

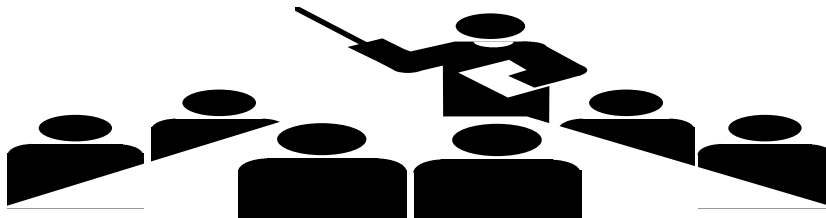
# PASTORS' SEMINAR



Facilitator

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**Topic**

**“Practical Principles for Preachers:  
Character and Conduct”**

# **PASTORS' SEMINAR**

Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr. Presenter

## **Topic**

### **Practical Principles for Preachers: Character and Conduct**

#### **I. Character Issues Dominate the Biblical Qualifications for Ministerial Leadership [From the Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9)]**

- A. This minister must be above reproach (blameless)
- B. This minister must demonstrate marital fidelity (one spouse)
- C. This minister must exhibit temperance and self-control
- D. This minister must be prudent, sensible, and sober minded
- E. This minister must command respect by good behavior (respectable)
- F. This minister must be hospitable
- F. This minister must be able to teach
- G. This minister must have no alcohol or drug abuse
- H. This minister must not be violent, but gentle
- I. This minister must not be quarrelsome or contentious
- J. This minister must not be greedy for money
- K. This minister must be a good family manager
- L. This minister must be a good parent
- M. This minister must be experienced in ministry and mature in Christ
- N. This minister must have a good reputation with outsiders
- O. This minister must not be self-willed or arrogant
- P. This minister must not be quick-tempered
- Q. This minister must love what is good
- R. This minister must be upright, just and fair
- S. This minister must be devout, holy, and lead a disciplined life
- T. This minister must be sound in doctrine and able to refute those who contradict

#### **II. Conduct & Character are Prominent Issues for Ministers in Zion Methodism**

- A. Rules for a Preacher's Conduct (1996 Book of Discipline, pp. 73, 74)
  - Rule #1: Diligence
  - Rule #2: Seriousness
  - Rule #3: Circumspect living and prudence with the opposite sex
  - Rule #4: Caution against believing unfounded accusations
  - Rule #5: Warning against speaking evil of others
  - Rule #6: Sense and grace in minding the Discipline of the Church
  - Rule #7: Avoiding affectation and pretense
  - Rule #8: Boldness in authentic ministry
  - Rule #9: Punctuality

Rule #10: Unselfishness, responsibility, and cooperation in ministry

B. Character Questions for Ministers Entering the Itinerancy  
(1996 Book of Discipline, pp. 77, 78)

1. Have you saving faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you groaning after it?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself to God and His work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep them?
8. Do you constantly attend the Lord's Supper?
9. Have you studied the doctrines of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion

Church?

10. Will you preach and maintain them?
11. Have you studied our form of Church Discipline and Polity?
12. Will you support and maintain them?
13. Have you considered the Rules for Preachers, especially those relating to Diligence, Punctuality, and Doing the work to which you are assigned?
14. Will you keep them for conscience's sake?
15. Are you determined to employ your time in the work of God?
16. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
17. Will you visit from house to house?
18. Will you recommend fasting and abstinence both by precept and example?
19. Are you embarrassed by debts, so as to prevent you from traveling?
20. Do you use intoxicating drugs or tobacco?

C. The Final Four of an Elder's Eight Ordination Vows have to do with Character Issues  
(1996 Book of Discipline, pp. 364,365)

- #5: Diligence in spiritual formation, godliness and the spiritual disciplines
- #6: Diligence in the pursuit of holiness and godly living
- #7: The maintenance of peaceful and loving relations with members and colleagues
- #8: Absolute respect for and relative obedience to delegated authority