

**CLARION
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**

**Workshop on
Ministerial Ethics**
By: Jerry Edmon

The dictionary defines Ethics as:

- 1. The rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human action, or a particular group or culture.*
- 2. Moral principles as of an individual: His ethics forbade betrayal of a confidence.*
- 3. That branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct, with respect to values of rightness and wrongness of certain actions and the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions.*

This teaching and workbook is an overview of things that will be beneficial to those of us in ministry. There are a multitude of resources that address this subject. If you have a specific situation that is not covered here, please seek Godly counsel as to the best way to handle it.

How ethics are formed

In 2 Peter 1:5, the bible would call it Virtue. It is something that you add to your life. It is the quality to do what is right. It is an understanding that your life functions in relationship to others. It is the rules of fair play. It is also a sense that everything is going to work out if you do what is right. There is not a need to cheat, manipulate or control. You trust the system that God established and determine to operate within its boundaries. Many children are raised to be the only child in the room. They are spoiled in the sense that courtesy is not introduced to them during the formative years of their childhood. It doesn't help that they also see selfishness and fear modeled in the way their parents conduct themselves when the pressure is on them. They lie, steal and hide. They don't act as if they have to play by the rules.

Many children are never introduced to the concept of sportsmanship or fair play. That is of course unless they are winning; they lack the confidence and maybe the talent to be the better player, but are determined to receive the gold medal even if they have to break the rules to get there. This is many times supported or even pushed by their parents. This helps produce a laziness that leans to an unscrupulous lifestyle.

Ethics start in our home and as we grow, it extends to our relationships. Relationships to our spouse, children, work and market place. Ethical values are bred into the lives of our children and become the road map for their lives. The old saying is true, "*values are caught more than taught*". That is where it starts. And unfortunately many people live their whole lives through and never stop taking advantage of the people they come in contact with.

Successful companies are known for their strong ethics and commitment to excellence and customer relations. The only thing that will make you stand behind

your word when it will cost you money is ethics. Ethics when walked out is described as character and integrity. We are creatures of ethics ... that live in a society of ethics. You cannot make a decision or create an action without expressing your ethical standing.

Through ethics, we express the worth of the person that we are dealing with, at least in our eyes. And thereby express our code of conduct based on those ethics. The value that we place on others determines our level of respect, manners and courtesy.

Ethics are everywhere. In every civilization there is a framework for the lifestyle and decisions of its people. We may have educational and social diversity, yet ethics still exist between us, whether in the king's palace or in a gang. Ethics rule. Those who are considered "unethical" are pushed away from society. The Bible is a book of ethics. If you violated these laws, you could be stoned or put out of the camp. Even Paul in the New Testament said:

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. KJV

2 Thess 3:14-15

The reason is that the loss of ethics results in anarchy and chaos.

Ethics protect your ability to flow with other people

Ethics are codes of conduct that we follow out of our heart to please God and live in concert with our fellowman. They are a standard of right and wrong that we derive from Jesus' message – **LOVE GOD...LOVE OTHERS**. If you use that as your standard, your ethics will stay in good shape.

We see a breakdown in ethics when the focus becomes "self".

Ethics are both the act of treating people like you want to be treated and understanding spirituality, authority and our connection and responsibility to each other.

You almost always violate ethics when you ignore the principle of submission to one another by taking things into your own hands rather than trusting the Lord with your decisions.

There is a code of ethics that apply to every area of your life. Your spouse, your job, your children, your ministry and relationship to God. In our relationship with God, we call an ethics violation "sin" and repent for it. In the other areas of our lives, I believe it is still sin and also needs to be repented of.

To conduct yourself in a way that is unethical will plant a seed that will **always** produce a harvest. It is a conduct that will take you someplace you never intended to go and make you look like you never intended to look.

No one usually starts out being unethical, but compromises, justifications and self-will can take you there. It will almost always leave someone hurt.

You must determine in advance what kind of a minister you are going to be. If you don't make a decision in advance, when you are faced with the temptation or opportunity you may not make the right choice.

Core Beliefs and our Conscience

Ethics are responses from our core beliefs to things that become “*out of balance*” with what is right.

