

CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating and training ministerial leadership



MIN342 Ministerial Ethics

Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

Professor

Course Description

This course traces the development and history of ethical thought and the leaders of the Christian church from the giving of the Ten Commandments, through the era of John the Baptist, to the 20th century Holiness Movement. Current moral/ethical issues and the ethical aspects of major Pentecostal doctrines are outlined. Guidelines for proper relationships with the congregation and with fellow ministers are highlighted. The course concludes with the practical application of ethics to the minister's home life and ministry.

Resources

You will use Ministerial Ethics, a Study Guide by T. Burton Pierce with the textbook it was written to accompany: Ministerial Ethics: A Guide for Spirit-Filled Leaders by T. Burton Pierce and Stanley Horton, and supplemental text The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Christian Reflections on Money, Sex, and Power by Richard J. Foster. Optional additional titles may be helpful, but are not required: Pastor to Pastor: Tackling Problems of the Pulpit by Erwin W. Lutzer, Christian Ethics by Norman L. Geisler, and Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette by Nolan B. Harmon. The Holy Bible is the only other requirement. Bible quotations in this study guide are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. Some assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site. Instructions for accessing the Internet are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet.

Objectives

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

Course Procedures

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

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Course Introduction

The purpose of this course is to explain what Christian ethics is all about and then to provide guidance for enjoying a life and ministry that are ethical in every way. We will begin by going into detail as to how our modern idea of ethics came about, beginning with the giving of the law of Moses and the Ten Commandments. We will study the great principles laid down in the Commandments and apply them to everyday living for every generation, from his day to the 21st century.

We will observe the lives and teachings of great figures from church history in their attempts to put into practice the ethical concepts laid down in Scripture. It will be apparent that God-honoring ethical codes steadily declined from the time of the early church fathers until the days of the early reformers and Martin Luther. The pattern of rising and falling ethical values has continued from the Wesleyan revival and the Great Awakening to the present. In this country, revival fires were drenched with the icy waters of liberal theology and situation ethics, only to be rekindled by the rise of the Holiness movement in the early 20th century. With this enlivening of the Spirit came a renewed awareness that the salvation experience makes it possible for the Christian to live victoriously and ethically in the power of the Spirit.

Contemporary Christian ministers be aware of the major moral and ethical problems that plague our society. They must determine the solid ethical/moral position they should take and then defend it and live by it. They must find their role as leader of the congregation. They must be aware of the importance of relating to their people as examples of ethical living. They must learn to fill the role of preacher/counselor adequately.

From a personal perspective, ministers must deal with two important areas of ethical concern: sexual conduct and the handling of finances. Ultimately, ministers must deal with the power of their position in the church and must learn to emulate models of authority they find in the Scriptures as they yield to the lordship of Christ and resist the temptation to abuse the power inherent in the ministry.