



Ministerial Ethics

By Barrington H. Brennen

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Ethics

“Moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity.”

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“Ethics is concerned with distinguishing between good and evil in the world, between right and wrong human actions, and between virtuous and nonvirtuous characteristics of people.”



Key Words

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Pastoral Ethics

“Pastoral ethics is a basic standard of conduct which determines what is appropriate, acceptable, and expected of a pastor both in his personal and professional lives.”

Pastor Daniel Sherman

Six General Principles

That guide the ethical conduct of professional counselors/pastors
American Counseling Association

- 1) **Autonomy:** This is independence and self-determination. Counselors/pastors respect the freedom of clients/members to choose their own direction, make their own choices, and control their own lives.

Six General Principles

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American Counseling Association

- 2) Nonmaleficence:** This means to do no harm. As counselors/pastors we must take care that our actions do not risk hurting clients/members, even inadvertently.

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- 3) Beneficence:** This means to promote good mental/spiritual health and wellness. Psychologists/pastors strive to be aware of the possible effect of their own physical and mental/spiritual health on their ability to help those with whom they work.

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- 4) Fidelity:** This implies that the pastor/counselor make honest promises and honor our commitments to clients/members or supervisors/administrators.

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- 5) Integrity:** Psychologists/pastors seek to promote accuracy, honesty and truthfulness in the science, teaching and practice of psychology/theology. In these activities psychologists/pastors do not steal, cheat or engage in fraud, subterfuge or intentional misrepresentation of fact.

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- 6) Justice:** This is the foundation of our commitment to fairness in our professional/spiritual relationships. This includes quality for service, allocation of time and resources and one's accessibility.

Personality Traits

Seven qualities of highly ethical people.

Junaid Tahir

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ethical people.

Personality Traits

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Junaid Tahir

- 1) **They are Empathic:** Ethical people have high degree of emotional intelligence. They understand things from multiple perspectives covering all the direct and indirect stake holders. They seek first to understand than to be understood.

Personality Traits

Seven qualities of highly ethical people.

Junaid Tahir

- 1) They have strong observatory, listening and analytical skills to understand things deeply. This quality makes them unique which enables them to win the trust of others; consequently, people share their problems with them with open heart and seek their support.

Personality Traits

Seven qualities of highly ethical people.

Junaid Tahir

2) They Forgive and Forget: Ethical people don't keep grudges for long duration. They have the tendency to establish peace all the times hence keeping the brawls open does not suit them. They stay away from such complications and move ahead with life by forgiving and forgetting the matters.

Personality Traits

Seven qualities of highly ethical people.

Junaid Tahir

3) They are Always willing to Help: Highly Ethical people always want to improve the situation regardless of their relationship with a person who is in trouble. They take either corrective, preventive or suggestive initiatives for resolving issues. Corrective approach ensures that the matter is fixed by doing some specific actions.

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3) They are Always willing to Help:

Preventive approach guarantees that such particular matters do not appear again. They use preventive approach to reach the root cause of the issue so as to fix it permanently so as to avoid further frequency of such incidents.

Personality Traits

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- 4) **They are Implosive:** Ethical people are not hyper sensitive or explosive personalities. They possess a cool mind and a soft heart. They avoid frequent mood swings in order to develop a consistent and stable personality. They handle indecencies with decency.

Personality Traits

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- 4) **They are Implosive:** They know how to handle idiotic situations. They have high degree of anger management skills which further empowers their implosive personality trait.

Personality Traits

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5) They Mind Their Own Business: A lot of people have the habit of having serious curiosity about every other person's life. This habit causes them talk about people too much, spreading rumors and scattering false news in the society without any verification.

Personality Traits

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5) They Mind Their Own Business:

Unlike those, ethical People do not interfere in others' lives unnecessarily; they mind their own business.

Ethical people understand the fact the character assassination is equally a great sin so they don't give attention to rumors and focus on crystal clear matters; and avoid peeping into others' personal matters.

Personality Traits

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- 6) **They are Flexible & Adaptable:** Ethical people possess a great deal of elasticity. They adapt themselves according to the situation. They don't stick to one mind set.

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- 6) **They are Flexible & Adaptable:** Their continuous thought process enables them to change their minds easily in order to improve a situation without making it a matter of ego. They are not stubborn at all instead portray a flexible behavior in all kind of tough situations.

Personality Traits

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- 7) **They Do not Criticize:** Too much criticism is the root of several social and professional problems. Ethical people do not criticize at first place.

Personality Traits

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- 7) **They Do not Criticize:** In case they need to condemn or criticize something they follow a positive methodology to approach the relevant person and advice in a way which doesn't hurt anyone and convey the message in an effective way.

“A call to the gospel ministry is a call to be not a sociologist or a public performer, but an ambassador for Christ.”

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
MINISTER'S
HANDBOOK



Psalm 23:21

May integrity and uprightness
preserve me, for I wait for you.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
**MINISTER'S
HANDBOOK**

Page 40-46

“I recognize that the call to the gospel ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not for the purpose of bestowing special privilege or position, but rather for living a life of devotion and service to God, His church, and the world.”

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
**MINISTER'S
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Standards
of life

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Maintain a meaningful devotional life for myself and my family.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Give full time and attention at ministry as my only vocation.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Commit myself to continuing professional growth.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Initiate and maintain supportive professional relationships with fellow ministers.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Practice strictest professional confidentiality.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Support my employing organization and the world church.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Manage church and personal finances with integrity and transparency.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Perceive and treat my family as a primary part of my ministry.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Practice healthful living.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Relate with propriety to both men and women.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Respect the personhood of every individual, without bias or prejudice.

“I shall, by the grace of God, apply these standards of life so as to include the following:

Love those to whom I minister, and commit myself to their spiritual growth.



Thinking Questions

- Are you regularly on time to the office or church services?
- Are you easily reached by phone and email by your fellow pastors, members, church officers, or supervisors?
- Do you prepare your sermons in the pastor's study just before you go up to preach?
- Are you the same person in the home and church?



Thinking Questions

- Do you hug persons inappropriately?
- Do you touch persons inappropriately?
- Do you give coded signals when you look at persons or hold their hands?
- Do watch pornography and other sexually explicit materials?



Thinking Questions

- Can you be alone with a person of the complementary sex without making that person feel uncomfortable?
- Are you known best as a godly preacher/leader or a lover-boy/girl?
- Are you dependable and trustworthy?
- Do you honor and respect all races, nationalities and ethnics groups?



Thinking Questions

- In a court of law would you be charged with plagiarism?
- Do you feel comfortable asking others for help?
- Do you uplift or downgrade fellow pastors?
- Are you able to admit you are wrong, by saying “I’m sorry,” or adjust where necessary?
- Do members view you as insensitive or cold?



Thinking Questions

- Do you have a poor self image?
- Are you contented with who you are?
- Are you a “child of the King?”



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