**

- To help us achieve the ministries of our calling and covenant , we accept that God has granted leadership gifts to certain individuals.
- We have recognized these persons by calling them to guiding roles in the church.
- We call to ministerial leadership those who show themselves able to discern the mind of Christ in the context of our lives and who have skills to encourage us to faithfulness.

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## **Called to Leadership**

- While no arbitrary rank is held by our leaders, pastors and other credentialed leaders are worthy of respect and attentiveness by virtue of the confidence placed in them.
- “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing - for that would be harmful to you” (Hebrews 13:17)

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## **Called to Leadership**

- This scripture should in no way be interpreted to justify submission to unethical conduct.
- Many leaders may feel uncomfortable being role model is.
- Engage your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7)

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## **Called to Leadership**

- I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3)
- Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us. (Titus 2:7-8)



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## **Unique Roles Have Unique Expectations**

- We expect some things from our leaders that are not necessarily applicable to all disciples. Scripture says, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).
- Spiritual leaders have a higher degree of accountability for maintaining the ethical norms although ethics apply to all believers.
- When a leader breaks the bonds of trust and accountability, it does harm to the body of Christ.

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## **Unique Roles Have Unique Expectations**

- The Old Testament suggests that, while God calls all people to live with high moral standards, additional responsibility is placed upon persons in leadership roles.
- The responsibility of leaders was difficult and demanding, for unfaithful leaders brought danger to all Israel. We recall how the leaders of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms disregarded God in their hearts. The results for Israel and Judah were chaos and exile.

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## **Ministry Ethics & Discipline**

- Realizing that the biblical ideal is not always maintained, the church needs to have in place a procedure for calling leaders to accountability.
- We must use great care in approaching any disciple whose behavior has been called into question. (Galatians 6:1)
- Through any proceedings designed to deal with unethical behavior, we must exercise compassion as well as judgment.

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## **Ministry Ethics & Discipline**

- Ethical misconduct requires serious response.
- Each situation is different and will require careful examination and discernment. exa
- Some actions may prohibit reinstatement into ministerial leadership, even though a person may be forgiven and restored to the body of Christ. lea resto

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## **Ministry Ethics & Discipline**

- In situations where complaints are substantiated, consequences will be determined by the nature and seriousness of the misconduct.
- In situations where complaints are unsubstantiated, care will be given to issues of full exoneration and restorative justice for the ministerial leader.
- Under certain circumstances and full repentance a person, one might be restored to a position of ministerial leadership (2 Timothy 2:21)

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## **Congregational Ethics**

- A general understood statement of theology begins by a calling on a conviction that all baptized believers (disciples) are ministers.
- Ministerial ethics, therefore, are related to congregational ethics. Scripture is persistent in its expectations for appropriate support of leadership.

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## **Christian Ministry**

- The Christian ministry is one ordained by God for a special purpose in His Kingdom (Exodus 40:12-15; I Peter 2:5,9 and John 15:16)
- The ministry consists of a body of people called by God for special service to Christ and God's family of believers.

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## **The Ministry as Ordained by God**

- Is the noblest work on earth. No profession can be compared to it.
- Is aimed at nurturing the flock and leading them to win lost souls to Christ (Jeremiah 23:4; John 21:15-17).
- Is spiritual and holy (John 4:24; I Peter 1:16).
- Is leading in the warfare against the devil and his host of demons (Ephesians 6:12).



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## **Differences of Ministers & Ministries**

- Ministers must be spiritual! (Up – In – Out )
- Ministers are also human! (Mind – Body – Soul)
- Made up of individuals with different characteristics.
- Each of us thinks, feels, and responds to certain situations in differently.
- Understanding, needs, desires, likes and dislikes are different from person to person and minister to minister.

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## **Differences of Ministers & Ministries**

- God gives different ministries and spiritual gifts to each minister. (Ephesians Chapter 4)
- Each functions in different ways according to their natural temperaments, ministries and spiritual gifts.
- Evangelists do not function like pastors. Prophets exercise their ministries in a way that is different from teachers and apostles.
- Each individual conducts ministry in a unique manner.

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## **Differences of Ministers & Ministries**

- These differences are recognized by the Lord in the scriptures (Romans 12:4-8; & I Corinthians 12:12-26).
- Diversity tends to bring about misunderstandings and conflict, as it happened in the Corinthian Church (I Corinthians 3:3-9).
- Unhealthy situations must be checked in order to preserve the unity of the saints.
- Some form of control must be put on ministers to enable them to become unified and effective.

