**BMi SALTS COURSE**

**Ethics**

**Practical Aspects**

Ethics = Ministry Manners

l. Ethics is an outworking of

 a) Our love for one another; 1 Corinthians 13; John 15:9-13; 1 John 4:17-21, 5:23

 b) Authority and submission - the authority delegated to us and our submission to those over us in the Lord and one another. Luke 7:2-10; Ephesians 5:18-21

 c) Doing things decently and in order; l Corinthians 14:33,40

 d) Being a servant; Mark 9:33-37.

 e) Our integrity; our submission to God’s word.

2. Practical aspects of ministry involvement in the church

a) Participation in ministry is a temptation to pride

 • Wait to be asked to participate in church leadership. Luke 10:1 Gk= *anadeiknumi* —to appoint, to show clearly, to exhibit, to reveal, to appoint to a position of service. Be willing to assume responsibility and make yourself available, but do not ‘push’ or manipulate situations to find a position. If you have to ‘push’ you are not ready. “A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.” Proverbs 18:16 NKJV

 • You may believe you have a word to preach, which you can share with your pastor. It is best to pray and trust God that He can speak to your leaders.

 • If you believe you have a ‘word’ for someone - first pray and if there is an opportunity, share with the pastor/leader. Do not interrupt the flow of a meeting.

b) If you have a prophetic word to bring in the church, remember you are accountable for that gift. This is not to dampen enthusiasm for operating the gifts, but to recognise the seriousness of such utterings. If it is for a specific person it need not be given in the context of the meeting, check with the pastor/ leader first.

c) If you see a need offer (ask, not presume) to fill it. Do it without complaint, promptly and to the best of your ability.

d) Rejoice with those who are appointed, promoted or asked to minister, as you will probably be tempted to grumble about or find fault with them. Envy and jealousy are not attitudes that can be tolerated in the body of Christ. Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45.

e) If you are asked to relinquish any area you are involved in, or leading, do it willingly from a pure heart, resisting the temptation to sin. If you do not agree with the decision, your only responsibility is to pray. God is our avenger.

f) In the process of counsel you are informed of a matter that is confidential, you must hold that confidentiality. It is wise to tell people that speak inappropriately that they should not continue as you

 will need to present the information to your leaders. On occasion it may be need to be referred to a pastor/leader or a report made. Ecclesiastes 3:7b

g) Seek the counsel of those in authority over you. Don’t go outside the authority structure as the results will commonly be divisive. Matthew 7:6

h) Before public ministry check with the pastor/leader re anything you need to know, e.g. time limits, handovers, etc. Be open about what you feel God wants you to do and obedient to any suggestions/requests. Be gracious and helpful not overbearing or a ‘know it all’. We are to minister life and grace, not ‘what we know’.

 If you are working with musicans/singers, be sensitive to what they can or cannot play/sing and change arrangements to adapt to their expectations and abilities. Check any signals you may be expected to use in leading.

 Be appreciative, thankful and encouraging from the pulpit (especially when visiting another church) - you are being given the opportunity to minister.

 Enthusiastically attend any prayer meeting before the service.

 If there is any feedback from your ministry - good or bad, commit it to the Lord, and if necessary, make changes. Learn from experience and mistakes.

i) Be careful what you say to people who approach you after a service (especially when ministering in another church), often it is the ‘problem’ people or those looking for a ‘word’ (especially if they don’t like what they have already been counselled by their leaders). Listen for the types of questions and if appropriate refer them to their own pastor/leader. Answers to ‘what do you think’, ‘believe’ questions or any critical comments on their leaders are examples of what to avoid.

j) lf you are invited to do any ministry outside your local church, check with your pastor or leader before confirming any acceptance.

k) Be friendly and courteous at all times, if you are out with a team, mingle with others apart frm the Leadership Team.

3. When away with a team

a) Remember you are a member of a team with its attendant responsibilities.

b) Submit to the team leadership; and if you are the leader - lead.

c) Do not go beyond your set guidelines - especially time.

d) If you are billeted :

 - Spend quality time with your hosts, politely excusing yourself if you need to prepare.

 - Offer to help with any food preparation.

 - Help clear the table and clean-up. If you are unaccustomed to doing dishes, look on it as a skill you need to develop!

 - Take your own bath towel.

 - Don’t spend too long in the bathroom.

 - Be thankful for the hospitality shown you.

 - You may wish to contribute towards supper, etc. by taking cake, biscuits with you.

 - Leave your room neat and tidy - dispose of any rubbish.

 - Pay your own way, check beforehand what the procedure is especially concerning petrol. There is a financial cost to leadership as well.