My core beliefs identify the decisions that I need to make in my life. I disallow an action because “something” in me recoils. That “something” is my core value. The recoiling is simply the response to that which crosses the boundaries that my Core Values have built.

For instance, having integrity is one of my core values. As a result, an alarm goes off when I am faced with an opportunity to compromise my integrity. With that in place, most of my decisions are already made. I don't have to think about being honest. It is a natural response because it springs out of my Core Values. To be dishonest, I have to go against the grain and close my ears to the voice of my spirit. Reason is the voice of my mind, feeling is the voice of my body and conscience is the voice of my spirit.

So how do people lose their way? We all know good people, godly people who have fallen into immorality or dishonesty. They didn't start out that way, but their conscience was seared. How does that work? If you have ever ironed a crease into a pair of pants, you know how easy it is to get the crease wrong and add another crease. Each time you go over the new crease, the old crease begins to disappear until finally you can't see the old one. When the boundaries of our conscience are breached time and again, we tend to lose our way. And things that use to bother me don't even show up on the radar screen.

Paul; used the term, “having your conscience seared”.

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; KJV - 1 Tim 4:1-2*

These people yielded to seducing spirits and spoke lies until their conscience was seared. Things that use to guide them were no longer felt. That old crease or image was replaced by another.

Watch out for signs of imbalance in your life. Selfishness, lying, complaining, stealing, manipulation. Ethics is your moral compass that leads you through these rough waters.

Now is the time to define your core values. Decide who you are. This is where you ethics are seen. You won't have to think about being kind or honest or mannerly. You also won't have to look for friends because they will be there.

What is the ethical code of conduct of an Evangelist to a Pastor?

Understand Your Position and Mission

You are a guest on someone else's home turf, in their pulpit and in their realm of authority.

You are not there for you or to build your ministry.

You are not there for you or to build your ministry.

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You are not there for you or to build your ministry.

It is not just another stop on your itinerary.

What is the purpose of the revival you are conducting?

Most Pastors don't just have meetings. There is usually a purpose in bringing in a guest minister. Make sure that you as a guest understand what the Pastor would like to see accomplished while you are there. Spend time preparing for that.

Doctrinal Controversy

You are a messenger of Jesus Christ and there to serve the Pastor and his flock. You are not at liberty to preach your personal doctrine and revelation unless you have discussed it with the Pastor of that church.

Any questionable or controversial teaching should be discussed with the pastor in advance. You may be going against something that they have taught their congregation, or that congregation may not be ready for it yet. They are the ones who are left to clean up after you leave.

I used to love just being an evangelist...you get to go in, have great services, people treat you like a rock star, and you never have to change any diapers. But as a Pastor find that I have enough of my own "messes" to clean up, so I don't enjoy cleaning up the mess that someone I invited into my church and paid well left for me.

Some practical ...and you would thing obvious - “Do’s and don’ts”

Don’t talk about sex while preaching.

Don’t make racial comparisons, stereotypes or jokes

If you talk about the rapture or topics that might be controversial, be sure the pastor is on the same page with you. This can add a great burden to the pastor. When a pastor has to “spin” what you said, you have not helped them, you have hurt them. You probably won’t get the opportunity to go back.

Don’t borrow money from people to support your vision or ministry.

Never make a statement like, *“The bible doesn’t mean what it says there.”*

Don’t preach or make pointed comments about politics. You are not a Republican or a Democrat. Call no politician by name in the pulpit unless it is to bless them or pray for them. Most every church is a mix of political party affiliation and support, and there is not reason to offend them or cause them to view what you are saying with suspicion.

Don’t show up late to church.

Be part of the entire service. Don’t come in after the worship is over. Your connection to that congregation will become more authentic when you have spent time worshipping together.

Be reasonable about how long you preach. Especially if you intend to do any personal ministry.

Show kindness and concern for the entire congregation. Especially those who work in the children’s ministry during your meeting. It is always a wonderful thing to go and thank them, drop them a note or somehow acknowledge their contribution to the success of the revival. Always take a moment to acknowledge the praise team....they contribute about 50% of what goes into the service.

Don’t help yourself to church supplies, equipment or staff members. Let the Pastor know if you have a need and he can assist you in getting it met.