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## **The Tool to Control Ministerial Differences (Ethics)**

- To avoid ministers taking their own individual patterns of ministry that may conflict with another minister's style, there must be rules of conduct.
- A system of moral principles or standards of conduct and moral judgment that ministers agree upon and adhere to.
- These rules must be seen as the standard pattern or style of the ministry that each one judges himself by.

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## **Benefits of Ministerial Ethics**

Ministerial ethics is very important for many reasons. As a system...

1. It organizes ministers into a team.
2. It unites the efforts of ministers into productive activities.
3. It helps to achieve the objectives and goals of the ministry.
4. It helps ministers to concentrate on achieving the purpose of the Church.

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## **Benefits of Ministerial Ethics**

5. The presence of the Holy Spirit manifests in the ministry and produces signs and wonders, as unity becomes the hallmark of the ministry.
6. The ministry and the Church becomes strong and expanding.
7. Attention is focused on progress instead of conflicts.
8. Trust, openness and love become the characteristics of the ministry.

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## **The Minister's Character Traits**

- A person's character is defined as the mental or moral qualities of a person that makes one different from others.
- As ministers, we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
- We are also the examples of spiritual life.
- Ministers must exhibit positive character traits in their relationship with God, other ministers, and the people they deal with in life everyday. (Family)

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## **The Minister's Character Traits**

- A minister's character can make or break the ministry and destroy the fellowship.
- To be trusted, respected, and accepted by other ministers and the public at large they need to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- This is naturally produced from a Spirit-filled life. In all areas of life's activities – spiritual, social, financial and physical.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### ***~LOVE~***

- Love is the greatest power in the world (I Corinthians 13:13).
- Ministers must possess it in great measure.
- Love unites and comforts.
- Take away love from the ministry, and you will find conflict, hopelessness, and lack of interest and disunity.
- Love is beautifully described in I Corinthians 13:4-8.
- God commands we love our neighbors and our enemies.

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## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~JOY~**

- JOY follows love. Where there is love there is joy. The joy of the Lord is our strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)
- Paul encourages us to rejoice always (Philippians 4:4). As we rejoice in the Lord, let us also bring that same rejoicing into the lives of others.

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## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~PEACE~**

PEACE: Paul exhorts that as much as we possibly can, we should live in peace with all men (Romans 12:18).

- Peace is one virtue that all men are looking for in this world of troubles.
- As ministers, we must be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) rather than troublemakers.

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## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~LONGSUFFERING~**

**LONGSUFFERING:** God, the chief shepherd, is longsuffering and we must be the same.

- A minister who is longsuffering is patient and can endure the trials and temptations of ministry.
- A longsuffering minister will be able to control himself and win the respect and acceptance of people. Jesus exhorts all His disciples to be longsuffering (Luke 21:19).

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~GENTLENESS~**

**GENTLENESS:** Gentleness is a virtue every minister must incorporate into his life.

- Without gentleness, a minister can get into problems with other ministers and bring the ministry into reproach.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~GOODNESS~**

**GOODNESS:** Every minister is expected to be good to other ministers and to all men.

- God Himself is good and His ministers must be no less.
- The goodness of a minister will enhance his relationship with his brethren.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~FAITH~**

**FAITH:** Faith is one virtue that is indispensable to the minister.

- A minister full of faith cannot be swayed by the difficulties encountered in ministry. With faith, he will be able to inspire other ministers and the brethren.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~MEEKNESS~**

**MEEKNESS:** Jesus said, “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29).

- A minister that is meek will be able to relate in harmony with other ministers. Meekness speaks of submissiveness. It is not weakness, meekness is controlled strength.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Fruits of the Spirit**

### **~TEMPERANCE~**

**TEMPERANCE:** Temperance means self-control. Ministers must be the best example of people who can control themselves.

- The ministry is full of possibilities of getting into the extremes. But the temperance of a minister will let him stay on course.

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## **Other Important Virtues**

There are other virtues that a minister must personally develop and exhibit in his ministry. These include:

- 1. Sincerity:** A sincere minister is appreciated by everyone under his ministry. In his relationship with other people, he will win their trust and faith. His actions reflect his real thoughts and feelings.
- 2. Honesty:** A minister that is honest can be trusted with finances. In business and other activities, he can be expected to be faithful.

