

**Ministerial Code of Ethics**  
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**Preamble:**

As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to penetrate the darkness of this world with the brilliant light of the Word of God (John 1:1), ordained through His grace by those He has called before me, and filled with a love for those believers who fear the edge of where the light meets the darkness, I enthusiastically embrace the following ethical guideposts. I accept these principles as my plumb line (Amos 7:7,8), in order that my ministry would be found pleasing and fruitful to my Lord and Savior, that my service would be beneficial and above reproach in my community, and that my life be a living testimony to the miracle of salvation by the grace of God through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

**My Responsibilities to God:**

I will dedicate myself to “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5), striving to protect the precious gift of salvation.

I will nurture my relationship with Christ through the daily spiritual disciplines of prayer, reading Scripture, and Bible study.

I will constantly seek the Divine opportunities, given each of us, to share my testimony in joyful obedience to the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20).

**My Responsibilities to Self:**

I will remember that I am a sinner saved by grace, called into the ministry by my Creator. I will spare myself from great despair by remaining humble and relying on Christ for any achievements I bring to the Kingdom (Phil. 4:13).

I will be a responsible steward of my finances, primarily by accepting God’s apportionment for my life, tithing regularly, limiting debt, paying my bills on time, and responding to the needs of special offerings.

I will maintain integrity in my speech, never plagiarizing, exaggerating, gossiping, or promising more than I can deliver.

I will practice good physical and emotional habits through a balance of diet, exercise, proper rest, and good hearty laughter.

I will acknowledge my body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and “flee immorality” because “the immoral man sins against his own body.”(1 Cor. 6:18).

## **My Responsibilities to My Family:**

I will protect my marriage by exercising every caution and respecting sound boundaries in my actions. I will not put myself in situations where I am alone with another woman. My computer will be open to the inspection of an accountability partner. I will strive for a true Biblical relationship with my wife (Eph. 5:25-27).

I will make sure my children and grandchildren know I love them, by spending time with them, encouraging them, disciplining them, and equipping them for the Christian life.

I will engage my family in personal evangelism and missions work. I will teach and prepare my family for a Christian life that is not founded in comfort and safety, but in the joyous toil of righteousness and service to others.

## **My Responsibilities to My Congregation:**

I will always choose my ministries based on the Lord's calling, rather than salary.

I will lead, not follow, when the Lord has called me to fulfill His vision.

I will devote adequate time, spiritual preparation, and practical preparation, so as to present God's Word in a Biblically sound, theologically correct, and clearly articulated manner.

I will "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" (Mat. 6:33) when dealing with strife in the church. Meaningless tradition and legalism will not influence my positions.

I will focus on the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20) by placing great value on discipleship and evangelism. "...And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you..." (1 Pet. 3:14,15) Every believer should know the joy of introducing heaven to the human heart.

I will seek the Lord's discernment in recognizing and developing Spirit-led men and women for leadership roles in the body.

I will acknowledge that availability is often more important than ability. This principle will provide the basis for balance in my administrative, counseling, preaching, teaching and pastoral scheduling.

I will provide Biblical counseling to anyone who is in need, regardless of their beliefs or actions. I will keep strict confidentiality except where this knowledge would endanger anyone, or is required by law. I will accept my limitations and prayerfully refer any person to a qualified Biblical counselor for further treatment.

I will lead by example in showing love and nurture to "even the least of them." (Mat. 25:35-40)

### **My Responsibilities to My Ministry Partners:**

I will create and/or maintain a system of accountability among the ministers with whom I serve. In the event of conflict, disappointment, or misconduct, resolution and restoration will be emphasized and conducted in Biblical order (Mat. 18:15-17).

I will strive to provide clear ministry descriptions with attainable expectations, complemented with frequent feedback, constructive criticism, and encouragement.

I will conduct my ministry in a transparent manner focusing on the vision and mission the Lord has called me to fulfill, void of any hidden agendas, and I will expect the same of my ministry partners.

I will celebrate the calling of a ministry partner. I will be honest and kind regarding any correspondence necessary for his/her change in ministry.

### **My Responsibilities to Fellow Ministers:**

I will accept and appreciate all Bible teaching ministers of the Gospel for their contribution to the Kingdom of Heaven. I will cooperate with them whenever possible.

I will desist from viewing another minister as competition.

I will refrain from disparaging comments or gossip about another minister.

I will, if necessary, contact the appropriate officials of a church when I have factual knowledge of serious misconduct by a fellow minister.

### **My Responsibilities to the My Community:**

I will obey the laws of my government unless they require my disobedience to the law of God.

I will promote efforts and organizations that support public morality, and at the same time I will oppose those elements that are destructive to Christianity and family through appropriate expression and social action.

I will promote the Christian worldview with a voice in the public arena and service to the community whenever possible.