

From The Pastor's Desk

Praise the Lord! I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. From time to time I have been approached by those concerned about proper church etiquette and Christian courtesy. I am addressing their concern by way of the following:

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

ARRIVAL TIME: Those worshipping in God's House should try to attend services on time. Latecomers should never be seated during prayer, the reading of scripture, while announcements are being given or while the sermon is being delivered.

ENTERING CHURCH: Be obedient to the directions of the Usher. Follow directly behind the usher who will seat you.

KEEP DOWN DISTURBANCE: If you have small children, instruct them before service begins to keep as quiet as possible and relieve themselves before service. If you must leave the sanctuary due to some emergency, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HOLD UP ONE FINGER. This only gets the attention of everyone in church.

BENEDICTION: Always stay until the benediction is given. Leaving early is disturbing to others and cheats you too. It is rude to allow a minister to pour out his soul in a gospel message and then leave before service has ended.

GREETING THE MINISTER: Many ministers who are pastors prefer "PASTOR" verses "REVEREND" when addressing them. A minister who holds a Doctorate Degree may be addressed "Dr. Smith" or Pastor/Rev. Smith." Always try to shake hands with the Pastor and share with him how the sermon may have helped. Do you pray for him?

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: greeting one's neighbor, being cordial to visitors and just good visiting can follow the worship service. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know each other better.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY: This means presenting an overall neat, clean and well-groomed appearance. Common sense tells us what is considered "Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes." Avoid extreme styles and the latest fashion fad.

GIVE AN OFFERING: Have a part in the service of giving. We are only stewards of our possessions. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein." GOD GIVES HIS!

LET'S GO TO CHURCH TO WORSHIP GOD! Always carry your Bible. Bring the spirit with you and take the spirit of the service home. "Let your conversation be without covetousness..." (Hebrews 13:5)

I pray you will appreciate and follow the above Christian Courtesies in God's House.