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## **Other Important Virtues**

- 3. Separation & Holiness:** Ministers are people separated or set apart for ministry.
  - Our lives ought to be separated from other people and conform to the love of God.
  - In all respects ministers must be holy and uphold the dignity of ministry.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- The world is continually changing in all respects. Very few situations remain the same.
- No permanent standards for the world.
- The rapid change in the manner things are done has been called “fashion.” People that do not move with the changing times are called “unfashionable.”

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- Do ministers of God have to move with the world and be accepted as fashionable?”
- “Be not conformed to this world...” (Romans 12:2). “...for the fashion of this world passes away” (I Corinthians 7:31).
- “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15).

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- Ministers must be examples that do not move with the times of the world.
- Will be called old-fashioned and out-of-touch.
- We should do our best to be current in our dress but must not compromise God's Word and dress inappropriately just to receive approval from the world.
- We have standards, and these must be our landmarks.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- A person's outward appearance is an indication of their total personality.
- The kind of clothes one wears, the manner one keeps his face and the condition of his hair all add to or betray his dignity.
- By one's general appearance a person can easily be identified with the church or institution they belong to.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

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# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- Ministers, as representatives of the Lord Jesus and His Church, must be identified by their dressing and their general outward appearance.
- As people called unto holiness, ministers must be separated from the world by the manner they dress and appear to the public.
- Modesty is the mark of the minister and it should reflect in their attire.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- Paul's gives instructions to ladies in 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4; nevertheless, the principles outlined here also apply to men.
- The Bible says, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:5).
- Ministers in public must avoid shorts as this could affect how we are viewed as spiritual leaders. The same idea of moderation and temperance goes with shoes.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **THE MINISTER AND CLOTHING CHANGING STANDARDS OF THE WORLD**

- Paul's gives instructions in 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4; nevertheless, the principles outlined here also apply to all ministers (male and female).
- The Bible says, "Let your moderation be known unto all men.
- The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:5).
- Ministers in public must avoid shorts as this could affect how we are viewed as spiritual leaders. The same idea of moderation and temperance goes with jewelry, hair styles and shoes.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Changing Standards of the World Outward Appearance of the Minister**

- There are shoes that some ministers may wear and receive recognition from their brethren and the public.
- Why should ministers be ineffective in their leadership roles because they are considered worldly by the kind of shoes they wear?
- Ministers must be moderate, not extravagant.
- Ministers must be examples that do not move with the times of the world.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Changing Standards of the World Why Dress At All?**

- The purpose of dressing is first and foremost to cover our nakedness (Genesis 3:8-10,21).
- For the sake of fashion people have downplayed the importance of covering their nakedness.
- People in general today expose themselves with no reservation or concern for morality.

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## **Changing Standards of the World Why Dress At All?**

- For ministers, exposure of the body to the public is unacceptable.
- As much as possible, ministers ought to cover themselves in the areas that may cause embarrassment for other people to see.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Changing Standards of the World Why Dress At All?**

- Adornment has become misunderstood and misused by modern generations. Make-up and jewelries have stood between them and spirituality.
- Ministers should to refrain from excessive make-up and jewelry because these could especially nullify their ministry.

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## **Changing Standards of the World**

### **Summary**

- The guiding principles for ministers in their dressing are cleanliness, fragrance, modesty with elegance and orderliness.
- The standards for ministers regarding their dressing should not be affected by the world's standards because they are a people separated unto the Lord and the Lord is unchangeable.



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## **The Minister as A Steward**

- Stewardship is the management of another person's property.
- The minister is a steward of God who manages God's spiritual and material estate as he exercises the spiritual gifts and ministry God has entrusted to him.
- Managing God's property also carries responsibility, authority and accountability.
- Ministers have a responsibility to God for the church in regards to its finances and properly.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Responsibility**

Paul admonished the elders of Ephesus in his farewell address to nurture the church of God as stewards; “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Responsibility**

In his exhortation, Peter also reminded elders of their general responsibility towards the church and the reward they would have if they discharged their duties well. “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; neither as being Lords over God’s heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that will not fade away”

(I Peter 5:2-4)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Responsibility**

- In delegating ministerial responsibility to ministers, God ensured that every responsibility had with it a specific ministry and spiritual gifts.
- Without a well-defined ministry and spiritual gifts, it would be difficult to assign a responsibility to a minister where he would be most effective in the church.
- The most important factor in the ministry is not where a minister is placed, but how effectively one discharges their responsibilities.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Responsibility**

- These days we are witnessing an upsurge of ministers trying to be men pleasers. Paul said, “Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful” (I Corinthians 4:2)
- Ministers who are conscious of their steward-status lead disciples with honesty, love, loyalty and humility.
- They allow the principles of the Word of God to guide their ministry. Their chief aim becomes pleasing the Lord by doing His will only.

