

BETHEL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

CCM111 - MINISTERIAL CALL - 1

INSTRUCTIONS

Read it thoughtfully and answer all the questions as you go along.

NOTE: If you have any questions or comments (whether you agree or disagree with the author) You may share them on a separate sheet of paper, as we are interested in what you think.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Bethel Leadership Institute is an institution of higher education, whose primary purpose is to provide religious education and ministerial training. It awards Certificate Diploma and Advanced Diploma on all levels for satisfactory completion of its curriculum. It offers varied programs of study for Christian workers and ministerial candidates.

Bethel Leadership Institute runs under the auspice of Bethel Christian University., a non-profit, tax-exempt religious organization, with facilities at the same site.

This course is designed for all believers and for those persons that God has called into the ministry. You can get general Christian teaching in most Churches, but EVERYTHING in this course is on a MINISTERIAL LEVEL. Most lay Christians seldom realize it, but there is a different viewpoint from the pulpit and from the pew. The material in this course would probably "choke" the average church member.

It wasn't easy writing the questions because I didn't want to make them too difficult nor too simple---although most of them are rather obvious. They are really designed to help ingrain the truth into your mind. I want to make you think---then you will learn---then you can apply--then you can succeed. I believe if you can get past all the words and questions in this course, and grasp the Spiritual principles and vision of it, it can be used of God to affect and totally revolutionize your ministry. It can steer beginners away from becoming shipwrecks, as we've seen in so many examples.

So please do not go through this course, just answering the questions, without reading the material, because that would circumvent the purpose of the course.

Some churches and groups talk about equipping the saints, but we are actually doing the work of preparing and sending forth ministers in practical ways:

1. Through Bible Training Courses.
2. Providing ministerial credentials.

I believe the Lord called me to minister to ministers because I have no personal ambition about authority to supervise over others. As Jesus warned about in Mt. 20: 25-28. Our ministers are only subject to the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and the law of the land; and we are very proud of them for what they are doing for the Lord.

We have received so many letters and long-distance phone calls requesting this course. And at last, to the glory of God, it is now presented with the humble prayer that it will be just what you've been looking for, that it will answer many questions, solve important issues, and confirm you in the will of God. May the following material inspire, guide, and encourage you to be another bold servant of God that satan will fear and dread.

Some of this material will be for you, and some may not, at this time. Someone said, "Just eat the meat, and spit out the bone." --- or lay it on the shelf. It may help you later. God bless you.

The Professor hopes and prays that this training course will be something that you can refer back to in time to come whenever some problem is encountered. And that you may benefit from the wealth of practical information collected together in it. I have tried to organize the material into the key areas of ministerial pursuits. We have endeavored to define and encourage the essential personal characteristics of a professional minister.

This course does not contain as many direct quotations of Scripture as our other courses, but it does still one of the essence and principles of the whole Bible and yet focuses on specific topics, giving details about particular ministries. It has been designed to help you be a good, efficient, and successful worker for the Lord. How could this course touch upon every type of ministry, experience, and service? And yet we feel there will be much profit for you.

Only God Himself can give you the personal qualities and professional capabilities to be the minister he has called you to be. And yet for those who already have some experience, we trust there will be things here that you will learn that will help you to develop your skills to the highest possible level. From time to time and from place to place, and from church-to-church things will be different, but there are certain Scriptural principles that are common to all ministries.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Dear student, this is being written with the assumption that you have been chosen, called, and commissioned by God Himself; and that you are dedicated to God's Word, Will, and Way. This course is directed toward those who sincerely seek to be effective in working for the Lord.

This life involves your walk, your worship, and your warfare. At the end you will give an account to God for your time, Eph. 5:16, your talent, II Tim. 1:6, your influence, Ac. 4:13, your possessions, Ps. 24:1, and your feelings. Mt. 25:19. We trust and pray that this course will improve your relationship with God, your attitude toward others, your Christian philosophy of life, your consciousness of your Divine mission, and your assurance of God's provision. You must learn to be loyal, enthusiastic, humble, have faith, be an example, have a vision, and be patient. It is to teach you to be a D.D.D.D. --- devotional, diligent, doctrinal, and discerning. We pray with you that God will help you to build such characteristics as: earnestness, optimism, initiative, friendliness, kindness, sympathy, promptness, tact, and have a spirit of cooperation, and a sense of humor. A mature minister always wants to build up people and tear down the works of the devil. He learns to associate well with other saints, and to deal with things as they are rather than as he wishes them to be, and yet see things as they shall be by faith. He is ready to accept and adapt to change and can handle tension and anxiety.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEEDS MINISTERS

God has made complete provisions for every need of the individual Christian and for the church as a whole. He's given us the instructions of his Word, the abiding presence of his Holy Spirit; he gives us love one for another, faith for victory for our lives, and material needs. He has provided the five-fold ministries of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, and other leadership such as Elders and Deacons for the local church.

Ministers are God's agents, ambassadors, and assistants. They are to preach, rebuke, and exhort. (2 Timothy 4:1,2). They are to teach, counsel, admonish, correct, and encourage. If God gave the Ministers "for the perfecting of the saints," a Christian probably can't be perfected without them.

The Apostle Paul was a master contractor. He was a church founder. The Apostles had authority over the churches that they founded. Paul and Barnabus "ordained them Elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, and commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed" (Acts 14:23). Paul also appointed Titus to ordain Elders and set the church in order at Crete (Titus 1:5).

"How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?... And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" Rom. 10:14-15.

THE DIVINE CALL TO THE MINISTRY

Ex. 3:11, And Moses said unto God, "Mho am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Is. 6:1-8, And I heard the Voice of the Lord, saying, "Who shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then said I, "Here am I; send me."

Jn. 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

Ac. 9:15, But the Lord said unto him, "Go thy way, for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and Kings, and the children of Israel."

Ac. 16:9, And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us."

I Cor. 1:27, But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

Ac. 26:16, But rise and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose to make thee a minister and a witness, both of these things which thou hath seen and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee.

Jer. 35:15, I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, "Return ye now every man from his evil ways, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them and you shall dwell in the land which I have given unto you..."

II Cor. 5:20, Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God.

Ac. 5:20, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

II Tim. 4:2, Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Mt. 28:19, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mt. 24:14 And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Ac. 26:17-18 The Gentiles unto whom I now send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Ps. 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thy inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Lk. 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his Name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem.

Ps. 96:3 Declare his Glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

Therefore, you are authorized by the Word of God, to bring forth God's people, to go for God and bring forth good fruit, to be a chosen vessel for Christ, to carry his Name before the world, to help people, to confound the wise and mighty, to stand as a minister and a witness of what you have experienced, to tell them to repent from evil, amend their ways, forsake other gods, and listen to God, to be an ambassador for Christ, to urge people to be reconciled to God, to go stand and speak the words of life, to preach the word, reprove, rebuke, exhort, to teach and baptize, to open people's eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from satan to God, and to get them to repent and be forgiven, and to declare God's Glory and wonders.

