

BEHAVIOURAL ETIQUETTES FOR WORKERS & MINISTERS

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INTRODUCTION

- Dearly beloved, we are here today to discuss and learn from some observed behavioural issues that do not speak well of us as believers, workers and ministers.
- This is not to condemn any of us, and no one should feel condemned. It is for us to learn so that we can begin to do things right.
- May God help us.

DEFINITION OF ETIQUETTE

- Etiquette is a **code of polite conduct**, which if **practiced properly makes you less likely to offend or annoy people** — and you can even charm them.
- Customs or **unwritten rules governing behaviour regarded as correct or acceptable** in social or official life
- It is not just about table manners in fancy restaurants, but rather expected **behaviors that show respect**, and meant to make everyone feel comfortable.
- Etiquette aligns with 1Tim 3:15: “...**that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to BEHAVE THYSELF...**”.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT OF ETIQUETTE (1 of 2)

“”Let all things be done **decently** and **in order**" - 1Cor. 14:40.

- **Decently** - This emphasizes acting in a way that is honorable, respectful, and culturally sensitive.
- **In Order** - This highlights the need for structure, planning, and organization in how things are done.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT OF ETIQUETTE (2 of 2)

- **Beyond Worship** - While 1Cor. 14:40 is often applied to church settings, its principle of order and properness extends to all aspects of life, promoting productivity, reducing stress, and aligning with a sense of purpose.
- **God's Nature** - The emphasis on order reflects a belief that God operates with purpose and structure, and that reflecting that in our actions is a way of honoring Him.
- **Avoiding Chaos** - The phrase suggests that chaos can be detrimental and that a lack of structure can create confusion and make it harder to focus on what is truly important.

EXAMPLES OF ETIQUETTE ISSUES IN CHURCH

(1 of 3)

- **Struggling/fighting/striving for food and drinks** at events, whether church or social events
- **Struggling/fighting/striving for food packs not meant for you.** E.g., Workers fighting for Ministers' packs, Ministers fighting for Pastors' packs
- **Serving with an entitlement mindset.** E.g., asking that palliatives be kept for you even when you are vacationing abroad and not physically around

EXAMPLES OF ETIQUETTE ISSUES IN CHURCH

(2 of 3)

- **Being dishonest about your personal information just to collect more gifts.** For example, writing your names in different ways in multiple departments to make it look like they are different persons
- **Collecting more than your fair share/hoarding of gifts and depriving other deserving members from getting theirs**
- **Openly disobeying the Ushers or Ministers' instructions**
- **Shouting at/using abusive languages at Church members**

EXAMPLES OF ETIQUETTE ISSUES IN CHURCH

(3 of 3)

- **Pestering other members for financial assistance, while by-passing established Welfare Department's protocols**
- **Running after event organisers for monies/honorarium promised, not giving room for it to be properly handled**
- **Serving with an expectation of monetary rewards from the Church**
- **In fact, not giving your best service if there is no monetary rewards attached or will not be noticed/seen by APICR or Parrish Pastor**

SOME ADVICE FOR WORKERS AND MINISTERS ABOUT ETIQUETTE (1 of 2)

- **Don't do God's work expecting reward from men** because God alone is your rewarder.
- **Please be patient, avoid haste** and do not give a wrong impression about yourself. Don't let your emotions embarrass you.
- **Practise "...it's better to give than to receive"** by allowing others to be served before you. Know that it doesn't speak well of you to be seen struggling/striving/fighting for food or drinks.

SOME ADVICE FOR WORKERS AND MINISTERS ABOUT ETIQUETTE (2 of 2)

- **Please obey instructions and directives from servants of God** knowing that when you do, you are obeying God.
- **Plan ahead, anticipate that an event could take longer than planned;** if practicable, eat a little before leaving home and do not give room to the devil.
- **Make allowance for genuine mistakes.** Be mindful that your conduct/behaviour do not become a source of offense to others.
- **Don't be a source of strife, be a peacemaker wherever you are.**

Q&A/Discussions

Thank You