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## **The Minister's Authority**

- Every Christian believer who has the Holy Ghost is vested with a measure of spiritual authority over the devil.
- In Luke 10:19, Jesus delegated spiritual authority to believers.
- In addition to this, ministers have authority over the church that enables them to direct the finances and utilize the technical and material resources for growth and expansion.

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## **The Minister's Authority**

- They also have vested authority to discipline wayward disciples and to ensure proper control of the flock of God.
- Regarding resources of the church, especially finances, many ministers have misused their authority to use funds for their own self-interests.
- In their dealings with the disciples, they tend to be authoritarian and manipulators. Peter warned the elders not to be “Lords over God’s heritage” (1 Peter 5:3).

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## **The Minister's Authority**

- Ministers should use their delegated authority first to serve the interest of the church.
- It will be useful to consider the instruction of Jesus in the exercise of ministerial authority, “You know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you; but whosoever shall be great among you, shall be your minister” (Mark 10:42-43)



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Accountability**

- Accountability is almost becoming a neglected word.
- Failure to account for the finances and projects to subordinates and superiors is a regular occurrence.
- Fundraising programs are often met with lack of interest and lack of cooperation.
- A minister's integrity, trust, and respect can be achieved when there is openness to the management of the church's finances. (Annual Budget)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Accountability**

- As a steward of God it behooves every minister to do his best to keep the souls under his care so that none of them would be lost “except the son of perdition” (John 17:12).
- In the same vein, every property that belongs to the church must be well accounted for.
- Apart from the accountability ministers have towards the church, they also have to give account of themselves to God concerning their spiritual gifts and ministry.

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## **The Minister's Accountability**

- Matthew 25:14-30 gives a clear picture of how God will require ministers someday to give account of how they used the talents He gave to each of them.
- To the Romans Paul said, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).

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## **The Minister's Accountability – Summary**

- It is important for ministers to examine the extent that their responsibility, authority and accountability reaches into the church organization.
- As they perform their functions in various capacities ministers should use their spiritual and material resources to promote the interest of the church.
- They should manage these resources as stewards whose one desire is to please their Lord.

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## **The Minister's Accountability – Summary**

- With this guiding principle, they will be able to lead the church in the power of the Holy Ghost.
- Paul was a shining example of a minister who ended his ministry with this assurance. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord ... shall give me that that day...” (II Timothy 4:7).

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Finances**

- Integrity in personal finance is important for all Christians, (Especially Ministers).
- A lack of integrity regarding financial responsibility holds the potential for a lasting reproach on an individual's character, the church, the ministry, and Christianity in general.
- Responsibility in areas of personal finance will engender respect and cultivate a positive reputation in the eyes of the community and with other business associates.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Finances**

- Because of financial mismanagement some loan officers are warned against lending money to churches or preachers.
- While there are many conscientious and honest disciples of the clergy, there have been enough failures of Christian leaders to warrant such a dismal reputation.
- The failure of one can bring a reproach on many.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Finances**

- People tend to remember negative behaviors much longer than positive ones.
- However, be challenged to live life with such integrity so as to change the previous statement to this: the responsible financial stewardship of one can bring respect to many.
- While we cannot speak or act for all ministers, we can embrace an ethical standard in our own financial conduct that will be a model for others to copy.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Finances**

- Uphold such a high standard of financial integrity that others may be encouraged to follow the example.
- “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men” (Romans 12:17).

