

Global Association of Theological Studies

# Ministerial Ethics

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## Foreword

This resource resulted from bringing together the writings of three individuals: K.A. Prempeh, Terry Baughman, and John E. Klemm. It has been a joy to work with these three men and see this project come together. It is our prayer that this book will bless many Bible school students and those who read these lessons. In an age where many focus on bigger and better at all cost, it is refreshing to read and be reminded of the value and benefits of spiritual leaders who practice ministerial ethics.

Serving with joy,

Nick Sisco  
GATS Representative, Africa Region

## A Brief Overview of the Authors...

**Kwasi Adjei Prempeh** began his ministry in 1978 and graduated from the United Pentecostal Church College of Bible in 1979. The Reverend Prempeh has pastored seven churches and held numerous national positions in the UPCI-Ghana. He was first appointed presbyter for Eastern Region B in 1983 and served until 1986. Between 1991 and 1999, he served as the elected national secretary and assumed the office of assistant superintendent in 1999–2001. Since 1995, he has been also an instructor at African Centre for Theological Studies, the Bible college for UPCI-Ghana.

**Terry R. Baughman** is lead pastor of Life Church, Gilbert, Arizona. He also serves as administrative dean and an instructor for Arizona School of Ministry. He was an instructor at Christian Life College, Stockton, California, for nineteen years, where he served as executive vice president from 2003–2009. He earned a Bachelor

of Arts in Theology from Christian Life College in 1977 and received a Master of Arts in Exegetical Theology in 1999 from Western Seminary in San Jose, California. A minister with the United Pentecostal Church International since 1976, he has evangelized throughout the Southwest, pastored Truth Center in Canyon, Texas, and founded Worship and Word – the Northwest Church in Peoria, Arizona, and The Pentecostals of Pleasanton, California.

**John E. Klemin** was a teacher of the Word and held various leadership positions. He pastored in the UPCI's Western District (California), served as the district youth president, and later traveled as a camp and seminar speaker. He also pastored in Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. His passion for teaching and leadership led him to Conquerors Bible College where he served as president. John Klemin was also a missionary to Argentina and United Kingdom.

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## Lesson 1

# An Overview

### KEY VERSES

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13, NKJV)

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

After this lesson, students should be able to

- Value the importance of the Christian ministry
- Define *ethics* and *ministerial ethics*
- Recognize the differences in the gifts and ministry of God's ministers
- Know that unhealthy situations can occur between ministers because of the differences in their gifts and ministry
- Realize why ministerial ethics is needed

### WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

### INTRODUCTION

Webster's dictionary defines *ethics* as (1) the study of standards of conduct and moral judgment; (2) the system or code of morals of a particular person, religion, group, or profession.

The *Advanced Learner's Dictionary* defines *ethics* as a system of moral principles, rules of conduct.

Ministerial ethics, therefore, means a system of moral principles, rules of conduct, or standards of conduct and moral judgment for ministers. In other words, ministerial ethics deals with the things ministers should do and the things ministers should not do.

## THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Christian ministry is ordained by God for a special purpose in His kingdom (Exodus 40:12-15; I Peter 2:5, 9; John 15:16). The ministry consists of a family of people called by God for special service to Christ and His flock.

### **The ministry as ordained by God is**

1. The noblest work on earth. No profession can compare to it
2. Aimed at nurturing the flock and leading them to win other lost souls to Christ (Jeremiah 23:4; John 21:15-17)
3. Spiritual and holy (John 4:24; I Peter 1:16)
4. Leading in the warfare against the devil and his host of demons (Ephesians 6:12)

## DIFFERENCES OF MINISTERS AND THEIR MINISTRIES

Although ministers must be spiritual, they should remember that they are also human. Every human grouping, including the ministry, is made up of individuals with different characteristics. Each of them thinks, feels, and responds to certain situations in different ways. Their understanding, needs, desires, likes, and dislikes differ from person to person.

Among ministers, God gives different ministries and spiritual gifts. Since they all function in different ways according to their natural temperaments, and ministries, and spiritual gifts, diversity is bound to be in the lives of ministers.

Evangelists do not function like pastors. Prophets exercise their ministries in a way that is different from teachers and apostles. Each individual conducts his or her ministry in a unique manner.

These differences are recognized by the Lord in Scripture (Romans 12:4-8; I Corinthians 12:12-26). But in some situations, this diversity tends to breed misunderstandings and even conflict, as it happened in the Corinthian church (I Corinthians 3:3-9). This unhealthy situation must be checked to preserve the unity of the ministry and the church. Some form of control must be put on ministers to enable them to become unified and effective.

## **ETHICS—THE TOOL TO CONTROL MINISTERIAL DIFFERENCES**

To avoid conflict among individual patterns of ministry, some rules of conduct, a system of moral principles or standards of conduct and moral judgment that ministers agree upon and adhere to, must be in place. These rules must be seen as the standard pattern or style of the ministry that each one judges himself or herself by. Ministerial ethics serves as a guide and must be allowed to govern the conduct of everyone in the ministry.

In this textbook, ministerial ethics will be divided into two parts:

1. Personal/professional ethics: lessons 1-13
2. Pastoral ethics: lessons 14-17

## **BENEFITS OF MINISTERIAL ETHICS**

Ministerial ethics is very important for many reasons. As a system:

1. It organizes the ministers into a team.
2. It unites the efforts of ministers into productive activities.
3. It helps to achieve the objectives and goals of the ministry.
4. It helps ministers to concentrate on achieving the purpose of the church.
5. The presence of the Holy Spirit manifests in the ministry and produces signs and wonders, as unity becomes the hallmark of the ministry.
6. The ministry and the church become strong and expanding.



7. Attention is focused on progress instead of conflicts.
8. Trust, openness, and love become the characteristics of the ministry.

## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

1. What is the meaning of *ethics*?

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2. In simple terms, define *ministerial ethics*.

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3. Who ordained the Christian ministry? Give one Scripture reference to support your view.

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4. Ministers are both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. What is the purpose of the Christian ministry?

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6. Why does God give different gifts and ministries to His ministers?

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7. What Scripture verses recognize the differences in the gifts and ministry of God's ministers?

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8. What unhealthy situation occurs sometimes among ministers because of the differences in their gifts and ministry?

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9. How can these unhealthy situations be avoided?

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10. For our study, in what parts would ministerial ethics be divided?

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11. List five reasons why ministerial ethics is important.

- A. 

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- B. 

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- C. 

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- D. 

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- E. 

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