Offer to pay for at least one meal even though you know the pastor won’t let you.

When you go to a restaurant, be conservative about what you order when the church is paying.

Never talk bad about other ministries. Don’t talk bad about anyone.

Don't talk about your problems or needs while you are ministering at someone's church. It feels like you don't believe what you preach. If the pastor specifically asks you about your personal condition, then tell him. But add that you know the Lord is working in your behalf, and then drop it. Don't discuss your problems with anyone else in the church ... ever!

Don't be a name dropper. Build your ministry on your own merit. Don't try to build yourself up in front of the pastor or congregation by telling big or inflated stories. It feels like you are working them. No one likes that. Humility and servant hood will always get where you need to go!

I am the first one to believe in prosperity and I expect God best and am thankful for it. But when I am ministering that is not the time to boast or bring up my personal possessions. Many of the people you are talking to are just trying to make it from week to week and your blessings should not be a source of discouragement to them. I have a really great testimony about God's provision in regards to my own home. However, I am careful who I share that with because I wouldn't want someone to feel like God didn't provide for them.

Don't express from the pulpit your hopes that the Pastor will invite you back. Let the church know how much you have enjoyed serving them and pray that they were blessed.

If you bring a traveling companion, you should be prepared to take care of their expenses out of your own funds. That creates an additional load for the church. Most churches will take care of it for you if they can, but it should not be expected if you chose to bring them.

Be very, very cautious about engaging in any multi-level marketing or investment opportunities. I know that there are some legitimate products of value out there, but your integrity and character are on the line and you don't want to use your influence as a minister to promote or persuade people to join up.

Be very careful to guard your heart and mind against the temptation to give "preferential" ministry to those who can give big offerings. It is defiantly "unethical" and God is not pleased. HE alone is your source and we are cautioned in James 2:6-9 to minister to all men equally.

The traveling minister should never accept an invitation to dinner with anyone in the church without the Pastor or his approval.

Never, never, never counsel anyone unless the pastor sends them to you. Afterward, you should inform the pastor about the details of the meeting. The person needs to understand up front that your confidentiality does not exclude the pastor. They are his sheep

Don't solicit people for your mailing list without the Pastor's permission. Never go back and ask for any type of support from individuals after you have left a church. If you put out a newsletter or offer a product catalogue that is about the limit Always make sure that your objective is to give and bless, not take and ask

Minister to and spend special time with the staff. Spend extra ministry time with the church volunteers and leaders.

Keep good records of the messages you preach at each church. It looks very bad on you to use the same thoughts, jokes or ideas that you used in your previous meeting. It appears that their church was not important enough for you to get something fresh and you just threw it together because it was just another stop on your calendar. Or that you haven't grown in the past year

Don't go into business and bring it into the church. You must never do anything that would position you to take advantage of the people that the Lord has entrusted you with. I promise you that the anointing will be removed from your life if you begin to hustle the sheep. You must never do anything that takes advantage of them to your benefit.

Pay your bills. Pay them on time.

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There have been times when I have ministered at a church and another pastor in that area would ask me to come and minister at their church. I said, "You will have to speak to the pastor that has had me I am submitted to his ministry when I am in this area.

Keep your word. Nothing will destroy your credibility faster than breaking your word. I have always heard that if a man will lie to you, then he will steal from you. That may be true because it is a problem with integrity. Let your word be your bond. If you say that you will be somewhere at 9:00 and you arrive at 9:15, you are saying that that person is not worth your respect. Let your word be your bond. Be five minutes early.

Stop looking for people to carry your bags. Did the pastor pick me up in a nice car? Do I have a hotel room that meets my standards? How much money is in it before I commit to preach?

The Apostles preached when they were beaten for it. Paul preached for people who didn't give him any offering. That would eliminate about three fourths of the motivational speakers from the ministry today. John was exiled to an island to die. Is there anyone who will claim to be greater than these? Maybe we need to stop trying to be lords and become servants. This brings me to this question. Why are you in the ministry? What motivates you? Would you still preach if there was nothing in it for you? Would you still preach if it cost you something? Would you still preach if they threw stones at you??

How does an Evangelist get meetings?

Be likeable

If they like you, they will like your singing too! If they don't like you, it doesn't matter how great you are in your gift. You won't get the call.

