

PULPIT ETHICS AND ETIQUETTE

(Conducting Public Worship)

I. Preparing for the Work of the Ministry

According to Watchmen Nee "to one who does the work of the Lord, his personal life matters much with respect to his work. What he is in his character, habit, and conduct is essential to his being used of God." In 1 Timothy 3, the Apostle Paul spends the entire third Chapter addressing the "17 Qualifications of Church Officers" with regards to character and conduct. If one's personal life, character and conduct are not in line with the word of God, his ministering will be ineffective in the pulpit. For the purpose of this seminar, we are going to focus on a few basics for exhorters and ministers. In 1 timothy 4, the Apostle Paul encourages young Timothy to put the brethren in remembrance of these things:

A. Be a good minister of Jesus Christ nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. (1 Tim. 4:6-11)

B. Be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith. (1 Tim 4:12)

C. Give attendance to reading, exhortation, to doctrine (1 Tim. 4:13-16)

D. Neglect not the gift that is in thee

E. Meditate on these things (reading, exhortation & doctrine)

F. Take heed unto thyself, and unto thy doctrine; continue in them

G. Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren. The elder women as mothers; the younger women as sisters, with all purity (1 Tim. 5:1-2)

II. Purpose of the Work of the Ministry

A. For the perfecting of the saints (Eph. 4:11-16)

B. For the work of the ministry

C. For the edifying of the Body of Christ

III. Pulpit Protocol

Pulpit decorum is a learned behavior that must become an inherent part of our ministering. Of course it is impossible to list all the do's and don'ts of pulpit decorum, thereof we will focus on a few essential points:

A. Consider the demographics (age, race, culture, etc.) of your audience.

B. Always give honor to whom honor is due. (1 Pet 2:13-17)

C. Preach what you have been taught and believe. (Jas 4:11(ref m))

D. Minister from the given theme or topic and stay within your time limit.

E. Avoid using slanderous words - its poor taste to slander. (Jas 4:11 (ref m))
Never slander: 1. Your Church; 2. Your Pastor or member of the clergy; 3. Your former Pastor; 4. Another Christian denomination or preacher by name. (Mark 9:38-41)
This only weakens the Body of Christ, not to mention your Creditability. This can also be offensive to visiting saints from other denominations.

F. Dress appropriately.

G. Practice good hygiene.

H. Speak clearly and use correct grammar.

I. Avoid excessive movement and/or talking needlessly.

J. Make sure your speech is plain so that all members are able to comprehend.
(1 Cor. 2:1-4)

K. Avoid expressing your personal, professional or ministerial grievances across the pulpit.

L. Never accept an invitation to speak at another church without the consent of your pastor and the host pastor. (Acts 15: 23-28)