You've got a lot to do! Better get busy! May the Holy Spirit help you!

THREE PHASES OF ENTERING THE MINISTRY

There is a calling time, a preparing time, and a sending time:

1. Just as God called the prophets of old to speak for Him, even so in these last days. He is raising up an army of men and women to go forth for Him. You may have a definite altar experience, a dream or vision upon your bed, but it's not always an audible voice, sometimes it's just a growing impression. You should hesitate only long enough to discern that it's truly the Lord's voice. When you realize it is from God, take it seriously, yield your heart, and respond in a positive way. There is a growing awareness that God has earmarked you as a laborer in His great harvest.
2. The second phase is a time of preparing, intense study, and training. You might begin to pray fervently on your knees, and suddenly realize you have stopped praying and started preaching. This is a good sign. The more powerful the prayer life the more powerful the preaching. Young men have gone out. Into the woods and just preached to the trees, and sometimes accidentally converted a lumberjack or someone who overheard them. As an Olympic champion you orientate your mind, heart, and whole life to being a minister. Your eye is single for God's Kingdom, and your natural activities narrow down.
3. Your initial debut is important, to gain from experience through little opportunities here and there. This is like hitching the horse up to the wagon. You get your big chance, a position or platform to make proof of your ministry. There's less time for personal pleasure and goofing off. You begin to derive your joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment from your work.

One time, after a series of successful speaking engagements, I looked up and said, "Ah, the ministry is my life." But the Lord spoke back to me and said, "No, Christ is your life."

These three phases can be illustrated in the life of Moses: 1. Moses was called to be the deliverer of his people from a youth while he was in Egypt for forty years.

He spent the next 40 years on the backside of the desert tending smelly sheep, while he learned to listen to God and walk with the Lord. This is where the Lord spoke to him out of the burning bush.

The last forty years of his life God sent him to Egypt to lead the children of Israel to the Promised Land. An illustrious career he had!

Brother Sanoo said that Moses told him in Heaven: "My life was divided into three forties. The first forty I thought I was somebody. The second forty I felt like a nobody. The third forty I learned that God can take a nobody and make him a somebody."

You may not live to be 120 years old, but you will probably find many parallels between the great men of God in the Bible and your own personal experiences, because we serve the same God.

In the New Testament Saul Tarsus was converted on the road to Damascus and
Phase 1: Called to the ministry.

Phase 2: He spent two years in Arabia un-learning many things and receiving much revelation from God.

In phase 3 he came back and turned the world upside down, first with Barnabus, then with Silas, and Luke, and others.

It is not a disgrace to attempt something worthy and fail; It's a disgrace to never attempt anything worthy.

EVIDENCE OF CALLING

Every minister needs three things to be a good servant of Christ: Vision, The Anointing, and a Burden.

1. The Vision...means that you see the golden opportunity of serving the Lord. You have seen the harvest field of the world. You are aware of the Spiritual eternal reality of heaven and hell.
2. The Anointing...This is the supernatural Holy Ghost oil that carries you up and beyond your regular self. You must get out of yourself and become "another man" allowing God to speak through you, and work through you. This is the unction from on high.
3. The burden...this is a feeling of compassion for people. This means that you genuinely care about souls, and you dearly desire to let God use you to meet their needs.

WHERE ARE WE COMING FROM?

Some beginning Christian workers and new ministers may have some questions concerning the operation of the work of the Lord and what guidelines need to be observed. There are three concerns of jurisdiction:

1. God Himself, and the Holy Bible.
2. The laws of the land of our country.
3. Commonly accepted religious traditions.

God says what He means and means what He says, and the Bible covers many things, yet it is not the source of many religious ideas and practices.

When it comes to the law of the land, our country has a policy of separation of church and state and therefore has very few legal dictates about the activity of churches and ministers, except some states requiring a minister to be registered in order to perform wedding ceremonies, or officiate at funeral services, or being a recognized clergy to do jail and prison work, etc. More is said about this point elsewhere in this course.

Concerning religious traditions, all are not good and all are not bad. At the beginning of the Full Gospel movement, at the turn of the century, most ministers were not educated. And it took about a generation before there were Spirit-filled institutions of learning. There is still few Bible colleges that are Holy Ghost dominated.

Therefore, who has the right to designate what is a qualified minister? Some may say that you must have three or four years of college, to call yourself a reverend; but that is not Scriptural or legal. It is merely traditional, which can be questioned. Everyone may have an opinion about it, but your opinion and the opinion of our organization is just as good as anyone else's. In the final analysis it's a matter of your own faith in what God has spoken to your heart, rather than what some other person may think.

In fact, if you are only seeking to serve God, and to win souls to Christ, other secular or religious people should be very careful how they judge you. If it's some religious leader, who is out for God with worldly ambitions to become great, who have a big problem with jealousy and envy, they need to pray through, grow up, and overcome. They should be more concerned about Jesus, His Kingdom, His Glory, and getting busy winning souls for Him.

We must all look in the mirror, come to the moment of truth, let God's searchlight pierce to the bullseye of our being, and in our heart of hearts, and the center of our spirit and will, determine if our motives are right and pure; and then proceed from there with reason, ethics, consideration, and love for all.

If someone asks you why you are starting or carrying on your ministry, your reply is: "Because the Holy Spirit has led me to do it and I want to be obedient." Nobody can argue with what God told you to do.

GOD HAS A PERFECT PLAN AND DIVINE DESIGN FOR YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

Perhaps you just starting out, or starting all over again. Praise the Lord who restores our soul. I trust that you are hungry and thirsty for the Lord. Is. 44:3 says, "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground." People may discourage or condemn you, but God will lift you up and encourage you.

You are not a public slave, you're a servant of God and you have only one obligation: To be led by the Holy Spirit and obey God, whether people understand it or like it or not. Paul said, "I am what I am by the grace of God." We accept ourselves as the unique creature that God has made, because He loves us.

God wants to do miracles within you, miracles in your life, and miracles through you. But the pathway to spiritual maturity is through suffering. Your supreme desire is simply to please the Lord. Pray for opportunities to fulfill your mission on earth, as one who is alive from the dead, --- on furlough from Heaven! You must maintain a hotline to Heaven, to be ready to pray for all others who touch your life.

If you are not standing before the masses, just remember about a third of the life of Christ in the Gospel, He was engaged in a one-to-one level of ministry. The personal touch is all-important in winning souls to Christ.

God has always had a complete blueprint for your whole life and ministry. The Father has something for you each, and every day, as we praise and rejoice and walk with Him and worship Him day and night. David said, "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord." If we listen, God will even give us detailed instructions, and pave our way.

He never directs you to go anywhere or do anything without providing the way and means. You will never be left stranded. He makes the crooked places straight and the bumpy places smooth. Find your niche in the Body of Christ and your place in the work of the Kingdom.

