MINISTERIAL ETHICS AND ETIQUETTE

Elder (Apostle) Harry L. Jackson
Christ Foundation Ministries, Inc.
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www.christfoundationchurch.com
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Elder (Apostle) Harry L. Jackson was born in Rochester, NY, on July 2, 1962, and served in the United States Army from 1981-1989. After leaving the Army, he resided in Germany for 11 years, and accepted Jesus Christ in November 1991 in the Germany Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ, where he served until 1999, first as an Usher, and then in Audio Ministry, Sound Reinforcement, Evangelism, his local, district and Jurisdictional Music Departments, as a choir member, psalmist, worship leader, and musician, provided computer support, and helped to establish a ministry in a refugee camp in Germany. On March 5, 1995, he answered the call of God to preach the Gospel, and received his Ministerial License in October 1999, upon his return to the United States. He was ordained as an Elder in February 2005, and as a Pastor in June of 2007. Apostle Jackson holds Associate degrees in Christian Ministry, Business Administration, Computer Programming, and Web Design, and will pursue his Bachelor's in 2013. Bro. Jackson served as Professor of Homiletics at United Christian Ministry Institute Rochester, New York Campus, from 2010-2012, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Christian Ministry in 2010 for his work there. He, along with his wife, Pastor Cheryl L. Jackson founded Christ Foundation Ministries, Inc. in 2007, and after serving three years under the oversight of Apostle Bernetha Mouzon of Global Dominion International Network, with whom he cofounded ECAPS (East Cost Apostolic and Prophetic Summit), was commissioned and ordained as an Apostle on September 16, 2012.
The Basis of Ministry

Ministry is based on three premises:

• A call from God. (Ex. 3:10-12, Jer. 1:4-10, 17)

• A commitment to God. (Jn. 4:34, 1 Cor. 6:20)

• A commitment to serving and ministering to people. (Matt. 9:36)
Having the Right Attitude Towards Ministry

Matthew 20:21-29-

20: Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.
21: And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.
22: But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.
23: And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.
24: And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.
25: But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.
26: But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;
27: And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:
28: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
29: And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.
Minister (Strong’s # 1247 Gr.) diakŏnia, dee-ak-on-ee´-ah; attendance (as a servant, etc.); aid (official), minister (-ing, -tration, , -try), office, relief, service (-ing). diakŏnŏs, to run on errands; an attendant, i.e. a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); spec. a Christian teacher and pastor (tech. A deacon or deaconess)-deacon, minister, servant.
Church Myths Concerning Ministry

**Myth #1:** One must have a “title” in order to have ministry.

**The Truth:** There are no titles in the church, but functions. Although God does call certain ones to occupy leadership positions in the church (ie. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers) what one does in the church does not indicate that one is entitled to a place of superiority or importance over his brothers and sisters, but rather, is given greater responsibility. (Luke 12:47-48, James 3:1)
Church Myths Concerning Ministry

**Myth #2:** Those who occupy the pulpit are somehow higher, better, or more spiritual than others.

**The Truth:** The pulpit is *not* a place of exaltation, but of *service*. God has placed us there to see (to) the needs of His people. (1 Peter 5:1-4)
Church Myths Concerning Ministry

**Myth #3:** It is wrong to aspire to leadership in the church.

**The Truth:** It is biblically acceptable to aspire to a position of leadership in the church.

1 Timothy 3:1 - “This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.”

**Bishop** (1 Tim. 3 1-7) (Strong’s # 1984(5) Gr.) ἐπίσκοπος, overseer.

However, the following conditions must be met...
Motives for Ministry

• Our reasons for aspiring to a ministry position must be Godly ones. We must desire God’s will above our own. (Matt. 26:42)

• We must be willing to submit to Godly church leadership, and endure God’s building process to enable us to carry the anointing (gifts + Christlike character = power) that He has placed on our lives. (1Tim. 3:6)

• We must be sure that God has called us to a place of leadership in the church. It is dangerous and presumptuous to attempt to step into a ministry office that God has not called us to. (Heb. 5:4)
1 Peter 5:1-4

1: The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3: Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4: And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
Ministers Are to Set the Example

1 Timothy 4:12-15-
12: Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
13: Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
14: Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
15: Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Peter 5:2-3-
2: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
3: Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

So a minister must therefore be a servant.
What is Ethics?

**ETHICS**- having to do with right and wrong. Good behavior and conduct.

**ethics, n.** 1. A system of moral principles. 2. The branch of philosophy dealing with right and wrong and the morality of motives and ends. *(Random House Webster’s Dictionary)*
The Basis of Ethics:

• Christian ethics is based on the knowledge of God. Without the love of God, true ethical behavior is impossible.

• Ethical behavior cannot be imposed (forced) on us. It must come from within.
Starting Points for All Ethical Behavior:

• We should learn to look over the mistakes of others as we would have them to do ours.
• Relationships between ministers must be sound.
• There is a direct relationship between the life of the minister and his or her relationships with other ministers, laity, and even unbelievers.
Therefore…

The starting point for ministerial ethics is found in being BORN AGAIN.
Ministers, like other professionals, are grouped together in the eyes of the public.
Ministers Must…

• Respect the ministries (and pulpits) of others.

• Stay out of the internal affairs of other churches.

• Never perceive another minister as a threat to one’s ministry.

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”
- Amos:3:3

Brother-and sister-lieness, respect, and professional courtesy means that ministers do not discuss other ministers and their families with members.
What is Etiquette?

**Etiquette**- socially correct behavior and good manners.

*et-i-quette*  *n.*  conventional requirements for proper social or professional behavior. *(Random House Webster’s Dictionary)*
Ethics speaks to the inward condition, while Etiquette deals with outward behavior.
Examples of Unethical Behavior

- Lying About Credentials
- Plagiarism
- Misuse of Church Funds/ Property
- Improper Relationships With Members/ Fellow Ministers
- Hostility/ Indifference towards Fellow Ministers
- Involvement in Other Churches’ Affairs
Etiquette and Ministry

• Like the military officer, the minister must never find him/herself guilty of “conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.” (see 1 Tim. 3:1-7)

• The minister must never forget that he or she must be on guard against every temptation that could come up against him or her.

• Many ministers have lost their ministries because of the “Death Trap.”
What is “The Death Trap?”

1. Sex
2. Money
3. Pride

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” - 1Cor:10:12:
"The servant of God who shifts from "God Said!" to "did God REALLY say?" AUTOMATICALLY becomes the servant of satan. No exceptions."

Genesis 3:1-5:
1. Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
2. And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
3. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
4. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
5. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
Professional Courtesy in the Pulpit

• The pulpit should never be used as a battleground, or to correct the behavior of any one individual. (see 2 Tim. 2:24-25)

• It is considered a general courtesy for preachers to listen to other preachers when they speak.

• Plagiarism (taking and using another person’s material) is a no-no. It is another word for STEALING. One should at least make mention of the source of the information.

• When one is asked to participate in a service (i.e. read scripture, pray, preach, sing) one should stand up, do EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE ASKED TO DO, and SIT DOWN. God is not the author of confusion. The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet. You CAN help it! (see 1 Cor. 14:32-33)
CONTACT INFORMATION

Harry L. Jackson
2123 Titus Avenue
Rochester, New York 14622

E-Mail: christfoundation@gmail.com

Web: www.christfoundationchurch.com

Phone: (585) 305-2339

For ministry requests, please see our “Ministry Request Form” at the CFM Website.