

SELF MANAGEMENT

Until you manage yourself, you cannot manage your family nor the Church of God. Your life is an epistle of Christ, known and read by all. II Cor. 3:2 the people around you knows you cannot pretend for so long. As ambassadors of Christ, a set standard of living or code of conduct is expected of us. We have been made a Spiritual salt to the world. A salt adds taste to a sauce. The world we are is the sauce. Therefore, let your life add taste of goodness of sweet savour to a tasteless world.

But until you purge yourself and fully consecrate your life to God and his work, you might not be a vessel of honour for the master's use. 2 Tim 2: 19-21. And until you become a vessel of honour, real success or fulfillment in life will elude you.

“Examine yourself, known ye not yourselves”

II Cor: 13:5

You have to examine yourself and actions at all time to avoid God examining you. Watch what you preach, say or do. Let way of life be an encouragement to people around you. “Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood? Acts 20:28-30.

Let us see two principal elements this counsel to the elders of the Church at Ephesus.

“Take heed therefore unto yourself and to all the flocks...”

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves”

It takes the anointing to draw souls to the Church but it takes character to hold them. Your charisma may brings souls to the Church but without a straight of character, they will leave. It is important that every leaders should first teach and organize himself before he can successfully manage the Church of God you have known that the business of ministry committed unto you was purchased with the blood of Jesus. You also have had to know that a foundation shall be laid. Therefore everybody should take heed on what or she does or preaches or teaches for we shall one day give account to the owner of the business.

“This is a true saying, if a man desires the office of a bishop, he desired a good work.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to wine, no strikers, not a brawler, not covetous.

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children subjection with all gravity.

(“For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?)) not a

novice lest being lifted up with pride he falls into the condemnation of the devil” 1 Tim.3: 1-6.

The scripture is a mirror for every leader of the Jesus Christ. Through it, one will examine his or herself. Do not sweep any identified

Misdemeanor inside the carpet or one day it will find you out. Do a total sanitation in your life. Let the old man go and allow the new man take over the steering of your life.

You are being closing watch by both believers. They know of the standard of life expected of you. If you think they do not know, then you have made the greatest mistake of your life. Better put things asunder of the brethren. Let us point out or refresh our memory on vital things we should take note of so as to succeed in Church management

1. A leader must live an honest and transparent life.

“yea know from the first day that I came to Asia, after what manner I have been with you all season” Act20: 18.

A honest and transparent life breeds trust and confidence in the heart of the flocks. Without a life of trust, no commitment of time nor resources from any body to you nor to the Church.

2. A leader must lead by example

He is the pathfinder. He is the image and likeness of Christ being seen. A leader must show commitment to the course he wants others to follow. He must lead the way in all things serving the Lord with many tears and temptations which befall me by the lying in wait of the Jews. And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you but have showed you and have through you publicly and from house to house.

Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks repentance towards God and faith toward our Lord Jesus” Act 20: 19-21.

3. A leader must be humble. Avoid Pride. It will price you out of the hand of God and out of your channel of blessing. It will lead you to reproach, shame and failure.

4. Avoid covetousness and Selfishness let nothing good be Kept back from the sheep of flock (Your own children begotten in the Lord).

You that preach that men should Love and give. Have you shown Love nor given to others even From the little you have. Lead by Example. Every dancer watches

The persons that is leading.
People are watching your steps
And so be careful or you fail.

5. Consecrate your life, time and
Resources to the course you have decided to
follow. A life without commitment brings crisis
and poor results. Men are more interested on what
you preach. They will want to see if you are like
the politicians who promise them paradise on
earth on their electioneering campaigns. But when
they are voted into office, they will forget all their
promises.

6. Preach the word in season and out
Season, to the believers and unbelievers, no matter
the situation whether in joy or sorrow. It is your
life.

7. Be contented with what you have,
Materially or financially. Work with what you
have, God does not save by little or much but by
his grace. Zech 4: 6 (a) do not settle for
mediocrity. Pray without ceasing or else you
become obsolete crucify the flesh through prayers
and fasting to enrich the Spirit for a glorious walk
in the Spirit. It is where the car case is that the
eagles gather (Matt 24:28).

8. The quality of good cooked and
Served (sermon) is determined by the ingredients
bought, time spent in preparing it and efficiency
of the handling. For you to feed the flock well,
spend time to study, and pray to know the will of
God for each occasion. Study to show yourself a
capable steward of God. 2 Tim. 2: 15.