Your responsibility is to make the vessel clean. Live free of sin, then God can fill you with His Power, and use you for His glory. Pray, "Make me an instrument of your salvation and Divine healing power and love and life to others." God will heal others through the words you speak, preach, or teach, and through the laying on of hands. Mk. 16:17.

If God can speak to you/He can speak through, you. When He promises you something, it's already accomplished in the spiritual world. All you need to do is your part. Rest in faith, and watch it unfold.

I do not believe there are any accidents or coincidences in God's economy. He brings people into your life; You touch them, and they touch you. It may be a blessing and it may be a trial, but you can trust the Lord. If need be, God will dispatch an army of angels for your protection. Just remember God promises to bless those who bless His servants and to curse those who curse His servants. Gen.12:1-3. Woe to those who touch the apple of His eye. Zech. 2:8,9.

GOD CAN USE YOU, IF YOU BELIEVE

If you know Jesus, love Jesus, and love to talk about Jesus to others, and you love others, then Jesus is real to you, and can use you to make Him real to others, that they may turn to Him, and love Him too, and do the same as you.

If you desire to render unselfish service for God's sake to your generation and will dare to step out in faith. God can use you. If an invitation to minister, or a door of service opens. God probably opened it. If a door stays closed, it's probably not God's will for you at least at this time. It's alright to knock on a door, but if you push too hard, you might get in and later wished you hadn't. When it's really God's will. He works on both ends of the line. If God has called you to do something, you can expect Him to provide a way for you to go. Regardless of your feelings of inadequacy beforehand. He will faithfully enable you to rise to the occasion when the time comes. The Lord may lead you to be quiet and not talk much just before you preach and also sometimes afterwards. Sometimes just before you get up to speak, you may feel very empty and weak. This is because God is emptying out "self" that He may fill you with His Self.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

- * A real Christian leader loves God and others. He is un-selfishly interested in them. He really cares and is concerned. He is sensitive to their feelings, needs, and wants.
- * He is always seeking to reach out not only to the masses, but to individuals to touch them one by one.
- * He makes a point of learning the names of those around him and a little something about them.
- * He is always positive, forever expressing hope, and optimism. He believes the Lord can do anything.

- * He has an inner sense of security, peace, and confidence which comes from the Lord. He doesn't show emotions of frustration, impatience, or irritability.
- * He learns to appreciate and relate to a wide variety of people, meeting them in whatever state they are in. Every person is valuable to him.
- * A good leader is a good listener. He is articulate, but listens very closely to the hearts of others.
- * In dealing with people, he projects well, and has a ready response to most anything.
- * He may be above the people spiritually, and yet on their level. He is one of the people, but he is out in front.
- * He may seem sober, but he can easily laugh with people, and sometimes laugh at himself.
- * He is a good overseer and manager of people, he not only uses his own gifts, but inspires and motivates others to participate.

A real Christian leader thinks, feels, talks, and acts like he's on top because he's flowing and moving in the Spirit of God. As he continues to produce good fruit, continually making full-proof of his ministry, he gradually wins the respect, confidence, and favor of God's people.

MINISTERS MUST PERSONALLY OVERCOME AND HELP RESTORE CREDIBILITY

Part of the purpose of this training course is to endeavor to oblige ministers to be morally responsible and financially accountable. When we have better preachers, we will have better churches, and then there is opportunity for better communities, in which to live.

Every time Satan knocks down another preacher, and the news media plays up the religious scandal it:

1. Embarrasses the rest of God's ministers.
2. Causes free-will offerings to dry up.
3. Increases persecution of Christians on their jobs, etc.

It is your job to be part of the answer, and to restore the credibility of Christianity. Perhaps what is unrealistic for you or I to do alone, if we can solicit the cooperation of others, it is not impossible for us to hope to change things.

Murder is increasing in our country and killing around the world. Why? Because there is so much bitterness, malice and hatred! Why? Because there is such a lack of love in human hearts. Why? Because the church has failed to make a good impact upon the community. Why? Because its leadership, the ministers, have not been what they ought to be. It is your business and mine to reverse this whole process. I believe we must, and we can change things. At least, we can start one by one, until lay Christians are delivered from fear and released from intimidation. "Perfect love cast out fear." The love of Christ is the truth that sets men free. As you let your light shine, then the good news of God's love can be spread to the public. There is no other way.

Christianity is nothing but loving God and others. The opposite of that is selfishness and the love of the world. So until a preacher learns to overcome:

1. Pride, egotism, and self-will,
2. All forms of sexual lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes,
3. All greed after money and covertness for materialism, and
4. All bitterness, wrath, anger, and loosing his temper—he's not ready to go out and build a great work for the Lord.

In order for ministers to be what they should, they must know wherein they need improvement. The solution comes from God and His Word. Sometimes, we can even get some good suggestions from our critics.

If God has given you a vision for his work, and a desire to do something, there are always some wet blankets around to put out the fire. But don't let one or two "Dream Killers" stop you. The most suspicious people are those who judge others by their self.

Every time a Godly servant steps out and does something for God, there is going to be criticism. Someone is going to gossip about you behind your back. But the victory is found in:

1. Keeping our eyes on Jesus,
2. Keeping the love of God in our hearts,
3. Praying for our enemies,
4. Rejoicing and singing praises to the Lord.

Preachers too, must lay aside all jealousy, envy, and evil speaking. Although we make mistakes, we must pray for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You must always do the right thing, in the right way, for the right reasons. And only eternity will reveal the proper evaluation of your success.

Character is the unique combination of spiritual, mental, and emotional aspects of one's personality. Character is revealed by conduct.

YOUR LOVE, PRAYERS, AND WORK HAS UNLIMITED POTENTIAL IN GOD

Pastor! Evangelist! Minister! You are not alone! Elijah thought he was alone. You are fighting the battle between good and evil. But you have many fellow servants who are facing the same thing you are. Satan wants you to feel that you are not making any progress, that you are "on hold", and that your ministry is not going anywhere. But remember, he is a liar. It's always seed time. It's always revival harvest time. And you are part of an Army of Workers, that's greater than you realize. There's strength in numbers, so let's join together.

The contribution of your life and ministry could be the seed, that becomes the tree, that blesses the whole Christian community of your area. And as it grows, it can become the impact that alters the spiritual destiny of the entire city. Your potential in God is unlimited. If you are willing, and your purpose is clear. God gives you the ability. Make the commitment to the high and noble goals of the Eternal Kingdom and pay the price. While many are mere spectators to the new things God is doing, you can have the character to be a participator.

Whatever your background, personality, race, gender, or talent—there's room for every color in the rainbow in God's church. Our goal is not uniformity, but variety in unity—and in divine harmony.