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Money Guidelines for Success in Finances**

- The following guidelines are offered to provide some direction for living with responsibility in Christian character regarding areas of financial conduct.
- While there are other suggestions that could be added, these will serve as a foundation for success in money management.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Money Guidelines for Success in Finances**

1. Plan a Budget and Live by it
2. Guard against Debt
3. Resist Extravagant Lifestyles
4. Be an Example in Giving
5. Keep Good Records

**Summary:** A pastor is the overseer of the Church. This is a divine appointment. As the overseer of the spiritual well-being of the church, the pastor must also be responsible in areas of fiscal responsibility and other areas of church administration.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Finances**

- Good men and women can help share the administrative load in the church. It is not meant to be the pastor alone.
- Spirit-filled people who have gifts in areas of administration and finance should be sought out.
- Loyal and responsible assistants are required for these important responsibilities.
- It is vital that the pastor not only be accountable, but that one also requires accountability on the part of those over which one has supervision.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Summary**

- When you follow good accounting practices and financial responsibility, be assured of the blessing of the Lord and goodwill from the people in your care.
- It should be the desire of every Christian to live in such a way that we will hear these words: “... Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:23)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Etiquette**

- Etiquette is defined as the “rules of formal relations or behavior among people or in a class of society or a profession.”
- Etiquette for ministers would, therefore, mean how ministers conduct themselves among people in accordance with accepted norms in the ministry and culture.
- Ministers in this context include leaders and every person functioning in any of the roles of ministry in the church such as deacons, youth leaders, and ladies leaders.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Etiquette**

- Paul exhorted Timothy, the young minister over the Ephesian church, to learn how to comport himself in the church. “But if I tarry long, that you may know how you are to behave yourself in the house of God...” (I Timothy 3:15)
- In the many facets of the minister’s life, he must exhibit cultured manners as he relates to people in his home, the church, and public places.
- This also includes all forms of communication.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Etiquette (The Minister's Home)**

- Many individuals both in the church and outside the church visit the minister's home frequently.
- The impression a guest takes along with him as he leaves the minister's home has a far reaching effect on his ministry.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **In The Minister's Home**

- Many individuals both in the church and outside the church visit the minister's home frequently.
- The impression a guest takes along with him as he leaves the minister's home has a far reaching effect on his ministry.

## **In The Homes of Other People**

- The minister must be the first to realize that the homes of his disciples and other acquaintances are not his recreational spots.
- Time spent with other families should be short, under normal circumstances.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Communication**

- Many a minister would have been successful if they knew how and what to say at the right time and the right place.
- People basically expect a minister to be a motivator and comforter. In the hustle and bustle of daily life disciples come to church with many problems, needs and aspirations.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Communication**

- Their hope is that the preaching of the Word will encourage them and heal their spiritual and emotional sores.
- The minister's communication should be positive, hopeful, cheerful, encouraging, full of faith, not condemning nor offensive.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **In Public Places**

- As preachers of the gospel, ministers cannot entirely avoid public places, yet they should be selective in the places they visit.
- Places like dance halls, public cinema theatres, and gambling spots are not appropriate resorts for ministers.
- In their outings, ministers should take into account what they wear as well as their general appearance.
- The minister's guiding word in the way one dresses.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Summary**

- Paul admonished the Galatians about their liberty in charity (love) by saying, “only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh” (Galatians 5:13).
- Etiquette is important to ministers for the guidance it provides to stay on course.
- In their homes, other people’s homes, in the church, and in public places, and in their communication, ministers should be courteous and thoughtful.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Accountability Overview**

- To be accountable is to be answerable to another individual or group.
- We must allow someone to hold us responsible for our actions.
- For them to ask tough questions when necessary concerning our personal conduct and professional ethics.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Accountability Overview**

- Our successes or failures will affect those who are around us, especially those we are connected with in the fellowship.
- We need one another and we need to be accountable for our actions.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Accountability Overview**

- In the area of finances or entrusted property it is our obligation to give account for stewardship and disclose all business dealings with transparency. oblig busi
- Being accountable is to accept responsibility for that which h has been entrusted to us and agree to the consequences for mismanagement. whic conse



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Accountability Overview**

- It is easy to shift blame when something unexpected happens.
- It is a natural response to accuse someone else for the wrongs and try to vindicate our own guilt.
- You can delegate authority but you cannot delegate responsibility.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to One's Self**

- Have you pretended to be a Christian while participating in sinful acts?
- Have you spoken words of forgiveness while harboring bitter resentment?
- Have you condemned others for the hidden sins in your own life?

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to One's Self**

- On the most basic level we should know ourselves better than any other.
- Our commitment to God and our desire to live for Him should cause us to examine our own heart and correct our behaviors that are not in accordance with the Word of God.
- What is your relationship to God? Is it honest or are you constantly hiding your true motives?

