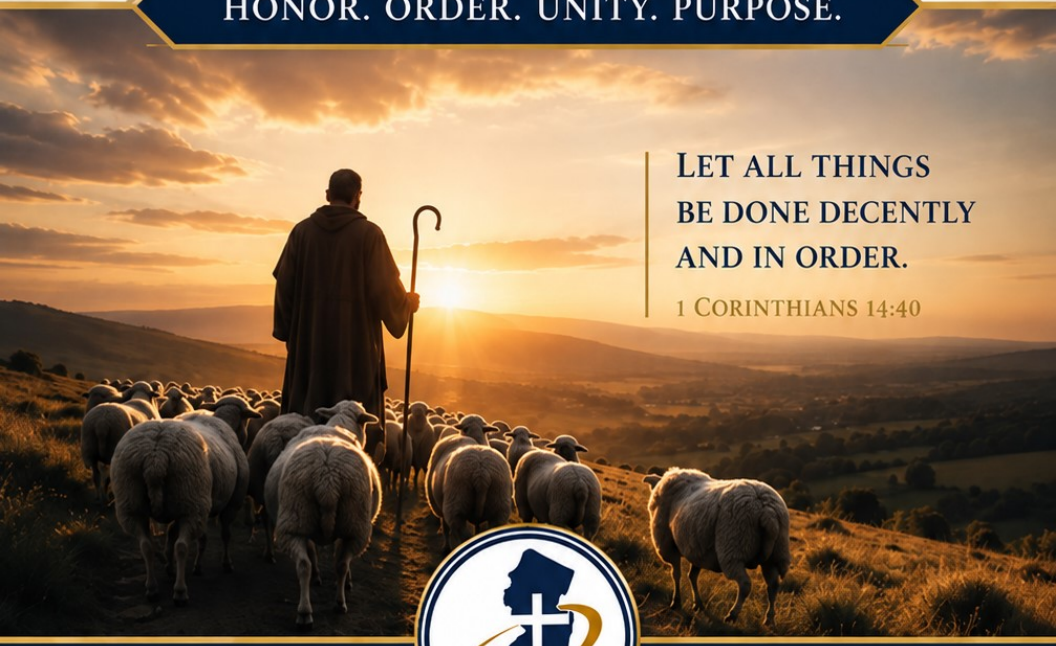
CHURCH ETHICS AND MINISTERIAL RELATIONSHIPS

HONOR. ORDER. UNITY. PURPOSE.



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Church Ethics and Ministerial Relationships

1 Corinthians 14:40

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

INTRODUCTION

God never intended His church to function in confusion, overlapping voices, or divided direction. From the beginning, the Lord established order as the foundation for spiritual health. When order is clear, the church grows strong. When order is unclear, confusion quietly enters.

This is why biblical principles must be taught **before problems arise—not after confusion has already taken root**.

I. ONE SHEPHERD — ONE PRIMARY VOICE

Hebrews 13:17

"Obey them that have the rule over you…"

This Scripture reveals a simple but powerful truth:

- God assigns **specific spiritual oversight**

Believers are not meant to follow **multiple competing voices**

Principle:

You can learn from many…
But you must be led by one.

Why this matters:

- Multiple voices create mixed direction
- Mixed direction produces instability
- Instability weakens spiritual growth

II. SPIRITUAL ALIGNMENT PRODUCES STRENGTH

Amos 3:3

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Alignment is not just agreement in doctrine—it is agreement in:

- Direction
- Spirit

Leadership
When alignment is present:

- The church moves forward together
- Vision is clear

Growth is healthy
When alignment is missing:

- People pull in different directions
- Confusion develops quietly
- Unity becomes strained

III. ORDER IN THE BODY IS GOD'S DESIGN

1 Corinthians 14:33
"For God is not the author of confusion…"

God's nature is:

- Order
- Clarity

Structure
Confusion does not come from God—it comes when:

- Roles are blurred
- Voices overlap
- Boundaries are unclear

IV. DIVIDED VOICES CREATE CONFUSED BELIEVERS

1 Corinthians 1:10
"…that ye all speak the same thing…"

A believer cannot thrive spiritually while trying to follow:

- Different directions
- Different leadership

Different spiritual influences
James 1:8

"A double minded man is unstable…"

Result of divided voices:

- Hesitation in decision-making
- Lack of confidence in leadership

Spiritual inconsistency

1 Corinthians 14:8

"If the trumpet give an uncertain sound…"

Truth:

Clarity of voice produces clarity of life..

V. GOD'S ORDER IS FOR PROTECTION — NOT CONTROL

It is important to understand:

Spiritual order is not about:

- Control
- Restriction

Limiting people

It is about:

- Protection
- Stability

Growth

Illustration:

Just as a shepherd watches over a flock:

- Not to control them

But to protect and guide them

So God establishes spiritual leadership for the good of His people.

VI. HOW BELIEVERS SHOULD RESPOND

1. Be Rooted

Commit to the place God has planted you

2. Be Aligned

Follow the direction God has given through your pastor

3. Avoid Divided Influence

Be careful of voices that pull you in different directions

4. Walk in Order

Honor the structure God has established
Where there is clear order, there is peace.
Where there is one voice, there is direction.
Where there is alignment, there is strength.

God's desire is not confusion—but clarity.
Not division—but unity.
Not disorder—but a body functioning together in perfect order.

VII. MINISTERIAL ETHICS

From the UPCI Manual Article 7 Section 7 Paragraph f

Any Credentialed UPCI ministers who desires any type of relationship with members of a different congregation …. will first contact their pastor for approval.

Each church is a type of vineyard, and as such must be left under the care of the keeper of that vineyard (pastor). Each time I have moved, I have severed all but cordial relationships with members of other churches. When we left Staten Island, with Pastor Carters permission, I did not seek any contact or relationship with the members of Pentecostal Tabernacle. To do so would be inviting confusion and interfering with a functioning vineyard of the Lord.

God places people in churches under pastors for shepherding, discipleship, accountability, and covering. When someone draws people away from that covering in the name of the Kingdom, they're removing people from the place God planted them.

1 Corinthians 12:18 "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

Jer 3:15 "I will give you pastors according to my heart"

If God set someone in a church— who are we to uproot them without God's clear direction and the agreement of their spiritual covering?

When someone says:"I'm doing this for the Kingdom", always remember:

• The Kingdom operates by divine order, not ambition.

• True Kingdom workers honor other men's labor and spiritual boundaries.

• If these actions produce division, confusion, or offense — it's not the Kingdom of God at work.

• The Kingdom is about discipleship and covenant, not merely where people gather.

• If God placed them under a shepherd, we need to honor what God has done.

Limits are placed on UPCI ministers that we do not interfere with the operation of other churches. I respect other congregations and hope other ministers will respect us.