Just visualize a vast spiritual-nerve network extending out from yourself toward your ministerial associates and constituents. Then see your powerful prayer of intercession as impulses of love and encouragement reaching out to them. This transmission and reception of the essence of Heaven, is true Christianity at work. As a Christian leader, keep pumping it out consistently, and eventually you will begin to get "feedback".

As a minister of God, you convey not just what you write or say, but what you are. We influence others, and they influence us everyday. The results should be mutually beneficial.

Too many ministers assume a distant, cold attitude and a business-like air that clashes with God's two great commandments to love Him and others. God is merciful and wise. Satan is pitiless and cunning. Just think, how you would like Jesus to relate to you, then treat others that way. Ministers should be gentle, happy, sympathetic, have a sense of humor, and be sensitive to the hurts and needs of others. Make yourself available and accessible to the lowliest individual that God sends your way. Help everyone that you can. For, "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

The reason it's important to return phone calls and to answer mail is to maintain good channels of communication between us and others, that we might build loving relationships. When divine love is strong between you and other Christians and ministers, Satan is rendered helpless.

Always go the second mile to prevent estrangement and segmentation in the Body of Christ; And to promote good will and trust between all true Christians and ministers.

Part of our work is to replace isolation with fellowship, paranoia with love, and division with friendship. Our goal is the unity of the body of Christ in love, even as the Father and the Son are one.

**FAITH IS:
DECIDING, DARING, DETERMINATION AND DOING.**

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

The way you look, the way you act, and the way you come across to people will have an ultimate influence upon your ministerial success. You may have Biblical education, background experience and wonderful divine gifts from God, but the way you relate to other people is all important. Relationships happen in your daily work habits, so no matter how busy you are with phone calls, correspondence, and promotional business, you must have Christ-like love toward those around you, who are nearest to you; and speak to them in a loving way, calmly and with Christ-like poise. Little courtesies and tact and discretion is what relationships are made out of. Integrity, a sense of ethics, loyalty, and trustworthiness is a must. Constant self evaluation is always in order. We must always be helpful, cooperative, and tolerant of others and their shortcomings. A minister is to be emotionally mature, good natured, and able to accept criticism and suggestions. He or she enthusiastically accepts responsibility as opportunities to serve God.

Stay in good health, exercise, eat properly, carry yourself with proper posture. The Bible teaches that men ought to have short hair and women ought to have long hair.

You don't have to follow all the latest clothing styles that constantly changes, but you don't need to be a hundred years behind either. Always be conservative in your appearance, you shouldn't look like Spike Jones' band or a monk. You have no desire to attract attention to yourself, but rather to Christ.

Keep yourself smelling clean and looking clean. Tidiness counts. If you haven't reached your goal yet, apparently, it will just take more time.

PUBLIC RESPECT

* Some Years Ago The Following Were The Professions That Commanded The Most Respect: Ministers, Doctors, Police Officers, Attorneys, School Teachers, Store Owners, State Legislators, Managers, Service Station Attendants, And Door To Door Salesman --- And In That Order. But Today Only A Few Hold Such Value, For Society Has So Morally Corrupted That No One Respects Anyone Very Much Anymore. We Can Safely-Say That The U.S.A. Has Entered Into A Post-Christian Era" So As A Minister You Can Expect Persecution, Etc.

This situation shall progress worst toward the end when people are betraying their own family. Jesus said, "Ye shall be hated of all men for my Name's sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. When they persecute you in one city flee ye into another. ... The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not." Mt. 10:21-26.

LICENSED AND ORDAINED

In a way, all Christians are servants and ministers. But there are at least three levels of recognition by the church of those who are more set apart for the ministry:

1. An Exhorter and Christian Worker. This could be all kinds of church officers, volunteers, and lay preachers.
2. Licensed. This is the legal aspect of the minister's standing in the church and community and permits him under the laws of the state to perform marriage ceremonies, as well as officiate at funerals. With most organizations, a license is renewable annually for a small fee.
3. Ordained. This status is ceremonial in nature it is the final step. In other words, all licensed ministers may not be ordained, but all ordained ministers would be licensed.

CREDENTIALS AVAILABLE

Currently, **Bethel Christian Faith Ministries International** provides applications for Christian Workers and for licensed ministers. We also ordain licensed ministers. There are five main qualifications:

1. The person must be saved.
2. The person must be baptized into the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
3. They must be living a clean life-, free from tobacco, etc.

4. They must be definitely called of God, as evidenced by ability, etc.
5. They must be active and doing something for the Lord.

WHY WE LICENSE MINISTERS?

My answer comes from four main passages of Scripture:

1. Matthew 9:35-38 Jesus went about all the cities of Galilee preaching and healing, and when He saw the MULTITUDES He was moved with COMPASSION because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Pray that laborers will be sent (or thrust) forth into the harvest. Compare Luke 10:2 and John 4:35.

Other translations say, "The harvest is great, but the workers are so few." "The crop is large, but the reapers are scarce." Jesus also said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus did not depict the ministry as a competitive field. There is a lot more fish than fishermen. Souls are dying and going to hell every day. And God wants a vast army to go out into the streets, homes, marketplaces, jails and hospitals to carry the full Gospel of salvation and healing to the lost, the sick, the poor, and the dying. The opportunities to serve God and share Christ are unlimited! And love always finds a way. Christ said, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come."

I strongly believe that if you have a DESIRE to work for God out of the motivation of bringing glory to God and a love for people, then you're "called" already, even if you haven't had a spectacular dream or vision. Therefore, to recruit more men and women to go win souls in the Big Harvest field, we would license ministers through Bethel Christian Faith Ministries International. The only requirement is that they must be saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, living a clean life, and called to the ministry. We also offer online Bible Courses to help train them, and we emphasize "Leadership by Example", and "practice what you preach".

We have hundreds that I can say I'm very proud of. But sometimes We have to turn down an application; and revoke some in the years past. Now anyone seeking the mere glamour of "Rev." before their name has missed the whole picture. But they usually drop out as soon as a little persecution arises.

Throughout history the Lord has raised up men and women of God to comfort His people. And those who are full of worldly pride are the first to take issue with them. It seems those who are overly concerned about social status, respect, and prestige, project their own mentality upon God's servants and become jealous. I just pray we may all remember that the ministry, the Church, and the whole Kingdom of God is run on love and truth!

2. Mark 9:38-40 John, the beloved, came and told Jesus, "Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy Name, and he followed not us: And we forbid him, because he followed not us. But Jesus said. Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in My Name; that can lightly (or is likely to) speak evil of Me. For he that is not against us, is on our part." Compare Luke 9:49,50

Now when John saw the poor demon-possessed person set free from the power of Satan, he should have rejoiced and expressed approval upon the man working a miracle in the Name of Jesus.

But instead, he had his eyes on the wrong issue, revealed by repetitious use of the phrase, "he followed not US". Here we have an example of "the party spirit" or "the sectarian attitude" that prompts such thinking as "who are you with?" "You're not part of our group". "No one around here recognizes you."

