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...CHRISTIAN USHERING: A CALL TO SERVICE...

By

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Roman 12:1, 6-8 (KJV2000)

*"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your
Bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable
Service. Having then gifts differing to the grace that is in us... or ministry;
Let us wait on our ministering..."*

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

A. USHERING

1. Like teaching, preaching, etc, it is a call to serve or mister.
2. It an act of showing people where to sit in church, public hall, etc by an usher
3. It is a responsibility given to somebody in the church and it has many services attached to it.

B. USHER

1. It is said to be a person who shows people where to sit in the church, public hall, etc.
2. An official who has special responsibilities in a court of law, e.g. Allowing people in and out of the court.
3. A friend of the bridegroom at a wedding who has special duties.

I. THE QUALIFICATIONS (QUALITIES) OF A CHRISTIAN USHER

- A. New birth
- B. Maturity
- C. Modesty
- D. Courtesy
- E. Teach-ability
- F. Sacrifice
- G. Neatness
- H. Self-discipline
- I. Humility
- J. Patience (long suffering)

- K. Ability
- L. Good relationship
- M. Commitment
- N. Punctuality
- O. Good reputation.

II. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CHRISTIAN USHER

A. On the Crusade, Easter Retreat, etc. ground.

1. Seats arrangement
2. Cleaning and dusting the seats
3. Assisting in offering collection
4. Collection of prayer requests
5. Giving visitors seats
6. Leading the guest speakers to their seats
7. Making sure nobody sleeps when preaching is on
8. Assisting when needs arise.
9. Controlling the movement of the people

B. In the church

1. Welcoming and leading visitors to where they should sit
2. As those called to serve, they are to:
 - a. Assist in collecting and returning offering to the appropriate place.
 - b. Assist in seats arrangement
 - c. Cleaning of the church after service
 - d. Ensuring that nobody sleeps during preaching
 - e. Make sure there is water for the pastor
 - f. Make sure the microphones are where they should be
 - g. Assist in changing money
 - h. Arrange and distribute hymn books to the worshipers
 - i. Make sure all doors are unlocked and locked during and after a particular service
 - j. Assist visitors with all the necessary information they may need
 - k. Assist the visitors with children, umbrella, etc.
 - l. Assist and escort the pastor by carrying the bag, Bible, etc.

III. THE POSITIONING OF THE USHERS

A. On the crusade or retreat ground

1. At various locations
2. At the ministers stand
3. At the band stand
4. At every entrance to the ground
5. At the four cardinal points or directions of the ground

B. In the church during worship

1. Outside the church hall
2. Stand near doors
3. Stand inside at various rows and locations to ensure orderliness and quietness in the Lord's sanctuary

IV. WHAT EVERY USHERS SHOULD AVOID

- A. Any form of offensive odour
- B. Anything that can cause distraction
- C. Avoid lateness to service or duties

- D. Lack of respect and rude living
- E. Anything that can damage his/her image and the church
- F. Avoid discussion during service, unless it has to do with the service
- G. Avoid over-dressing and under-dressing

V. WHAT EVERY USHERS SHOULD BE

- A. An example - 1 Tim 4:12
- B. Time keeper
- C. Honest
- D. A man, woman, etc. of integrity
- E. Bible student
- F. Prayerful
- G. Self-controlled

VI. BASIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIAN USHERING AND COUNCELLING.

- A. Both are call to service
- B. They share the same qualifications
- C. The nos. IV & V are applicable to all of them

- D. A counsellor can equally used as an usher as needs arise. Also an usher can equally be used as a counsellor as need arise in the program; therefore both need the same training
- E. Both of them need enough hands+ for effective service
- F. During altar call some of the ushers can be used in writing names; therefore both should make themselves available and make every time useful according to youths directive.
- G. Both of them are stewards and they will give account to the owner of the work (GOD)
- H. Both of them need special grace to work; Why?

Dearly beloved, ushering and counseling are not easy tasks; they are open to temptations and manipulations therefore both workers must be:

1. Humble
2. Suffer long (patient)
3. Be temperate
4. Be prayerful, persevered
5. Be a dead man

It take the grace of God to be a counsellor as well as an usher. Therefore ask Him to give and double his grace in your life.