9. Do not limit your prayer life,
Study or learning. Life is about progress. Where
you stop, there your people will stop. Nobody
goes beyond his master. When you limit yourself,
you limit the number of souls that will come to the
kingdom of God through you and the ministry. Be
ready for the learned and unlearned. Kings reign
by knowledge and wisdom Isa 33:6

- 10 Do not compromise your faith no matter the
Goliath standing before
you be warned. When you sin, you
Sink and the presence of God will
depart from you and the Church
Hos. 5: 16, Hab. 1: 13

11. A leader must exercise self
restraint. 11 Cor 6: 3 Avoid
wrath, it is a destroyer, come not
near strife neither touch malice,
hatred or covetousness. Keep the

unity of the Spirit in the bond of faith and peace. Leadership is Sacrifice. Endure all things.

“Take heed therefore to yourselves
“If you bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. Gal 5:15

12. Never divert the Church funds for any reason to your personal use. Be warned. Leadership is sacrifice. Avoid greediness. Allow your People to see and appreciate your Efforts and elevate or enrich you.

13. Not everything you hear or your wife or husband tells you must be investigated or commented on. Avoid using the pulpit as a place To lambaste your members or Attack them for what you heard. Do not take hasty decisions. Keep Deaf ears to certain matters or Gossip but those with dangerous Roots should be rooted out Urgently.

14. Let not the word that transpired between you and the counselee be heard outside. Keep secrets secret,

open not your bosom or you will destroy your reputation and ministry (Prov13:3).

15. Avoid frequent visitation, begging and eating in members house, or else they will become tired of you and you will loose your respect.

16. Compare not yourself or ministry with others. avoid jealousy or envy. We are differently gifted and timed for success by God. Wait for your time in faith.

17. Every pastor needs a pastor: look out for one with a sound track record and experience. Who will help you straighten some hard question a times.

18. Be a good manager of your time always budget your time and your daily schedules. Always try your best to carry it out. Be wise.

19. Do not be partial in judgment. Judge with the fear of God as one that will also be judged by the eternal Creator.

RELATIONSHIPS

“Take heed therefore to yourself and all the flock over the which the Holy spirit hath made you overseers” Act 20:28a.

The success of a leader in managerial position to a large extent is hinged on relationships, your ability to know or understand the state of the flock under your care and promptness to meet their needs will enhance a healthy state of the flock. It will also go a long way in bringing out zeal and commitment and therefore enhance sound or effective management a leader must have knowledge of human relations to avoid crisis and stunted growth in ministry. Through wisdom is a house built. I studied the life and times of a king David to know the secrets of his success in human relations and governance in spite of the crisis he passed through. It came to my understanding that he was well trained by God through the divine life college of trials and temptation in the wilderness maybe by design, God assigned to him a small group of people (those that followed him to the wilderness when he was running away from king Saul) to manage and have a practical knowledge of human relations and governance. With this group, he saw a bit of what to expect in human governance in contrast to the sheep management which his father got him trained in his youth.

In ziklag, a text came. The people that loved believed on him and sang his praise now lost hope and even wanted to stone him when things went wrong. it seemed to them their hope and future has been blown up in their face. They reacted with anger and clutched fists of war. The same thing happens in human relation

Ships even today. When the expectation of the people seems blown up, they will react with anguish and rebellion. The same people that were singing your praise will gang up against you or even desert you.

When David faced crisis in Ziklag, he did something by reason of his understanding and knowledge of God's faithfulness he went to God for instruction on what to do. He got through to heaven and was instructed on what to do. He did it and overcame not only the enemy alone but also the dissident voices in the camp. He restored confidence of his people by wisdom and faith in God.

David did not smart quarrelling with the people he tracked the devil that was behind the problem. This is the pathway to success as a leader management When David was on the run again courtesy of Absalom conspiracy, then came a satanic agent called Shimea this man cursed and casted dust on David but he did not reply. He did not want to be distracted or to cause commotion he avoided this man when his army captain wanted to react, he calmed him.

When he latter overcame the conspiracy, the first set of people that came to welcome him was that same day called Shimea. But this time with rejoicing. Dissident voices must be heard in all systems of governance .let not their words distract you. Those that have the

boldness to challenge you have a useful credential, and that is boldness. It is a leadership quality, for service in the work of God to the Lord's glory.

Knowledge and understanding which come from God and experience is very vital to good governance. The wilderness or life college but with bread and butter in his fathers domain. And when temptation, the exam of Life College came in Gilgal, he compromised and failed. Let us therefore study and follow men who through faith and patience obtained the promises of God. let us see things which we need to take note of for effective relationship for an effectual management.