But Jesus taught that everyone is either pulling for or against the Kingdom of God. You're either working for God or the devil. But Satan's plan is to "divide and conquer". He wants to get Christian leaders fighting against each other. God forbid! Beware that you never reject a true servant of God, just because you don't know him.

3. Matthew 21:23-27 Another thing some people are hung up on is "authority" and "who you're submitted to". The religious establishment of Jesus' days, the chief priest and elders of the people came to Jesus and questioned, "By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell Me, I in likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? From Heaven or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we shall say, from Heaven; He will say unto us. Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, "We cannot tell". And He said unto them. Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

The truth is, John, the Baptizer got his authority straight from Heaven. And, of course, Christ was authorized by God. In the same way a man or woman doesn't have to be a part of some ecclesiastical hierarchy today. We can get all the spiritual authority we need from God. In fact Jesus said in John 15:16 I ordain you to go and bring forth fruit. Man can't give you authority and power to heal the sick and cast out devils. So the anointing of the Holy Spirit is essential, however proper recognition from an established religious institution can be very helpful to "open doors". So under the laws of the land BETHEL INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MINISTERS can issue you a wall certificate and a pocket card that can help you get into jails and hospitals, etc. (Sometimes regardless of visiting hours) and afford other practical advantages and privileges. So why not get both the heavenly and earthly.

4. Numbers 11:24-29 The Lord told Moses to gather 70 of the elders of Israel and set them round about the Tabernacle, and the Lord took of the Spirit that was upon Moses and it rested upon the elders and they did prophesy. But two of the elders, Eldad and Medad remained in the camp. And a young man ran told Moses that Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp. And Joshua, standing by spoke up "My lord, Moses, forbid them. And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for My sake? Would God that all the Lords' people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them".

Moses had compassion and the mind of the Lord. In Numbers 12:60 God said, "If there be a prophet among you I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and I will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all Mine House. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall be behold." Moses was special because he had love that others didn't know about. All he cared about was God and people. God by-passes procedure and protocol for people all the time.

Paul, the Apostle, felt the same way, in 1 Corinthians 14:5 "I would that ye ALL spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied."

Likewise, I feel the more Christians are prophesying and preaching, the better. And anyone who thinks I'm just exalting unworthy people to get their money, knows not what manner of spirit they are of. But God is the Judge, and we know all men by their fruits. Amen!

APPLICATION FOR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Some basic qualifications to license ministers: You must be saved, and filled with the Holy Spirit, living a clean life, called to the ministry and active some way.

We have forms that goes into such details as your spouse's attitude toward your ministry, when and where you were saved, baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, etc. We ask questions about liquor, tobacco, and narcotics, also depression, anger, and frustration. Ministers must be free from all sexual misconduct and totally surrendered to God. They must earnestly intend to align their life with God's eternal purpose; And maintain a faithful prayer life.

All of our ministers must be filled-with the love of God, and seek practical expressions of it in their daily life. You must be motivated by love for God and others, rather than love of money and authority. You must see the ministry as the privilege of serving others, rather than a means of achieving social prestige. We expect you to be careful to lift up Christ and Him crucified, rather than yourself.

All lay Christians are to bring forth good fruit such as; praying, testifying, witnessing, and giving; but a licensed and/or ordained minister is someone set apart for a more specific outreach for Christ. Some ministries that you might feel called to are:

Altar worker	Street meetings
Musician	Jail services
Home visitation	Prayer meetings in my home
Personal work in public	Evangelist
Hospital visitation	Tent preacher
Sunday School Teacher	Pastor
Exhorter from the pulpit	Missionary
Choir director	Youth leader
Distributing Christian literature	List others

Some ministries are primarily directed toward the lost, the saved, the sick, the dying, poor and needy, the aged, or shut-ins, youth, prisoners, etc.

Some of the places you can carry on ministry are: public streets, airports, hospitals, your home, the foreign field, beaches, business places, private offices, other people's homes, campuses, jails and prisons, rest homes, or churches.

It is very important that ministers refrain from gossip, evil speaking, and sowing discord among the brethren. Prov. 6:19. They should be eager to extend the right hand of fellowship in the spirit of brotherhood toward all true Christians, ministers, and churches. Religious pride, notions of exclusivism, and clickish attitudes that detract from the work of Christ must be discouraged but it is

also, essential that you disassociate yourself from any individual or group who persist in living in sin, or who does not hold the Bible as the authoritative Word of God.

If **Bethel Christian Faith Ministries International**, has not already licensed and ordained you, you may like to request an application. Those who qualify receive a wall certificate and a pocket card.

STAYING IN TOUCH

If God has ever called you to work for Him, He hasn't changed His mind about it. As Rom.11:29 says, "The Gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

Bethel Christian Faith Ministries International, has never attempted to control, rule, or supervise our ministers. You are free to be lead, guided, and directed by the Holy Spirit. Our purpose is to train you by our Bible courses, help promote your ministry, and encourage you in every way we can. We are not trying to build a mini-denomination or some kind of ecclesiastical hierarchy to usurp authority or control over others.

But our credential cards are renewable annually. Some of our ministers simply forget to renew their cards, some move away, and we lose contact with them, some do not wish to stay with us any longer, some die, some drop out of the ministry, and sadly some become disqualified. Therefore, to stay in GOOD STANDING we need to hear from you once a year, to know you are still serving the Lord with us. We request that you write or give us a little report telling us of any changes in your status, the thrust of your ministry, or what you are doing --- a Praise Report! If you have an outstanding testimony of how the Lord has used you, we could even use it in the next issue of The College Trumpet

So when your minister card expires, and you return it with the regular fee, we issue an updated card. And the small fee is used very carefully for the support of our headquarters office, maintaining records, printing, postage, and enables us to continue to assist and help you and others.

ORDINATION IN THE BIBLE

To ordain someone is to set them forth by Divine Authority; a person specially selected and appointed by God to do the work of the Lord. Ordination is a definite distinction designated by God, separated unto the ministry of the Gospel. We practice this as a public and formal enactment, with the laying on of hands of the elders, with prayer, fasting, prophecy, and a proclamation acknowledging the authorization of the minister.

Ac.10:38-43 teaches that Jesus of Nazareth was ordained of God to be the Judge of the living and dead. Ac.17:31 says that God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world by Christ, whom He has ordained.

God ordained believers to eternal life. Ac.13:46-48. God ordained that we should walk in good, works. Eph.2:10.

Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: ..."Jn.15:16 Titles like "Reverend" or clerical garb, such as long robes or collars turned backwards, cannot make you a minister.

Even years of training in a theological seminary cannot make a preacher of the Gospel, only God can, and He ordains His own. The church merely recognizes those whom God has chosen, and acknowledges those He has appointed, as a confirmation to the individual and to the public.