First Impressions

First impressions are so important. It is a shame that we only get one. Unfortunately their mind is made up in the matter of a few minutes. When you meet someone, don't come on too strong. Don't over do it. Be confident, and professional. I would rather show up a little over dressed than under dressed. Practice the art of "small talk" for those special occasions when you are on the spot. Try to know enough about the person that you are talking to that you can keep the conversation pointed toward them instead of yourself. Listen more than you talk.

Be Generous

If you are at lunch, offer to pay for the meal.

No hype

Be honest about your ministry. If the conversation gets around to it, share the ways that your ministry is most effective. If you over do it, it will feel to them that they are being approached by a salesman. Don't pretend to be the Messiah. Just be yourself. Sometimes they appreciate transparency.

Grow and develop your strengths

Instead of chasing after people, spend time growing and developing your strengths. Look at the example of our solar system. The greater the mass, the greater the gravity. Develop who you are. It will draw others to you and they will want what you have. The more you grow and develop you, the more doors will open for you.

Develop a "Band of Brothers" list

These are people that you are giving yourself to be in relationship with. It takes time. Actually relationship is spelled T.I.M.E. Give them a call once a month with no strings attached. You are saying to them, "I am not in relationship with you to get anything out of you. What can I do for you?"

Face time

Fellowship meetings and conferences are the greatest source of connections an evangelist can have. Pastors actually get a chance to observe your spirit. However, don't become a pest. Tell pastors that you are available and give them your business card. Beyond that, you might send them a note telling them that you enjoyed seeing them at the fellowship meeting. Don't bring it up beyond that. Trust that the Lord will open the doors that He wants open.

I have found that my meetings have come out of relationship. I know that you have a budget to meet and a schedule to fill...but ***don't just build your calendar. Build relationships!*** The shepherd knows when the time is right for his church. Trust him.

Telephone

Working the telephone is great if you are good on the telephone. Most people find it difficult to find the delicate balance of selling themselves. I strongly suggest that you use other methods first. The telephone is a great follow-up tool.

Don't be pushy

If you are interested in building a ministry, then you understand that you are looking at the future more than the present. If you attempt to force a meeting, you can abort your opportunities for the future. Wait your turn. Be patient.

If you get the pastor on the telephone and he seems to be interested, try to schedule one service. Even a Wednesday night is great. They just want an opportunity to see you in action. Bless the people while you have the open door.

Don't make statements like, "Money is not a problem". There are red flags all over that. I know that you are only trying to remove any obstacles that would make him hesitate, but it makes you look desperate. Any pastor worth his salt knows that money is an important thing. He realizes that every Monday.

Refuse offence

Develop a friendship with no strings attached. Sometimes it is difficult to not get your feelings hurt when they don't ask you to come, especially when you really need a meeting. But don't let yourself go there. Refuse to be defensive. Trust in the Lord that your gift will make a way for you. Take it to your prayer closet and tell God that you want him to bless your gift so you can worship him with it.

Polish and focus your strengths

The bible says that a man's gift will make room for him. Find out what your gift is and spend time developing it. Sharpen your edge to the place that you can make a difference when you do get the opportunity. Some ministries never grow or develop. They have settled and all of their revelation is from a previous move.

Specialize

Churches now are well equipped in most every way. There needs to be a reason for them to ask you to come. They usually need a specialist in some area of ministry. Develop a topic or theme, outreach, the prophetic, training for their staff, families, and youth. The list goes on. A good question to ask yourself, "Why would I ask me to come and minister at my church?"

Show patience and trust the Lord

If a pastor wants you to come and minister at his church, he will ask you. Believe me, he knows you are there. If he does not ask you, the chances are that the time or

circumstances are not right. Just make yourself available and maintain a thick hide. Don't allow offence to cause you to respond in a way that is not professional. That will permanently close the door and damage your reputation.

In the mean time ...

Create ways to serve where you are, even when you don't have a scheduled service.

Use the principle of the woman who anointed Jesus with oil. Jesus said, "*She did what she could*". Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. When God spoke to Moses to go into the ministry, He used what Moses had in his hand. Moses also did what he could, with what he had where he was. God will do the rest.