1. Compromise: when you compromise your faith or believe, you sin, sink and stink and God's presence departs from you. When you compromise, you lose your divine seat in God's honors roll, lose your taste and lose sight of his backing, guidance and favours. don't succumb to pressure to do any thing that is contrary to God's word, even if the whole Church is against you. Aaron succumbed to pressure to make a golden calf for the Israelites to worship in Horeb. By reason of this sin. Three thousand souls perished. (Ex 32: 26) do not be pushed around on the path of truth and righteousness. Be obedient to the Lord your God, the owner of the Church and also your employer instead of man.

Saul succumbed to the pressure of his people and the enemy to sacrifice in Gilgal contrary to God's word and thereby lost his chance of establishment I Sam 13:11-14.

2. Do not over flog your members for making a mistake correct them with love for no man can stand without the grace of God. They should know that even you can make mistakes. Do not present your self as God, but as a man. Therefore correct love and understanding of human nature and feelings so as to get the best from them.

“Heaven in the heart of man maketh it stoop but a good word maketh it glad” {Pro 12:25

Break not the heart but gladden it with good word of encouragement and love.

3. Before a duty is assigned to a staff or minister under your care, check the countenance or mood. Your inquiry will convey to them a sense of love, and care and if there is an urgent need, help to see it solved or encourage. No meaningful work can be guaranteed of a man with vexation Spirit. When he will labour to live up to your expectation. A hungry man is an angry man. Take good care of your workers.

4. Always try to meet your obligations or vows or promises to your people promptly. If you cannot by one genuine reason or the other, call him/her or them and explain with meekness not arrogantly do not keep them in the dark of what is happening for so long. Silence can be dangerous, when the children of Israel in Horeb waited for over a month without seeing nor heard from their leaders Moses (When he went to receive the ten commandments) they desired succors in a strange God and the aftermath was the lost of three thousand souls. (Exd.32) communicate with the people on the Church together in unity of Spirit in the bond of faith.

5. Condemnation: Prov. 25:11-12.

Pr: 25:15b, condemnation does not bring good result. It is the ministry of the devil. We are called into the ministry of reconciliation and restoration. When a staff or minister does something contrary to your expectation, most times out of zeal without knowledge, do not condemn nor bark at them. Try to find out why and correct them in love, encourage and motivate them with morale lifting words. Condemnation brings discouragement, disgust and bitterness. Only in an atmosphere of peace and love can total obedience be guaranteed for healthy and effective management. Be a good manager of men and the Church as you keep the bond of peace.

6. Self Control: Pr: 25: 28, Col3:13

It take self control or strength of character to understand a situation and forgive a wrong. Every good leader or leadership must exercise restraint or self control. They should have a merciful and compassionate heart.

A leader needs strength of character in order to rule reign with Christ. Do not be profane like Esau who for a morsel of food sold his birth right, do not sell your birth right by reason of pleasure. That is by visiting that wealthy member often so as to receive one favour or another from him or to lean on him instead of God for sustenance “ with draw thy foot from thy neighbor’s house; lest he be weary of thee and so hate thee” (Pr 25: 17) be wise and walk wisely.

7. Follow not gossips:-

If any man has anything to accuse you of, let such a person come to you. If he or she does not come than he or she is a backbiter. Therefore allow him or her to stay at your back. Just keep sight of where you are going. Only a face collision will hinder your advancement. When you increase your tempo, the backbiters will not see your back to bite.

Again, nor all gossips or rumours should be investigated. It can even come from your wife. Avoid them tactfully. When some damaging gossips appear, use wisdom to address it without challenging or

accusing any body. Just look for an opportunity to silence it with facts. Be tactful to reach decisions. A bad decision can tear a Church or relationship apart.

Insults blasphemy and accusation: John 15:17-21

Whoever wants to succeed as a leader must be ready to overlook gossips and insults of diverse kinds on your person, ministry etc. the more favour or lifting comes, the more the enemies of progress increase. Those insult and gossip are meant to distract you so as to lose focus. Therefore avoid the garbage being thrown at you and keep sight of your destination. Until the devil gets you to his level of anger, malice hatred, unforgiveness, jealousy, lies, bitterness etc he will never pull you down. Therefore be ready to ignore insults as a leader in order to succeed. Shimea insulted King David and threw garbages and stones on him but he kept quiet he did not want to be distracted 2 Sam 16: 5-12.

Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant cursed thee. For often times also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise cursed others Eccl. 7:21-22

9. Anger, criticism, arrogance etc are the ways (Lane) of failures. But sweet words of counsel in correction makes disciples out of even your enemies Lk 20:27-40, anger is a foolish act. Eccl.7:9, Eph.4:31-32, Nu. (20:7-17) therefore, anger is not a proper means to show dislike,

correct teach or enforce obedience. It is a destructive and a satanic seed or formula that brings strives, divisions hatred, quarrelling etc. it is a bad example that can put the person or the Church of Jesus to ridicule, shame or reproach. Anger can cause depression and a feeling or thought of non appreciation, unwanted and thereby a desertion of a Church. It cause backsliding therefore always apply the pill of life called love. it is the nature of God. Therefore in love and good words, correct and encourage. Never bark out instructions persuasion and encouragement is the best way to get the best out of man.

10. Identify with your people in all situations and at all times. It might be by yourself or delegates. When you fail to visit any of them that is bereaved, gave birth or had accident etc, they might feel not loved. It will seem to some as if their contribution are not recognized or appreciated see Pr. 27:23

11. By wisdom a house is built. And through wisdom and understanding danger and great oppositions or trials are overcome without sweat. Do not criticize nor quarrel sharply the sheep's of the flock for not coming to weekly or certain activities or programmes. First find out their

reason, the nature of their work and times schedules. In certain cases, lift up their Spirit by appreciating their ability to carry out their duties daily without health break down. Praise them. Human beings love to be praised. Then in this atmosphere of love, point out wisely the benefits of drawing near to God or constant refreshing in the presence of God through this weekly programmers convince them to overhaul their schedules to accommodate the weekly activities. Present the programmes to them as a time to cool off or refreshment in the presence of the Lord after a tedious daily labour when they start coming, commend and encourage them. When a heart of man is softened by love and sweet words, he will see you as a friend or father listen and obey your counsel. See the wise woman of Abel. 2 Sam.20: 16-22.

12. The seriousness or earnest desire to meet a target, or achieve a purpose is in the heart and labour and not in your countenance. Try to allow the shine of the Lords glorious gospel of good news to be seen in you as it was in the face of Moses. Sad countenance tight face can expel or prevent some people from coming to you

even for counsel. Only God know or reads the heart but man sees and read the face. Let not your presence and countenance bring an unsavory odour or atmosphere of joy, love and peace. The joy of Christian is not in the absence of trials or temptations but by the joy breathed upon our hearts by the Holy Ghost through the unfailing love and faithfulness of God. If you then have the Holy Ghost then put up a smiling And radiant face at all times. The Church of God is not a place of Mourning. It is a place of feasting, Good news and of great joy.
Lk 1: 19 No matter what the world Is seeing, saying or doing, Encourage yourself in the Lord Or else you die pitied, frustrated and unfulfilled in life and Ministry. Whosoever walks in righteousness in true obedience to the engrafted word of life can never be put to shame. Let no thing give you a sad countenance especially in the pulpit or else you dry up your life and ministry.

13. Whosoever wants to succeed in
Leadership should avoid arguments and
contentions. But agree to disagree with wisdom.
Always see things the way people see it and from
there reverse the thinking with wisdom. Lies are truth
turned upside down. Therefore, with wisdom return it
to the right or proper position from where your brother
or sisters is holding it. Let the world of God always be
your resource base.
“Only by pride cometh contentions, but with the well
advanced is wisdom.” Pr. 13: 10 Kings reign by
wisdom and understanding, not by pride or argument or
intimidation by position.
- 14 There is a time wherein one man rulth over
another to his own hurt” Ecl. 8:9b. never look
down on anybody. Don’t be partial. Treat all
men equally whether rich or poor, learned or
unlearned 1 Tim.5:21, Lev.9: 15.
Despised and hated by his brothers, and sold to
salve merchant, the little boy with coat of many
colours, Joseph, later became a prime minister.
He became a defense and arm of succor to the
brothers’ entire family in time of great famine.
He became a light and beckon of pride, hope
and sustenance. What about Jephthah? The son of
a harlot. He was rejected and trusted out by his
brethren but, later became the man with the
heart and grace to lead his nation to victory
15. “For they are my servants which I brought forth
out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold
as bondmen. Thou shalt not fear thy God.
Lev: 25
42-43, do not force your people to give or vow.
Let it be willingly. Your teaching will determine
what you get in return. When you teach giving
and practice it the people will sooner or later
catch the vision or the divine law of prosperity.
do not rule with iron hand. Fear the Lord your
God.
16. Tackle issues man to man. Avoid pulpit politics,
judgment and accusation. Gal. 2: 11-12.
See not your members as ignorant and foolish
People. Do not use hard words on then or you
Discourage them.
17. The relationship of a leader with his people
should be one of friendship. Jesus was relating
to his disciples as friends not as Lord through
he was always teaching, encouraging and

communicating his vision and mission to them (Jn.16) in storms he was with them, in the mountain, he was with them, in the synagogue,. Miracle house etc. he was always with them. He even washed their feet and served them. This is the attitude of a leader that wants to Succeed in life.

