

A message Delivered at the RCCG Region 22, Akure, Training Program, by Pst Tugbobo, A. Amos. (Saturday 9, 2022)

Topic:- Christian/Ministerial Ethics

Text:- 1Tim 3:14-15

Introduction:-

The leadership failure that is sweeping through the world currently has not spared ministers. Cases have been reported when men ostensibly used of God for many years have been found and indulge in habits that are harmful. Several have had their commission aborted or, at worst, discredited through unethical behaviour.

A). Definitions:-

Ethics can be defined as the code of morals of a person or group that set standards as to

what is good or bad or right or wrong in one's conduct.

Christian ethics is a branch of Christian theology that defines virtuous behavior and wrong behavior from a Christian perspective (Bible).

Ethics refers to society's sense of the right way of living our daily lives.

- It does this by establishing rules, principles, and values on which we can base our conduct.

Ethics is about character - the sum of qualities that defines a person.

These qualities include a person's intellect, thoughts, ideas, motives, intentions, temperament, judgment, behavior, imagination, perception, emotions, loves, and hates.

Pastoral or ministerial ethics is a basic standard of conduct that determines what is appropriate, acceptable, and expected of a minister / pastor both in his personal and professional lives.

B). WHY DO WE NEED ETHICS (Importance of.)

The purpose of ethics is to establish principles of behaviour that help people make choices among alternative courses of action in practice.

Ethical behaviour is therefore the behaviour that is accepted as right or good in the context of a governing moral code.

1 - Ethics serve as a guide to moral daily living and helps us judge whether our behavior can be justified. Titus 2:7-12, ... that you may know how to behave... 1Tim 3:15

2. It helps us to enjoy godly and peaceful life here in the world. Phil 4:8-9, 1Tim 2:2 GNT
NB: Prov 17:13 (CEV) "You will always have trouble if you are mean (unkind, nasty) to those who are good to you".

3 - Ethics enhance and protect our lives, ministry, reputation and destiny from destruction. Psa 25:21, 2Peter 1:10, 1Peter 3:13, 1Tim 4:16,

4 - It helps us to finish strong and well. All efforts will be in vain in God's kingdom without the practice of ethics. Mark 8:36, Luke 13:23-24 -28 (Matt 7:13-14)

5. - We need ethics because better is the end

of a thing than the beginning there of. May we all finished well and strong. Eccl 7:8

6. Ethics serves as the plumb line to ensure we are always on track - check and balance. .
Amos 7:7-9 (NCV)

7. It is your wedding garment. Grace brought us to Christ, in Christ we must live by grace according to standards/rules, otherwise we will forfeit the grace. Matt 22:1-14

Hence, we must wear ethics like garment everytime.

B2. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:-

(to Buttress the importance of Ethics)

(In the O.T)

a) Nadab & Abihu, Lev 10:1, Numbers 26:61;
Compare the Sons' of the Prophet; 2Kings 6:1-7,

NB: When you act according to instruction; it shows you believed, and you're under the authority.

1Sam 1:17-18, 2Chr 20:20, Matt 10:41

b) Hophni & Phinehas, 1Sam 2:12-, 16-17;

c) Miriam & Aaron, Numbers 12:1-2; (They challenged Moses maybe because of familiarity, cf. 1Tim 5:1 (TPT, CEV), Rom 14:4)

- Korah, Dathan & Abiram. Numbers 16:1ff (insulted Moses, cf. Psa 105:14-15)

d). King Rehoboam & Israel: 1Kings 12:16-19

- The solutions are prayer and patience! Psa 119:134,

** PP: Father, give me grace to wait for your deliverance from oppression. Job 14:14

(In the N.T)

e) - Hymenaeus & Alexander, 1Tim 1:18-20,

f) - * Stephen. Acts 6:5, 8-9; 7:59-60,

g) - The prodigal son. Luke 15:11-12

cf. His Ethical Brother

- Demas. 2Tim 4:10,

C). HOW CAN I DEVELOP ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR?

By growing in Christian Virtues: 2Peter 1:5-11

Christian virtues are seven (7) and are often divided into:

a). Four cardinal virtues, and

b). Three theological virtues.

The seven Christian virtues are from two sets of virtues.

- a). The four cardinal virtues are;

1. Prudence:

2. Justice:

3. Temperance:

4. Courage:

NB: The cardinal virtues are so called because they are regarded as the basic virtues required for a virtuous life.

- b). The three theological virtues (1Cor 13:9-13), are;

5. Faith:

6. Hope:

7. Charity:

D). PRACTICALS;

SOME AREAS OF MINISTERIAL ETHICS

Ministerial Ethics. 1Tim 3:15

Some Examples Ethics for ministers:

What your ethical behaviour (godliness 1Tim 3:16) should be in the secret and in the open (1Tim 3:15);

1 - Interpersonal Relationship;

a). Between Worker/Minister/Pastor to congregation. 1Peter 5:2-3

b). Between Senior to junior. 1Peter 5:2-4

c). To a Colleague: Rom 12:10, 3

d). Between Junior to senior. 1Peter 5:5
(We are all responsible to God and God's human agents as a steward.

As a steward that is responsible to God's human agents - the leaders.

2). On transfer

3). On money and integrity.

4). With opposite sex.

5). Invitation of guest minister

6). When you are a guest

7). Altar / Pulpit ethics: Exo 29:44

8). Marriage

9). Counselling ethics

10). UTTERANCE ethics

11. Towards your Organisation

F). Conclusion:-

2Peter 1:10-11 (GNB)

2Pe 1:10 So then, my friends, try even

harder to make God's call and his choice of you a permanent experience; if you do so, you will never abandon your faith.

2Pe 1:11 In this way you will be given the full right to enter the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

* If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them! John 13:17