Use the telephone, internet and personal contact as a means to encourage pastors and churches with no strings attached. God may give you a word that they need at the time. Don't consider what you can get. Rather what you can give.

Maintain a strong prayer and bible reading time.

Make fasting a part of your life.

Attend other people's services, conferences and fellowship meetings.

Product tables in the church

Be sensitive about how much you push product. It is offensive to some people. As a pastor, I feel it is important for our guest to tell about the product that they carry with them, but I am always uncomfortable when a guest spends too much time doing an infomercial about their "stuff".

Keep the pulpit commentary limited to the churches need for ministry. Selling trinkets becomes gimmicky.

KEEP THE PULPIT SALES SEGMENT BRIEF!

Accommodations when visiting churches

If the pastor asks you to stay with them, it may be because of financial concern. If they give you a choice, feel free to voice your preference but submit to what the pastor asks you to do. Do it with the heart of a servant.

Don't complain about the sleeping arrangements, don't complain about the food, don't complain about anything. Show the heart of a servant. Most pastors don't invite complainers back.

Before you check out of the hotel go to the desk and ask to see a copy of the bill so that you can make sure that there nothing is being charged in error.

Do not place any additional charges on your motel bill unless they have been approved in advance by the church.

It is so helpful to have your meeting information in advance. A basic information sheet can help both parties to be in sync.

Information request form

This form is to help our office become better prepared for the upcoming meeting at your church. At your convenience please fill out the applicable portions and return to our offices.

Church Name _____

Pastor's Name (s) _____

Address / City / State / Zip _____

Church telephone / e-Mail _____

Pastor's home telephone number *(For emergency only)* _____

Contact person's name and emergency telephone _____

Dates and times of the services _____

Hotel location and confirmation number where Pastor Edmon will be staying

Please describe the audience that Pastor Edmon will be ministering *(including approximate age group, and spiritual background)*.

The following information sheet is also helpful to the church as they prepare for your arrival. Don't be demanding or high maintenance...especially if you asked them for the meeting!

General Ministry Information from the Traveling Minister

This questionnaire is intended simply to assist your church as you prepare for the revival. Many times the following questions are asked. However, I do not want to put the church under any strain or unreasonable demands. If your church cannot provide these things, please know that they are not required.

Where do you like to stay during the revival?

I like to make this as easy and convenient on the church as possible. If possible, I prefer not to stay with people. An expensive hotel is not necessary. Just something that is clean, and non- smoking.

What do you require financially?

I have never set a financial requirement for ministry, most churches simply receive a love offering and God always meets the need.

Do you need help with your product table?

Yes, I can use help with the product table. I generally need an 8' table and a cloth to cover the product when the table is closed. Usually one person that can become familiar with the product and is good with handling money will be adequate. At the end of each night, they can give the product money to me. If they could be available thirty minutes before and after the service, it would be appreciated.

What kind of microphone do you like to use?

I prefer a lapel microphone, and can usually provide my own mic system if you don't have one, but I can also use a hand held if a lapel is not available.

Do you sing with keyboard or sound track?

Usually I sing worship songs from a keyboard. For the piano sound I prefer a piano, piano/strings mix. If you don't have a good key board, just let me know and I will provide one for the meeting.

What kind of music do you want during ministry time?

I prefer no music while personal ministry is going on. At times I will use my own piano CD during ministry time.

How many ushers will you need at ministry time?

Two ushers for a normal service. If there are a large number of people to minister to, I may need the third.

Do you need anything available to you during the service?

A bottle of water is great.

Do you eat before or after service?

It is difficult to eat right before service. I prefer not to do that unless it is something light.

Do you require the pastor spend time with you during the day?

I do enjoy getting to know the pastor, so spending some time with him is a good thing. I have been to churches in the past that felt that I needed attention or company during the day. I do not. I certainly don't mind spending time with the pastor or church leaders if there is a targeted need. Many times pastors need encouragement or help with problems that they might be experiencing, and I want to be involved in that area as much as possible. However I do not need to be catered to. Unless I am working with the church on some level, I would prefer to spend the time in preparation for the services. Let me repeat, I am available at any time to work with the pastor or staff. That is my pleasure. I feel that I need to be back at the room no later than 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. to prepare for the evening service.

