

Pastoral Code of Ethics

As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the gospel and gifted by the Spirit to pastor the church, I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry according to the ethical guidelines and principles set forth in this code of ethics, in order that my ministry may be honoring and glorifying to God, my service be beneficial to the local church, and my life be a witness to the world.

Section I: Personal and Family Relationships

1. I will commit to continued growth through personal devotions including prayer, bible reading, scripture memorization, and meditation.
2. I will continue to pursue educational opportunities and gain further knowledge and understanding of the scriptures.
3. I will maintain my health by eating properly and by exercising to reduce stress and maintain fitness.
4. I will take the necessary measures of maintaining my emotional health by getting enough rest and relaxation through time off from work and away from the church.
5. I will uphold my reputation by conducting myself in a professional manner as a representative of Jesus Christ including never being alone with a woman other than Hope, and keeping away from compromising situations.
6. I will keep my attitude and actions Christlike by not discriminating against persons of different race, gender, socioeconomic classes, religious beliefs, or position of influence.
7. I will be honest in my financial transactions and keep my debts as minimum as possible as a steward of God's blessings.
8. I will support my church and missionaries through the giving of tithes and offerings.
9. I will keep myself accountable to another minister in order to confide my temptations, struggles, and hurts (*see: Working The Angles, by Eugene Peterson*)
10. I will keep my family above church responsibilities by meeting the physical and emotional needs of my spouse and children.
11. I will manage my time wisely balancing church duties and family responsibilities.
12. I will fulfill my role as a servant leader in my family.

Section II: Congregational Relationships

1. I will focus my ministry on presenting the Gospel to the lost; and discipling Christians.
2. I will encourage others to use their spiritual gifts in the church without feeling threatened.
3. I will delegate responsibilities as necessary realizing that one man cannot make a church succeed.
4. I will confront sin and help others to walk with God to protect the church body.
5. I will not take advantage of the church by neglecting my responsibilities and schedule. I will work an honest work-week.
6. I will give the proper time necessary for prayer and sermon preparation in order that my preaching will bring the congregation to a deeper understanding of the scriptures and spiritual maturity.

7. I will treat all congregational members fairly and in a Christlike manner.
8. I will emphasize the necessity of evangelizing others to fulfill the Great Commission.
9. In counseling, I will maintain strict confidentiality except in cases where disclosure is necessary to prevent harm to persons and/or is required by law.
10. In my visitation and counseling practices, I will never be alone with a woman or child; or unless another church member is present nearby.

Section III: Collegial Relationships

1. I will not undermine the work of another pastor to promote myself or my local church.
2. I will support the needs of my colleagues and their families by offering counsel, support, and personal assistance.
3. I will enhance the ministry of my successor by refusing to interfere in any way with the church I formerly served.
4. I will not visit another congregation without first receiving permission from the pastor and will conduct services for another congregation, such as a wedding or funeral, with the cooperation of the current pastor and/or his permission.
5. I will not discredit the work or slander the pastoral practices of the previous minister and staff.
6. I will submit to the hierarchy and code of conduct of the denomination in which I serve, or of Scofield Memorial Church, Dallas, where I was ordained.

Section IV: Community Relationships

1. I will not neglect my ministerial duties in the church in order to gain public recognition in the community.
2. I will not use my ministerial position for political gain, nor will I support a particular political party in my preaching.
3. I will support community morality by being involved and encouraging my congregation to be involved in social action encouraging morality and bringing the community under the lordship of Christ.
4. I will submit to and obey the laws of my local government unless they require me to break God's commands.
5. I will refrain from taking part in community activities that are unethical, unbiblical, or unwise.

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Date