"...the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." I Cor.6:14. So ministers are not social parasites, but they are entitled to receive their living out of their work as much as a school teacher, professional counselor, psychologist, or attorney. For who goes to war at his own expense or who plants a vineyard and does not eat of the fruit. Who feeds a flock and does not drink of the milk. Thou shalt not muzzle the ox, which treadeth out the corn. Ministers sow spiritual things in the lives of others, and it is a light thing for others to sow material things in the life of a minister.

"Then the Word of the Lord came unto me saying. Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou cameth forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and ordained thee a prophet unto the nation. Then said I, ah. Lord God! Behold, I can not speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, say not, I am a child: for thou shall go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth His Hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, behold I have put My Word in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nation, and over the Kingdom, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. Jer.1:4-10.

•NOTE:

Don't say you are inadequate.

Speak what God lays upon your heart.

Be not afraid of people's faces, for God is with you.

God shall put His Words into your mouth.

You shall root out sin, sickness, demons.

You shall pull down erroneous thinking and imagination against God and His Word.

You shall destroy the works of the devil in Jesus Name.

You shall throw down the religious tradition of men.

You shall build up the church and the Kingdom of God.

You shall plant the good seed of the Word of God in the hearts of people.

The High Priest of Israel was ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices. Heb.8:3.

The Lord instructed Moses how to ordain the Levites (ministers).

"And thou shall bring the Levites before the Tabernacle of the congregation;

and thou shall gather the whole assembly of the children of Israel together:

and thou shall bring the Levites before the Lord: and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites... thus shall thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be Mine. And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the Tabernacle of the congregation... For they are wholly given unto Me from among the children of Israel." Num. 8:9-16.

•NOTE: The congregation was gathered together, it was a public ceremony unto the Lord, hands were layed upon them, they were separated unto the Lord.

Samuel: The Seer called Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice, and the Lord spoke to Samuel that He had chosen young David to be King.

Then Samuel took a horn of oil and anointed him in the mist of his brethren, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. I Sam. 16:5-13.

NOTE: The ordination was directed by God, the candidate was anointed with oil, and the Holy Spirit came upon him in a special way.

Jesus went up into a mountain, and called unto Him whom He would, and they came unto Him. And He ordained the twelve Apostles that they should be with Him, and that He should send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils. Mk. 3:13-15.

NOTICE that preaching, healing the sick, and casting out devils goes together.

After Judas lost his place among the twelve Apostles, Peter said that the church should select men who had fellowship with them all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among them, beginning from the baptism of John unto the day that Christ ascended. (About four years) That one must be ordained to be a witness with us of the Resurrection of Christ. And they appointed two, and prayed that one of them may take part of the apostolic ministry. And Matthias was numbered with the eleven.

NOTE: That this person had experience, he wasn't a newcomer, and he became an apostle not by human appointment alone, but by Divine Providence.

Paul said, "I am ordained a preacher, and an Apostle, I speak the truth in Christ and lie not; a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity." I Tim.2:7. Then Paul and Barnabus went through the cities and ordained elders in every church, and after prayer with fasting, they commended them to the Lord. Act.14:23. Also Paul wrote to Titus "That thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain Elders in every city, as I had appointed thee. Tit. 1:5

As the first church in Jerusalem grew in number there arose a complaint that — some widows were being neglected; and the Twelve said, "We shall not leave the Word of God and serve tables. Wherefore look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. (Benevolent work) And we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word. And they choose seven deacons whom they set before the Apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. And the Word of God increased and the number of disciples multiplied. Ac. 6:1-7.

Also Samuel, the Seer, and King David ordained porters or deacons to assume the over-sight of the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation. There were 212 who took care of the gates of the House of the Lord. I Chron. 9:21-23.

In Num. 27:16-21 Moses spoke to the Lord saying. Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd. And the Lord said unto Moses, take thee Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay thy hand upon him; and set him before Eleazar, the priest, and before all the congregation and give him a charge in their sight. And put some of thine honor upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. And he shall stand before Eleazar, the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim, before the Lord. Compare Deut. 34:9.

NOTE:

This ordination was before all the congregation,
and he received a public charge,
and was held up for respect,
and received a message through the Urim and Thumnim.

Paul told Timothy to "neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hand of the Presbytery. But be an example of the believers in Word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, purity. Give attendance to reading, education, and doctrine. Meditate upon these things. Give thy self wholly to them. Take heed to thy self and unto the doctor. Continue in them. Thou shalt save thy self and them that hear thee." I Tim. 4:14. Later Paul said, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hand."

NOTE:

There should always be some inspired prophetic utterance at the ordination service of a minister.

A licensed minister who is a candidate for ordination should pray and fast that day at least until after the service, if possible. He will probably want to bring his family, and a tape recorder, camera or video camera. An ordination service is about as significant and long as a wedding ceremony. It should be a memorial experience for all who witness it, and especially for the person being ordained, for it is a milestone in their life and a turning point in their ministry. The ordination service can begin with a regular church service with songs, praise, worship, and a brief sermon; followed by introductory remarks, Scripture reading, and then the candidate or candidates are called to step forward and stand facing the person conducting the service, who may ask them some of the following questions and then delivers the Holy Charge to them. Then they are asked to kneel down and then they are anointed with oil. Then all the other ministers are called to come and pray and let the gift of prophecy operate. At the end, a certificate of ordination is presented, signed by the participants.

Sometimes a reception in a special room of the church or some home may follow.

20 QUESTIONS FOR MINISTERS

1. Have you turned from all sin and promise to keep yourself clean and chaste before God?
2. Have you totally surrendered yourself to God and seek and obey His will at all costs?
3. Is it your earnest intention to align your life with the Eternal. Purpose of our Heavenly Father?
4. Is your supreme goal to add to God's Eternal Kingdom and build up the Church of Jesus Christ?
5. Do you sincerely pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you in all you say and do?
6. Do you have the love of God in your heart and seek practical expressions of it in your daily contacts?
7. Do you boldly open your heart and hands to your fellow saints everywhere to display that love Jesus said would characterize His disciples in Jn. 13:35?
8. Are you willing to help and be a blessing to others as opportunities arise?

9. Are you devoted to meeting the spiritual needs of all people that you can?
10. What motivates you?
The Love for God, the Love of Money, Love for others, or Love of Authority?
11. Do you see the ministry as the privilege of serving others rather than a means of achieving social prestige?
12. Are you careful to lift up Christ and Him crucified, rather than your own name and reputation?
13. Do you stand ready "instant in season and out of season" II Tim. 4:2 to share Christ, and speak anywhere the Lord enables you to go?
14. Are you ready to speak the Truth in Love without fear or favor, and declare the whole council of God, as wisdom directs?
15. Do you promise to practice what you preach and provide leadership by your own example?
16. Are you willing to stand for what's right, though unpopular, and suffer shame for the Gospel, even unto death as a martyr?
17. Do you promise to refrain from gossip, evil speaking, and sowing discord among brethren? Pro. 6:19
18. Are you eager to extend the right hand of fellowship in the spirit of brotherhood toward all true Christians, minister, and Churches of God?
19. Do you promise to discourage religious pride, notions of exclusiveness, and clickish attitudes that detract from the work of Christ?
20. Will you disassociate yourself from any individual or group, who persist in living in sin, or who does not hold the Bible as the authoritative Word of God?