What kind of food/drinks do you like?

I like most everything. For the room I like fruit, water and Gatorade. I like all kinds of restaurants. Everything! Home cooking, Mexican, Chinese...just hold the onions

Ministry information packet

Send a packet with all of your information and references so that they can more fully get acquainted with who you are. In the introductory letter, simply make your ministry available. Don't spend a lot of time bragging about you, don't inflate yourself beyond reality and don't seem too anxious. Here are a few things that you can send to a pastor once you have made your first contact and feel that he has some interest.

- Cover Letter
- Ministry fact sheet
- Press release
- Web site address
- Letters of recommendation

Follow-up on your promotional materials.

Sample of conformation letter

Date
Pastor
Name of church
Address
City, State and Zip

Dear Pastor,

I greet you in the name of the Lord.

I wanted to confirm the dates that we had scheduled for me to minister at your church. The dates I have are _____ for both A.M. and P.M. services. I wanted to let you know that I will be arriving on _____ around 3 p.m. I will give you a cal when I get close.

I have included some posters and bulletins along with a photo for you to use.

Thank you for the opportunity to minister to your people. I am looking forward to it. I believe the presence of the Lord will be in this meeting. If you need me, please don't hesitate to call. God bless you.

In Him,

Your name

Sample letter of thanks

Date
Pastor
Name of church
Address
City, State and Zip

Dear Pastor,

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the opportunity to be with you and your congregation. Your people were so hungry and easy to preach to. You have certainly done a good job as their Shepherd. I hope the meeting was what you felt they needed.

I wanted to say thank you for the offering, meals and hotel. The hospitality of you and your staff was wonderful. Thank you. I hope to see you again soon.

In Him,

What is the ethical code of conduct of a Pastor to an Evangelist?

The ministry of the Evangelist is of great importance to the Body of Christ. In the current climate, it is difficult for an Evangelist to stay on the field full time. Churches have changed the way they operate in many ways. I believe that we must find a way to continue to incorporate this ministry office in our churches. You might consider selecting an Evangelist and sowing into their ministry from your outreach budget for one year. If they were a blessing to your church, recommend them to other Pastors.

Communication

Honor this ministry office by having the courtesy of returning their calls. This is sometimes difficult to do as a Pastor, especially when you are getting a lot of requests to come and preach. I know that I always dread having to tell someone that I cannot book them at this time, but I think that I have done more damage in the past by not responding in a timely way.

When you have scheduled a meeting, be clear about what your needs and expectations are. Remember and understand that this is their calling and service to the Lord. They will desire to be obedient to Him, and your authority, so give them the tools they need to get God's purpose accomplished during their stay.

Do your best to be a blessing to the evangelist in every way possible. Inquire about their needs and any preferences that they might have. They are your guest.

Put your guest in as nice of a hotel as you can afford. Try to provide a welcome basket that says "we are excited you are here" and want to be a blessing. It also sets a tone of hospitality that is very encouraging to the evangelist away from home.

Offering

Since most churches don't have week long revivals today, and most have only one or two services, you should be sensitive about the offering. Your Evangelist may only get those services for the week. He needs a week's salary. Don't pay them by the hour or think "that is a lot of money for one or two nights work" they don't have the opportunity to minister each night of the week, and they need to meet their budget. Be generous...it will always come back to you in abundance.

If your church is small and you may not be able to get enough in the offering to meet the need, you might consider putting up money each month out of your budget to help finance revivals.

The bottom line is that you should do your best and trust the Lord to provide what you can't. Don't feel condemnation when you have done your best.

I believe that it is in the best interest of the revival for the Pastor to receive the offerings each service.

If you have an extended meeting, (that is meetings that are several weeks long), the church should receive a portion of the offering to cover its expenses. This isn't necessary when the meeting is under seven days.

Don't let anyone outside your church fleece your sheep though pulling their own offering for their ministry. However, when you do receive the offering, you as a pastor should place serious emphasis on it. You should never let your guest leave your church in the hole. The time will come that you will greatly regret it. It is better to give him more than he deserves than less. It says something about your faith and manners.