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to One's Spouse**

- Accountability to your spouse is a most vital responsibility.
- Your spouse is the closest person to you outside of your own body.
- Paul used the closeness of marriage between a man and woman to illustrate the connection between Christ and the church.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to One's Spouse**

- The love between a husband and a wife provides an opportunity for transparency in the relationship.
- Shortcomings and failures can more easily be confessed with the one you love.
- Anything shared in the context of confidence is safe and you know it will not be compromised.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to One's Community**

- If a minister is to be effective in leading the church, must be accountable to those who are the closest in their relationships.
- One cannot lead without first learning to follow in submission to authority and accountability.
- The concentric circles of accountability broaden to embrace those who are in our community.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to One's Community**

- This may be our close friends, our ministry leaders, and other respected elders in the church.
- Our community includes the body of believers.
- Even in positions of leadership we are accountable to the church body.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to God**

- The first area of accountability was to self.
- Impossible to truly be accountable to ourselves without divine assistance.
- Inability to live righteously in our own strength.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability to God**

- In answering to God for our failures we have no hope of change without Him.
- When we come to God to answer for our failures and our sin, we find He already knows everything that we have come to confess.
- We must depend completely on the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to live an overcoming life.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability Summary**

- Personal accountability is crucial to the success of a minister.
- No one is perfect and none are without sin.
- After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live an overcoming life we will also need the support of accountability partners/leaders.
- Our spouse, our family, our mentors and pastors, our elders and congregants all have a role to play in helping us be the ministers we were called to be.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Accountability Summary**

- God does not call failures. He calls us to arise to the challenge and live the victorious life of the Spirit. He has placed people in our lives who love us and want to see us succeed.
- Together we can become mighty in Spirit and an overcomer in our walk with Christ Jesus. “If God *is* for us who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Relationship with Superiors**

- The church as a divine institution is established upon divine authority. Jesus said, "I will build my church" indicating that He is the founder and head of the church (Matthew 16:18).
- For the church to function according to His divine purpose the Lord has delegated some authority to men of His choice to administer spiritual leadership over the church.
- Ephesians Chapter 4

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Submission to Superiors**

- The early apostolic church in the book of Acts is a classic example of how submission to authority can facilitate a peaceful atmosphere and rapid growth in the church of God.
- The apostles made decisions that were accepted and carried out who leheartedly.
- In these present times, the occurrence of contention in the church is alarming.
- As teachers of the flock, ministers ought to remind themselves of Paul's directive in the book of Romans: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers."

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Cooperation with Superiors**

- The element of human nature is not eliminated on a minister's election or appointment to an administrative office.
- Superiors, which are as human as their subordinates, are likely to misconduct themselves contrary to the requirements of their office.
- Instead of reacting negatively and arrogantly towards the bad attitude of their superiors, ministers should cooperate by showing patience and longsuffering.
- Strained relationships have to be normalized by ministers offering to their superiors' constructive suggestions in the spirit of humility and meekness.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Cooperation with Superiors - Summary**

- Ministerial authority is divinely instituted.
- Organization of the church has brought into being an administrative structure.
- These saints, by virtue of their office, may become our superiors.
- Ministers that are subordinates to these ministers having administrative authority.
- Ministers should be examples of humility towards authority.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Relationship with Peers**

- There is no other community of people that can be compared to ministers.
- Who relate to one another in understanding, love, and unity.
- The beauty of the ministry is best demonstrated by the cordial relationship and complementary functions operating among the community of ministers.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Relationship with Peers**

- While this cordial relationship is the desire of all.
- Ministers run into problems of misunderstandings and conflicts.
- Underlying these problems are the wrong attitudes of envy, greed, intolerance, and jealousy.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Relationship with Peers**

- Ministers in the same church organization may be required to move from one station to another for specific functions.
- May even be called upon to occupy certain positions that may highlight their ministries and spiritual gifts more than their colleagues.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister's Relationship with Peers**

- These changes usually create some conditions that seem to favor some ministers more than others.
- The realization all ministers must come to is that sovereignty rests only with God.
- God makes sure that every member being a component of the Body of Christ has some role to play in the kingdom of God.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Their Predecessor**

