

40. PASTOR'S ETHICS

'Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners (Greek: *Ethos*).

I Corinthians 15:33.

Manners = *Ethos* in Greek = **Ethics** = proper Christian behaviour to God's people.

Nobody can destroy you but you. People can lead you to self-destruct.

You can put yourself in a spiritual position for God to reward you. Slander destroys ethics.

1. **Don't visit people of another church.** Do you want other pastors stealing your people? Do unto others, as you'd have them do to you. There is a God in heaven Who can build your church. Don't build your church on proselytising. Build it on soul winning. People will be loyal to you if you are loyal to your pastor. 'What you sow you reap.' Galatians 6:7.
2. **I won't make an appointment** with a member of another church **without a letter from their Pastor.**
I'm not going to be unethical. There's a God of justice in heaven who can reward you for your ethics or discipline you for your greedy lack of ethics. You'll be blessed if you are blessable.
God can send people your way. Do you want other pastors chasing your people?
3. **I will not hire someone from another church unless I have permission from his Pastor to talk with him.**
When an Assistant Pastor or a member leave a church and complain about how bad the pastor was, you assume the Pastor was hard to work for. You often wrongly assume the fight was the Pastor's fault. The sports world is more ethical than some pastors. You should stick with the preacher and think the preacher is right. (I Timothy 5:19).
4. **I will not hire a worker without a good reference from his former employer.**
Most employers will trust the former employer more than you do. Get a reference for everybody you employ. This stops difficult workers from wrecking your church.
5. **I will cut ties when I leave a church.** If you phone your old people they'll compare Pastors.
6. **I will not talk to a prospective Bible College student at another church if they have a Bible College of their own.** The pastor may want him to attend their Bible College.
7. **I will treat my predecessor ethically.**
This will get God's blessings. If you take over an existing church you get your predecessor's **buildings and people**. Never criticise the previous pastor. Many of your people still want to love the previous pastor. I don't have to be on people's number one love list. If they want to love others more than me, that's OK, as long as they love me a bit.
Church growth depends more on a pastor's ethics than on outreach programmes. I do not require others to treat me with perfect ethics because I want to be right with God. You cannot be right with God and wrong with His people.
You better **keep your heart right** and **your relations with the people right**.

'Be not deceived evil communication corrupts good manners.' I Corinthians 15:33.

Preachers should try to get right with each other. People should try to reconcile with each other.

The future of your ministry depends more on your ethics and manners than on your oratory.

What he did to me is between him and God and it can't effect my ministry, but what I do to him can affect my ministry. If other pastors visit my members, I don't get upset about it.

If you love someone and they leave you, can you turn the tap of love off? 'Love never faileth'. Love people who leave your church. They helped build this church with their tithes and work.

There's more to the ministry than preaching and being against Hollywood and Rock music.

'Love your enemies, Bless them that curse you; Do good to them that hate you.' Matthew 5:44.

You are likely to have a long and happy ministry if you try to be ethical, love your people and your enemies. Your future in the ministry depends on your ethical behaviour to others.