HOW TO BE A GOOD MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST

A good Christian, doesn't smoke, drink, cuss, commit sex sins, steal, or lie. He knows his Bible well and prays a lot. He doesn't use others or take advantage of them. He diligently strives to make a contribution for the good and blessing of others.

So a good minister, is first a good Christian!

Then further, the Divine love of God, should so fill and flood his heart, and every part of his being, that there is no room for resentment, offenses, or bitterness toward others --- even toward those who may reject, misjudge, gossip on, or persecute him personally. He rather lifts his eyes up to Jesus, rejoices and sings praises to the Lord; and then he prays for his friends and enemies alike. By the grace of God, he is able to show friendly warmth and kindness toward those who show him coldness and unkindness.

It's hard to develop the skills and maturity to be a real winner in life, because the devil, the world, and the flesh is against you; but by God's all sufficient grace, and our faith in His Word, we can persevere with patience, and attain the goals that we desire.

And after those exciting victories, we must be very careful that no pride, vain glory, or egotism puffs us up, but we faithfully give God all the praise, glory, credit, and honor.

Never forget: Before, during, and after every exploit of faith, that we must talk less of "Me, Mine, and I" and more of "Jesus, Him, and the Lord". Amen!

CAN YOU MAKE THIS CONFESSION WITH ME?

1. I have repented from all my sins, and God has forgiven me, and washed me in the Blood of the Lamb.
2. I'm a member of the one true Church of Jesus Christ.
3. I have read the whole Bible through, and I believe every word of it.
4. God has called me to be His servant, but I'm not a public slave.
5. Sometimes my life is high and full, and sometimes not, but God enables me to cope with all things.
6. I refuse to compromise with the devil and his lies for one moment.
7. I hate all forms of sin, but I love all sinners.
8. Any good that I seem to do, is not of myself, but is really God working through me.
9. If the things I desire to accomplish for God doesn't happen today, I trust Him to help me to do it the next day.
10. I'm not in the ministry to get rich, but I'm not in the ministry to go broke either.
11. I'm a believer, not a beggar, for where God guides, he provides.
12. Jesus Himself is the Source of all my needs and the supply of my just wants.
13. I seek not the honor of the world nor the praise of men, but I am human enough to appreciate appreciation.
14. When unjust criticism, malicious gossip, or persecution comes my way, I'm determined not to get sad, mad, or bad, but to rejoice and be exceedingly glad.
15. By God's grace I will not give up, shut up, let up, or back off. I will look up, speak up, step out, press in, and stayed prayed up.

16. As I sow blessings in the lives of others, I expect the Hand of God to move in my life by miracle after miracle.
17. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
18. I'm not looking for a hole in the ground, but for one in the sky, for I believe Jesus is coming soon.

.....
Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people ever read.

CONDUCT OF LIFE

Experience is not so much what happens to you, as it is what you do with what happens to you. Your life is in the Hands of God and you. What will God and you make of it? God opens doors for us that we could never open ourselves; but He expects us to knock in faith followed by appropriate action. If you feel too submissive, it's time to be bold. If you feel too free and lifted up, strive to be humble and contrite. Before you repeat something you heard give it this test: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? If people talk about you, live so they can't prove what they say. Hold your peace and the Lord will fight for you. Ex. 14:14. Conduct yourself at all times so that nothing but honor can be reflected upon your reputation. The more you serve the Lord, the more God will honour you. Jn. 12:26

A GOOD MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST IS

1. First a Christian, and second a minister of Christ. Acts 20:28.
2. A person with a heart full of Divine Love toward God and all others.
3. Their mind is full of God's Word, truth, faith, and wisdom.
4. Their ears listen to the Voice of the Spirit of God for direction and guidance; and also to the cries of suffering people, to see how we may meet their needs.
5. Their eyes look up to Jesus to receive the strength, courage, and inspiration to carry on the work He has called us to do.
6. Their mouth is full of prayer and praises to God; and their lips are used to share the light of the Gospel with people everywhere.
7. Their hands are always ready to serve, help, uplift, and do good work for God's glory.
8. Their feet are swift to walk in the Spirit, in the path of righteousness, and to go anywhere the Lord enables them to witness for Him.
9. Their purpose is to add to the eternal Kingdom, up build the church of Jesus Christ, and to promote the ministry God has called them to.
10. Their theme is love, unity, and cooperation among their fellow workers and ministers.

SPECIAL SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS

Of course, all Christians should have the love of God in their heart, the Word of God in their mind, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. And in a way a minister is just an over-grown Christian. To be an effective leader in the Body of Christ, he must have an extra measure of these things:

1. Love... you must have a sweet, loving spirit to draw people together. You will never have any following if you are not a friendly and outgoing person.
2. The Word...you must know what you are talking about in order- to instruct others. You must be richly stocked up so you can do what Jesus said, "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep."
3. Wisdom... is needed to enable you to handle people and to manage imperfect church folks. You must be a good coach and referee.

Of course, we don't expect our ministers to be absolutely perfect, but they should not have any besetting sins that continually plague their conscience. They must be walking with the Lord and living a victorious Christian life, in order to be able to help others. They must believe, practice, and teach the Bible, THE DIVINE DOCUMENT! They should promote good will and unity among all true Christians and ministers. Following are three specific areas that must be above reproach:

1. **SEX**...the spiritual must overrule the sensual. A person who cannot control their physical desires and body appetites can never be a fit minister of Christ.
2. **MONEY**...every Christian needs to learn to live within their means; and part of a minister's testimony is how he handles his finances, as a good steward of God. If a preacher owes everybody in town and outstanding bills are part of his lifestyle, then folks can't hear what he's saying because of what he's doing.
3. **DOCTRINE**...if we expect a mechanic, plumber, or electrician to know his trade, how much more should a teacher or preacher know his Bible. Error and false doctrine cannot be tolerated in the Church. A minister should read or study the Word of God every day.

MORAL STANDARDS

There's an old saying that's very important for preachers: "Touch not the glory, touch not the gold, and touch not the gals."

1. **GLORY**...We must always be careful to give all the praise, honor, and glory to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is never necessary or becoming to magnify and exalt yourself. Jesus deserves all the credit all the time.
2. **GOLD**...Money must always be handled honestly and fairly. No discrepancies or frauds in finances can be allowed in the church. There must never be any misrepresentation or selfishness.
3. **GALS**...It's all right for a single male minister to date a Christian girl, and we have had some of our ministers marry each other, but they must be very discreet and respectable.