- As the church organization grows and expands, changes may occur among ministers in their fields of operation.
- Pastors may be transferred to new fields of labor.
- Administrators and evangelists and even departmental heads may be required to operate in new fields that have already been pioneered, pastored or evangelized by other ministers.
- The first test of a new minister is what attitude and remarks he unleashes about the achievements of his predecessor.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **The Minister & Their Successor**

- The attitudes that characterize many ministers who leave their stations for other areas have been regret, embarrassment, unwillingness, and bitterness.
- These attitudes become heightened where their former stations or positions hold much more prospects for them than their new ones.
- The resulting thinking and feeling of many ministers are jealousy, intolerance, faultfinding, and non-cooperation towards their successors.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Summary**

- All ministers will at one time or another become predecessors or successors and therefore, their maximum cooperation should not be denied those who deserve it.
- Paul instructs that, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thessalonians 5:8)
- Jesus seals it with a commandment, “Whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12)

# ***Ministry - Codes of Ethics***



## **Minister's Relationship with The Opposite Sex**

### **The Three Strategies of The Devil**

Devil has developed three strategies by which he attacks the saints of God in an attempt to alienate them from the grace and spiritual positions they occupy in the Lord.

1. The first is the lust of the flesh,
2. Lust of the eyes &
5. the pride of life.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Minister's Relationship with The Opposite Sex**

### **Visiting The Opposite Sex**

- Visitation is part of the responsibility of ministers. Since the church is made up of both sexes of human beings, the minister may be required to visit the opposite sex in his or her home for some particular need.
- It will be wise for ministers to make these visitations with some one else just to nullify the temptations Satan normally builds up in those circumstances.



# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Minister's Relationship with The Opposite Sex**

### **Praying For The Opposite Sex**

- The Lord promised that believers, and for that matter, ministers, shall lay their hands on the sick for prayer and healing (Mark 16:18).
- Laying on of hands has been a regular feature, not only in praying for the sick, but also in times of prayer for the Holy Ghost baptism and deliverance.
- Where a minister places the hand when praying for and with the opposite sex can have some emotional influence on the person.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Minister's Relationship with The Opposite Sex**

### **Counselling The Opposite Sex**

- Church congregants need counselling to be able to make appropriate decisions that will uplift their spiritual levels.
- These counselling periods are good for the spiritual growth of congregants, they are also full of temptations when counselling the opposite sex.
- A counsellor-minister in such a situation should create the same congenial conditions as discussed under visitations and praying for the opposite sex.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Minister's Relationship with The Opposite Sex Summary**

The writer of Hebrews has given ministers food-for-thought: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Laying aside every weight and sin that easily destroys the ministries of men demands a high-level of vigilance in their relationships with the opposite sex.

***YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL!***

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **General Ethics for the Fellowship of LAWM/LACC/OAFA**

- But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor (or compensation), especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; for the scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves to be paid.” (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **In Relationship to Myself**

- I will always devote time to seeking the will of God through diligent study in the Scriptures and prayer.
- I will endeavor to keep myself physically fit and emotionally stable.
- I will seek in all ways to be Christ like in my attitude and conduct.
- I will seek mutual accountability and spiritual friendship with fellow Christians for personal encouragement and nurture in order to ensure faithfulness to my calling as a steadfast follower and competent servant of my Lord Jesus Christ.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **In Relationship to My Family**

- I will consider each disciple of my immediate family as precious gifts from God, and will carefully, lovingly and responsibly meet their needs as a sacred obligation before Him.
- I will give spiritual leadership in my home.
- I will be faithful and loyal to my family disciples, loving them as Jesus Christ loves His Church.

# ***Ministry - Codes of Ethics***



## ***In Relationship to the Church***

- I will disciple that I am called to lead, but also to serve.
- I will never violate a confidence given to me.
- I will be diligent in my duties as pastor, never lazy, but with God as my judge and my Shepherd.
- I will be Biblical in my preaching, presenting the whole counsel of God, speaking the truth in love.
- I will strive to introduce people to Christ, and to build His Church.
- I will consider my call to the church a sacred responsibility and stand by the decision. I will seek the unity of the church and resist any attempts to divide.

# ***Ministry - Codes of Ethics***



## ***In Relationship to Other Ministers***

- I will be a brother in Christ to my fellow ministers.
- I will not seek to build my church at the expense of another church, nor my ego at the expense of another minister.
- I will not speak uncharitably of any disciple of clergy.
- I will abstain from fruitless debates which are of little value and serve to cause any form of division within the body.