18. Keep the unity of the Spirit in bond of peace by maintaining healthy relationship. United we stand and divided we fall. Peace leads to growth while crisis, mistrust and hatred leads to destruction and failure. The ministry of Jesus is of reconciliation preach reconciliation, love peace and forgiveness from time to time. Emphasize the ills of unforgiveness, hatred, malice etc. and caring. By so doing, an atmosphere of peace will be created for effective management.

19. **Holy Spirit:** The greatest manager; reliable friend and partner is the Holy Spirit. Your right relationship with him will make you a good manager he will make known unto you the state of the Church offer counsels of wisdom for growth and effective management. Therefore maintain a right working relationship with him in order to succeed. The wisdom of man will fail but the wisdom of God will never fail you. (Jn 16: 13)

20. Surety your members by standing on the gap always for them in prayers, not on the table of loans or else you smart for it, loose weight, self respect and confidence of some people.

21. Keep secrets secret, let not the word or what Transpired between you and the counselee be heard by the third party. Let it not be your sermon on the pulpit. Be careful or you loose the confidence of your members and thereby loose them. Avoid forward mouth, or else you tear down with your mouth the Church of God committed to your care. "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life, but he that opened wide his lips shall have destruction" Pr: 13:3

22. "Only by pride cometh contentions but with the well advice is wisdom: Pr: 13: 10 Always admit your fault or wrongs. Avoid pride or else you do not claim to know everything. No man is a Wisdom bank. If you claim to be so you will fail. Pride brought down the devil from the seat of Honor he occupied to the dust. If you embrace It will price you out of God's hand, and of your Channel of blessings. Humble yourself before Your people and see them humble themselves to You in true or unfeigned obedience. Only in so Doing shall you have control over them and then Be able to gain their confidence, obedience and Dedication of their life and even their properties

Or substance to the Church.

23. **Management Team**

Be careful in choosing your management team.

Jesus prayed all night for right judgment before

Choosing the disciples. Why not follow that foot

Step. When an Achan is in the management team,

Trouble, evil counsels, and a demonic link is put

In Place for the devil to pass through. When

Jehoshaphat joined business with Ahaziah, a

Wicked king, the business failed.

“Because thou hast joined thy self with Ahaziah,

the Lord hath broken thy work ----“ 2 chr: 20: 37.

A badly constituted management team will ruin Church.

- (i) When a management team is not functioning, tactfully reshuffle it.
- (ii) Never allow somebody with a wrong Spirit has access to the management seat no matter the educational qualification or public status.
- (iii) Have a built up confidence relationship with the team of elders.
- (iv) Do not bypass them in management decisions. Therefore involve them in decision making Process to feel a sense of belonging.
- (v) Respect their views and their persons but not a salve to them neither be whirled around by them. Respect them but always stand on the side of truth and enforce it.

- (vi) Do not force them to carry out your word or desire just because you selected them. You can not rule and reign successfully by force in the Church of Jesus Christ. Allow them to see Reasons with you on the things you want to be Done. Being a leader do not make you an all knowing God.

- 30. Prudent management/ Effective communication: let the people see that there commitment through vows paid, tithes and offerings are used judiciously. Tactfully communicate to them (Church) the needs of the Church and achievements. Let there be certain things done that can be seen by all that the Church funds is not squandered. It might look or seen they do not mind what you do or does with the offering but do not underrate the devil.

- 31. Avoid unnecessary delays or slothfulness/ Procrastination. You must prompt to settle or strives or douse the strange fire of quarrels, hatred, etc. Mk. 10: 35-45: always tackle issues prayerfully, scriptural and in love. Through wisdom, a house is built.
Be alert to stop evil or un healthy rivalry or bad Wisdom avoid face-off with the management Team. It will dwindle the growth of the Church Always teach and counsel your workers on

Obedience, spiritual timing, hard work and its
Reward, patience/ long suffering, meekness,
Love, sowing & reaping.

32. Beware of a priest, or a minister that comes to
you in search of a place to stay. He might be a
hireling he will not defend abide or might even
betray you in time of distress. Jgs. 18: 17-20.
he might be looking for the highest bidder to
Pitch tent with anytime.

DEDICATION

Dedicated to
Evangelist Dr. Emmah
Gospel Isong
For his Love, encouragement
And spiritual input
Into my life.