A married man, if traveling without his wife, must be extremely careful to avoid all temptations of flirtation or infatuation. I Thess. 5:22 says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

BE CAREFUL: You must avoid counseling members of the opposite sex privately. Also, when making house calls and you discover a member of the opposite sex alone, your visit must be limited to five minutes.

I Thess. 5:22 "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

A SELF-TEST

In order for ministers to be what they should, we need to know wherein we should improve. Following is a self-examination:

Good

Am I lifting up Jesus and calling attention to Him? Is my preaching really God-centered?

Do I teach the Scriptures straight and preach against sins?

Do I let the Holy Spirit lead the way He wants to, no matter what?

Do I seize opportunity to do good; and am I willing to even go "out of my way" to help someone?

Am I available to individuals and compassionate toward the hurting, the confused, and those who have yielded to sin?

Does my church budget in benevolence for the poor and do I financially contribute to other ministries?

Am I friendly and out-going toward strangers and those who seem different?

Do I strive to keep the wrongs of others from negatively affecting me?

Do I acknowledge that promotion comes from the Lord, and a man can receive nothing except it be given him from above?

Bad

Am I proud, seeking prestige and reputation as my top priority?

Do I talk psychology to please people and teach success and prosperity philosophy to be in their favor?

Am I self-willed, hard-headed, and insensitive to God's Spirit?

Do I view people as interruptions and the needy as an annoyance? Am I unwilling to take time to listen?

Do I discourage folks from coming for counseling about their personal problems, by condemning them as if they have no faith or character?

Am I greedy and covetous, interested only in tithes and offerings for myself and my ministry?

Do I feel distant, reserved, and cold, and tend to wait for them to make the first move?

Do I react to the wrongs of others, and let it throw me off balance?

Does it turn me off to hear about the promotion, success, and blessings of other churches or ministers?

Do I care about the whole Body of Christ,
put love into action, make myself available,
and keep my word if at all possible?

Do I forget to answer letters, neglect to return
phone calls, fail to do what I say, and don't
respond to outsiders?

RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES

Throughout world history, man has been a religious creature. Religion has been mixed with philosophy, politics, and just about everything else. As a minister you need to understand the current usage of such terms as Fundamentals, Evangelical, Denomination, Inter-Denominational, Sects, Cults, Occult, etc. When a kook gets a following, then it's a cult. A cult is more open about their beliefs and practices, whereas the Occult is more hidden and covered up.

Of course, religious groups may be newly formed or well established. They may be numerically small or large. They may have started among the higher or lower classes — economically and academically. They may be socially involved or anti-social. They may have a friendly attitude toward government or a hostile attitude, but the government has no right to pass any laws approving or disapproving a religious establishment. There must never be any official designation of a superior or inferior religion, but all beliefs and practices are to be equally tolerated as long as they operate legally and don't hurt people against their will.

As American religious groups are founded, grow, and gain material and social status and pass on from first, to second, to third generations, they change. Often, earlier teachings are neglected and former practices are discarded, until their classification might be completely altered. For example, the YMCA started out as genuinely Christian, but has now completely spiritually apostatized. It's not easy to classify all groups, but the following is my opinion:

1. **FUNDAMENTAL/EVANGELICAL CHURCHES:** Assembly of God, Charismatic, Pentecostal Holiness, Nazarene, Baptist, and Christian Churches.
2. **INTER-DENOMINATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS:** Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship, International, Women Aglow, Youth With a Mission, Youth for Christ.
3. **TRADITIONAL PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS:** Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopal, Lutheran.
4. **OFF-SHOOT SECTS:** Some fanatical Pentecostal groups, Mennonites, Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah Witness, Extreme Calvinism groups, "Children of God".
5. **CULTS:** Masons, Mormons, Christian Scientists, Unity/Unitarians.
6. **EASTERN WORLD RELIGIONS:** Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Islam (Muslim), Zen(Buddhist), Tibetan Monks.

7. OCCULT: Theosophy, Rosicrucianism (AMORC), Scientology, New Age-ism, Eckankar.
8. SATAN WORSHIP: Humanism, Atheism, UFO Seekers, Paganism, Neo-Paganism, Astrology, Horoscope, Black Magic, Spiritists, Spiritualism, Witchcraft (black, white, and grey). Voodoo.

MIXING CHRISTIANITY WITH OTHER THINGS

You can look all around you in the world today and see examples of Christianity mixed with many other things. Whenever Christianity is blended with something else, it dilutes the Christianity and makes it weaker; but the other thing is improved and made stronger. These high-breed forms often become popular because it has a greater appeal to a wider spectrum of worldly Christians and unspiritual people. These things may occur on a small or large scale. So, from one view point its good, but from another view point its bad. Maybe God calls some people to do these things, because it does seem to help a lot of people, and they are exposed to the Lord, but personally I prefer pure Bible Christianity. The only thing Jesus started was the New Testament Church.

Some of those last things are all together evil/ but other moral causes such as abortion/ homelessness/ nationalism, and other social causes would have to be individually evaluated. The point of calling all this to the reader's attention is simply that you might be aware of it, recognize it when you see it and know it for what it is---like Christmas (a mixture of good and bad). The problem is that in time the Christian element seems to die out, and the natural ingredients continue on. Surely, the plain path of life is not wide, but narrow.

FOUR LAWS OF PROSPERITY

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalms 1;1,2,3

Our part is to:

1. Walk in the counsel of the Godly.
2. Stand in the way of righteousness.
3. Sit in the seat of the compassionate.
4. Meditate on the Word of God.

Walking in the counsel of the Godly, is to follow the advice of the Bible and obey the Lord's laws of life. Offer God your whole life. Put Him first in your heart. Let him take complete control of you. He can turn a "never-do-well" into a "success story".

To stand in the way of righteousness is to stand up for Jesus and maintain right things. Be upright and honest. Carry out your big ideas with zeal and enthusiasm. Your big break may come suddenly. When opportunity appears, act quickly to take full advantage of it. Launch out into the deep. Make the change. Venture. Work with a will to win.

To sit in the seat of the compassionate means to love souls. Let God's love direct you and be your driving force in life. Measure all your decisions by the law of love. If what you are doing is not kind, stop it. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

To meditate on the Word of God means to continually think and believe in conformity to the Divine Document. Let the Word of God shape your thinking and your life and direct your destiny. Prosperity comes to those who believe God for it. Put negative thinking from you as you would the plague of leprosy, refuse to fear, doubt, or let anything overwhelm you. You shall prevail by trusting in God.

In conclusion: "In as much as you shall keep the commandments of the Lord, ye shall prosper in the land; and in as much as you shall not keep the commandments of the Lord, ye shall be cut off from His presence."

Property and Copyright material of:

BETHEL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

5010 SW 20TH TERRACE, P. O. BOX 4086, TOPEKA KS. 66604, USA.

Email: info@bcuks.org -Website: www.bcuks.org

Tel: [1-785-430-4422](tel:1-785-430-4422)