If a ministry will only come with the condition that they can received their own offering and they don't want it to go through your church at all, I would be very hesitant to have them. More times than not those ministries are there to raise offerings and they will pretty much strip your church and be gone. You operate with a generous heart and integrity and guard your sheep from wolves.

The Shepherd is to stay in the driver's seat in everything. Nothing should happen without you as the shepherd of that flock knowing about it.

There is something wrong when an Evangelist demands control, especially when it comes to money. They think it is all about them. Their ministry is spoiled by pride and greed...

Drop them, they will not help or grow your church.

Ethics of a Pastor to other Pastors

Most area pastors are afraid of each other because they feel like they are in competition for the same people. It is unfortunate but true. There are always unstable people who jump from church to church and it is discouraging to a pastor when they leave. If someone leaves a church and comes to yours, you are suddenly a thief and that pastor is hurting. To encourage the spirit of unity, build a relationship with area pastors apart from events that mix congregations. If you have a relationship building with another local pastor, don't try to pull them in to city wide events unless you are encouraging them to be the leader. Some people only want relationships when it is to their benefit ... based on their need at the time. Sometimes other pastors just need a friend. Not someone to use them. Be very slow to try to do events that include several churches in the same close proximity, especially if it benefits you. They don't usually work.

Never, never ask someone to leave their home church and come help you out. I know that sometimes it is very tempting, especially when you know a church has four drummers and you don't even have one that can keep good time, but just pray and let God know your needs. It will always come back and bite you and be a reproach against your ministry. It is also a rough hit when someone else recruits your team. There are always churches that have more to offer, and churches that have a great need. Let God send the sheep where he needs them to be. Maybe that person isn't at that church to be a drummer, maybe there is something God is trying to establish in them that has nothing to do with their talent. Let God send the sheep where he needs them to be. If you do have a need in a certain area, put the word out to other Pastors and let them send someone if they feel they can afford to do without them.

If someone comes to your church from another church in your area, and they attend consecutive weeks, be very wise in how you handle it. If they were key people in their previous church, you should speak with them about their situation and contact their pastor to let him know that they have been attending your church. Don't make excuses. Never ask them to go back. Just let him know that you would never contact someone from another church to proselyte them.

If you are asked by another local pastor to come and minister at their church, there are a couple of things that you must do. Forget that you are a pastor. While you are in his pulpit, you need to brag on and uplift what is happening in his church. Never make comparisons unless you put yourself in the inferior position.

If someone comes up to you while you are ministering at some one else's church and tells how they are going to come and visit your church, make them know that they are always welcome, but that you are excited about the great things that are happening in their church.

Ethics toward Missionaries

Pastors respond to vision. Pastors respond to things being done. They are not just looking to support someone to live abroad. In order for them to encourage their congregations to give they need to be able to tell them what is being accomplished or needs to be accomplished.

If you want support, start doing something that the church is interested in. Many churches want to get behind a project of some type. Give them something that they can feel a part of. You have to do some homework to find out where your supporting church is going. Shape your outreach to give them an access point to your ministry.

Pity may get you an offering, but it will never generate support.

If you receive support from a church, respond with letters and pictures. Churches want to see the impact that their giving is having around the world.

As a church, I think it is beneficial to keep your support limited to an annual commitment. At the end of the year, you have the opportunity to sit down with your staff and consider if the Lord still wants you to support that missionary. You can always extend it, but when the missionary knows that you only have a one year commitment, it keeps them from feeling rejected if your support stops after the year is up. If you feel they are doing a good job, you can extend it for another year.

If a missionary only takes and never gives to our church in some capacity, they will not be a missionary for long.

They should help plan mission trips for your church, especially your youth.

They should help provide training aids for your church to have a better understanding of whom they are supporting.

They should try to connect the church to that particular area of ministry and create new ways that the church can expand and grow.



About the instructor:

Jerry Edmon is called to see and unlock treasure in people, thereby empowering them to reach their highest potential in the context of love and purpose. He is an encourager and enabler.

He has traveled for many years as a full time Evangelist as well as served as pastor of several churches.

Jerry serves on the board of directors for the Independent Assemblies Fellowship. He is the Vice President of Deliverance Temple International and Senior Pastor of the Family Worship Center in Elgin, Texas.

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