

Section 21: Conduct in the House of God and Pastoral Relationships

I. The Church

A. More than a building

1. The church house is not just an ordinary construction. It has been dedicated and designated as God's House.
2. It is a place devoted to the worship and praise of God.
3. It is also known as "the house of prayer."
4. The building may be used for other types of gatherings and serve multiple purposes. One should never forget the primary purpose of the construction, God's house. It is a sacred and holy place, and it serves as a refuge.

B. Care of

1. A genuine love for the upkeep of the church building should be in the heart of true believers.
2. Great blessings are realized from tending to the physical needs of the church plant. God's people should make a conscious effort to keep His House clean.
3. Repairs should be performed when needed. The lawn should be neat. After all it is more than a presidential palace, or a king's castle. It is God's House.
4. Blessings or cursing's from God is directly related to one's attitude towards God's House (Haggai 1:2-14).

C. Rules of Behavior (I Timothy 3:15)

1. House of God should be respected and used for its intended purpose.
2. It is not a three-ring circus, nor is it a playground. It is not set apart for children to run and play in. It is understood that Pentecostal children may tend to be more active in the building after church. This is due to the more emotional style of worship by the Pentecostals and sometimes children try to mimic their parents. However, their activity should be limited. It is still God's House.
3. The walls and pews are not designated to be written on by children or adults. The parents should expect to pay for any damage to the building or its furnishings by their children.
4. Children who cannot behave or keep quiet while sitting by themselves should sit with their parents or other adults. In no case should anyone be allowed to disturb during the course of the worship service.
5. Babies or children who need extra items to keep them quiet and restful should be given quiet objects. Do not allow babies to play with loud rattlers or jingle keys. Souls are at stake. The devil will allow innocent little babies to distract someone who is under conviction.
6. Children should be corrected and/or taken to the nursery if they begin causing disturbances that cannot be settled in the auditorium without further disturbances.
7. Mothers with small children who know they will have to leave the service from time to time should sit near the back. The same goes for those with health problems that require frequent trips to the restrooms or those who must leave early.

8. Parents are responsible to ensure their children behave properly in church. That includes talking, chewing gum, turning around, and staring at others, etc. If the parents neglect this responsibility, it is proper and in order for other adults to correct their children. There is an altar provided for those parents who tell their kids they don't need to mind anybody else and get puffed up if someone corrects their little angel.
9. Those parents whose children must go back and forth to the restroom during services should consider having themselves and their children prayed for. Prayer for them for lack of discipline and prayer for the children in case the problem is health related.
10. After service pick up any messes that might have been created during the course of the service. Take toys and used Kleenexes to the proper places.
11. Mothers with infants should not have to fight off every small child who wants to hold their baby before, during and after service. Those children are too small to care for infants yet beg and torment mothers to hold their little babies.
12. Ushers should be alert to any misconduct during the service and be prepared to correct it.

D. Article of Church Etiquette

Proper credit can not be given to the following list due to the author's lack of knowledge of who the original author might be.

1. COME Never miss church unless it is absolutely necessary. George Washington's pastor said of him, "No company ever kept him from church."
2. COME EARLY. Rushing into church at the last minute is not conducive to true worship.
3. COME WITH YOUR WHOLE FAMILY. "The church service is not a convention that a family should merely send a delegate."
4. TAKE A PLACE TOWARD THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH. Leave the rear seats for those who may come late, and for backsliders, and mothers with children.
5. BE DEVOUT. The church is not a theater or place of amusement. You come to worship God, not to whisper, lounge or sleep. God's house deserves our very utmost reverence.
6. HELP STRANGERS TO FIND AND FOLLOW THE SERVICE. If they have no book share yours with them. Sing! Join in the worship! Don't just sit!
7. ALWAYS – REMEMBER THAT STRANGERS ARE THE GUESTS OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS. Treat them with the same courtesy as you would if they should visit your home.
8. GIVE A GOOD OFFERING TO GOD. God loveth a cheerful giver. Freely ye have received.
9. NEVER RUSH FOR THE DOOR after benediction as though the church were on fire. Speak and be spoken to. Be congenial.

10. NEVER STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS NOT PERFECT.
How lonesome you would feel in a perfect church.

II. Ministerial Respect

A. Various Titles

The various titles that the Scripture uses for the man of God depicts the importance of his call. Some titles reveal his love and care. Other titles reveal his protective nature. A partial list of some Scriptural titles are:

1. Ambassador for Christ – II Corinthians 5:20
2. Angels of the Church – Revelation 1:20
3. Apostles – Luke 6:13, Revelation 18:20, Titus 1:1
4. Defenders of the Faith – Philippians 1:7
5. Elders – I Timothy 5:17, I Peter 5:1
6. Evangelists – Ephesians 4:11, II Timothy 4:5
7. Fishers of Men – Mark 1:17
8. Laborers – Matthew 9:38, I Thessalonians 3:2
9. Lights – John 5:35
10. Men of God – Deuteronomy 33:1, I Timothy 6:11
11. Messengers of the Church – II Corinthians 8:23
12. Messengers of the Lord of Hosts – Malachai 2:7
13. Ministers of God – Isaiah 61:6, II Corinthians 6:4
14. Minister of the Lord – Joel 2:17
15. Ministers of Christ – Romans 15:16, I Corinthians 4:1
16. Ministers of the Sanctuary – Ezekiel 45:4
17. Ministers of the Gospel, Word, New Testament, of the Church, and of Righteousness – Ephesians 3:7, Luke 1:2, II Corinthians 3:6, Colossians 1:24, II Corinthians 11:15
18. Overseers – Acts 20:28
19. Pastors – Jeremiah 3:15, John 21:16-18, Ephesians 4:11
20. Preachers – Romans 10:14, I Timothy 2:7, II Peter 2:5
21. Servants of God – Titus 1:1, James 1:1
22. Servants of the Lord, of Jesus Christ, of the Church – II Timothy 2:24, Philippians 1:1, II Corinthians 4:5
23. Shepherds – Jeremiah 23:4
24. Soldiers of Christ – Philippians 2:25
25. Stars – Revelation 2:1
26. Stewards of God – Titus 1:7
27. Teachers – Ephesians 4:11
28. Watchman – Isaiah 62:6, Ezekial 33:7

B. God's Vessel

1. Unlike other professions, the ministry is not just a mere occupation. It is a calling. God alone can call people into the ministry. Some examples of called men are found

in I Samuel 3:4-10, Isaiah 6:8, Jeremiah 1:5, Acts 13:2, Acts 26 14-18, Romans 1:1, Hebrews 5:4

2. Extreme danger can result to those who speak disrespectfully of God's minister. To speak against a man of God is equivalent to speaking against God! (Exodus 16:8, Numbers 12:1-16, Numbers 16, II Kings 2:23-24).
3. God reveals His plans to the man of God (Amos 3:7, I Corinthians 2:16).

C. To be Respected

1. Laymen should refer to their pastor with respect. The pastor should be addressed by his last name with the appropriate title of respect (brother, sister, elder, etc.)
2. The pastor will be an individual's friend, but he is more than just a friend. He bears the message of salvation, and he will impart words of wisdom and guidance to those who hear him.
3. There will be times one will not understand the actions of the pastor but be assured the pastor has each individual's best interest at heart. He is careful to follow the leading of the Spirit because he must give an account to God for the individuals under his care (Hebrews 13:17).

D. Pastors Need for Relaxation

The article on the next page, from the Texas District United Pentecostal Apostolic Sentinel, gives insight into the subject of relaxation.

III. Conclusion

If saints will treat the Levi (minister) and the house of God properly, God will abundantly bless them (I Kings 17:8-24, Haggai 1:6-9, I Timothy 5:17).

Your PASTOR and his RECREATION

Danny Carpenter

Every pastor enjoys some kind of pastime. Some go hunting, others play ball. Some go fishing, others swim. Some read. Some hike. Some climb. But everyone has some form of recreation.

Recreation is defined as "any play, amusement, pastime, or hobby that is used for refreshment of the mind and body."

Some men may be "workaholics." They seem to work all the time, never breaking for relaxation. If they really do that, they will probably end up in cozy, padded room someday. There are some "workaholics" that know how to work hard while they are working, but still put the brakes on once in a while for a little recreation. Most pastors probably fit that category.

Pastors who do not allow themselves a break are sad, tired men. Pastors who are not able to take a break because of their church's attitude about it are sadder men.

What is your attitude toward your pastor's recreation? If you saw him taking a day off, putting fishing gear in his trunk, or some athletic equipment for a ball game of some kind, would you think he was "goofing off"? Would you feel that he was shirking his duties?

Some pastors wrongly try to hide their recreational habits because they have had members in their churches who thought pastors ought to be "above" the need of recreation.

Understand your pastor's need for recreation and relaxation. Does your pastor have a "day off"? Does he have at least one day that he can call his own? One day that you refuse to call him unless it is an emergency? One day that he can spend with his wife or family? If he doesn't, see to it that he gets one.

For instance, suppose it became understood through the entire church that on Saturday or Monday, no one was to call him unless a real emergency occurred. He would be able to get up at his own leisure, shave when he felt like

it, eat a late breakfast if he wanted to, or maybe plan something special to do, just he and his wife.

Where did the idea come from that pastors were supermen? They are not. Neither was Jesus a "superman." He was hungry. He needed sleep. He actually hid from a crowd of people who needed Him. He was angry. He called His disciples apart for a time of private relaxation, away from the people they served. He was God, but He was also man.

One pastor once told of some regular callers. One member of his church called him early every morning just to say "Praise the Lord." Another called him every night to see if he had been alright during the day, and to say "Good night." On days when he was not home, they would call several members of the church to see if they knew where he was. He could not get away for even a day without several families sounding the alarm.

Perhaps these comments will help:

1. When your pastor participates in some kind of recreation, he is not wasting time. He is refreshing his mind and body. He will preach better longer as a result.

2. Encourage him to take some time off regularly. He needs it. His family needs it. He will feel better about doing it if he knows you understand.

3. Demonstrate your understanding. Do you know what recreation he enjoys? Next time you buy him a gift, buy something he can use in his hobby or recreation.