# ***Ministry - Codes of Ethics***



## ***In Relationship to LAWM/LACC/OAFA***

- I will participate in the larger fellowship of LAWM/LACC/OAFA and seek to support through prayer and action its aims and objectives.
- I will fulfill my fellowship, ministry and financial obligations to LAWM/LACC/OAFA to the best of my ability as the Lord leads and provides.

## ***In Relationship to the Community***

- I will seek to be responsible in my personal finances.
- I will seek to build a positive relationship with the community without sacrificing my ministry to the church.
- I will never misuse my position or credentials in pursuit or promotion of any political agenda.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **In Relationship to Christ**

- Believing that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, we will honor and exalt Him in all of our relationships and ministries. We will keep ourselves free from all policies and practices which might tend to mar the beauty of the Bride of Christ.

## **In Relationship to Fellow Disciples**

- Believing that the local church is an expression of the family of God, we will promote unity among the disciples of the congregation, resisting all jealousy, rivalry, self-seeking and division which would disturb that unity.
- We will "... make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."  
(Romans 14:19)

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## *In Relationship to Other Ministries*

Believing that the Church is a universal body, we will attempt to maintain honorable relationships with other churches in the community. In Relationship to the Community Believing that the witness of the church in the community affects the ministry of that church to the community and reflects on Christ, the Head of the Church, we will endeavor to keep our dealings with agencies, businesses and individuals in the community honest and above reproach.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **In Relationship to the Fellowship**

Believing that our discipleship in LAWWM/LACC/OAFA is not only a privilege but also involves responsibility. We will fulfill our fellowship, ministry and financial obligations to LAWWM/LACC/OAFA to the best of our ability. We will uphold the doctrines and principles of LAWWM/LACC/OAFA.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## *In Relationship to the Leaders of the Fellowship*

- Believing that the pastor and other spiritual leaders are shepherds of Christ's flock, we will love, honor and submit to them as they, by example and word, watch over our souls.
- We will support the pastor financially so that he may be able to meet his obligations without bringing reproach upon himself or us. We will not allow anything among us that would undermine the pastor's ministry or rob him of the confidence of the church and the community.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## *In Relationship to the Leaders of the Church*

- We will endeavor to respond to all criticism dealing with the pastor, her spiritual leaders, or their families in an honorable manner, not tolerating subversive or clandestine meetings.
- Whenever legitimate criticism or charges against anyone arise, we will follow Scriptural direction for church discipline, always with a desire for reconciliation and restoration and always making use of the cloak of love

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# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*



## **Developing Good Moral Character**

1. Guard your mind.
2. Beware of inappropriate appearances.
3. Be holy in “conversation” and in conduct.
4. Practice integrity in all relationships.

# *Ministry - Codes of Ethics*

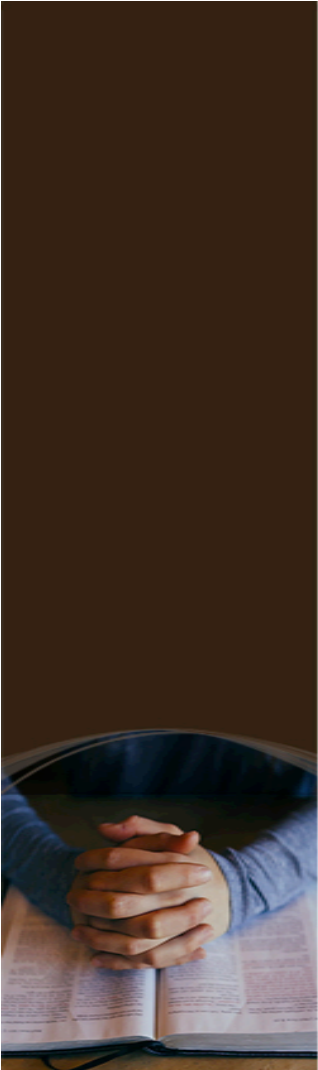


## **Conclusion**

Excellent moral character should be the most sought after attribute in a minister's life. If the construction of a person's life is erected on the secure foundation of good and godly character his or her life will stand firm and bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ.



# Questions





# **MINISTRY CODE OF ETHICS**

**Apostle Dr. Michael L. Hargett, Sr. PhD**  
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