



Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
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The Huddle
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The 10 Commandments for Leader's In The Lord's Church

COMMANDMENT 1: THOU SHALT CONSTANTLY DEVELOP AS A DISCIPLE

A Leader in the Lord's church should always be experiencing spiritual and personal growth and development.

- **2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV):**

'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.'

- **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV):**

'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.'

- **We cannot handle spiritual matters with a carnal mindset.**
- **How can you make spiritual decisions without being spiritual developed?**
- **"We can teach people what we are, but we can only reproduce what we are."- John Maxwell**
- **If you aren't growing don't expect to lead something that is!**
- **Many churches are struggling financially and numerically, because they are spiritually stagnant.**

- **Every leader should be READING:**

- Their Bible – Are you growing in your Word?
- Spiritual Literature – Are you growing in your Christian walk?
- Developmental Literature – Are you growing in the area you're leading?
- Devotional Literature – Are you spending private time with God?

- **Every leader should be PRAYING:**

- We cannot talk for a God we will not talk to.
- God has a solution for every problem – But it only comes from Him!
- Our peace, power, and provision is tied into our PRAYER.

-If you are not praying for your church, why should you have any power/position/influence in your church?

- **Every leader should be a PERSON OF FAITH:**

-Hebrews 11:6 (NJKV)

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

• Without faith you are not pleasing God – If you aren't pleasing God, you shouldn't be leading and making influential decisions for His people!

Commandment II: THOU SHALT HAVE A SPIRIT OF SERVANTHOOD

A leader in the Lord's church should view their highest honor as being a servant of God's people.

- **John 13:14-17 (NKJV):**

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

- **Mark 10:45 (NKJV):**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- God doesn't need celebrities, He needs servants!
- If we are going to lead people, we must be servants of people!
- People should be our priority!
- Serving God's people means putting their needs above our own!
- Question to Consider: Do the members of our church feel we are here for them or they are here for us?
- "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi
- "Life's most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" — Martin Luther King, Jr.
- "True leadership must be for the benefit of the followers, not to enrich the leader." — John C. Maxwell
- "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all." — Jesus (Mark 10:43-44 NKJV)
- We cannot have titles without having towels!!! - John 13:1-17

Commandment III: THOU SHALT BE A GENEROUS GIVER

A leader in the Lord's church should give generously to the causes of Christ!

- **A leader in the Lord's Church should generously give God their time:**

Matthew 26:40 (NKJV):

"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?'"

- Leaders within the church should be generous with the time they give to church work and church members!
- Leaders should be present for Worship, Christian Education Opportunities, Prayer Opportunities, Service Opportunities, and Fellowship Opportunities.

- **A leader in the Lord's Church should generously give God use of their talents:**

Romans 12:5-8 (NKJV):

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

- A leader in the Lord's Church should know their spiritual gifts (talents) and be using them for His glory.

- **A leader in the Lord's Church should generously give God their tithes:**

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NKJV):

"But this I say; He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

- The leaders of the Church should lead in the area of giving!

Commandment IV: THOU SHALT BE MISSION MINDED

A leader in the Lord's church should believe in and be focused on carrying out the mission of the church.

- The leaders of the Church should be driven by and dedicated to the mission of the Church.
- Leaders should specialize in keeping the main thing the main thing!
- The mission of the Church was set by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20
- The mission of the Church is to make disciples.
- Which means every service, decision, and activity we have or make should in some kind of way:

Exalt the Savior

Explain the Scriptures

Evangelize the Sinner

Equip the Saints
Encourage the Struggling or
Engage the Society

Commandment V: THOU SHALT HAVE A DISDAIN FOR DISUNITY

A leader in the Lord's church should not be pleased with or partake in anything that brings disunity within the church and should work their hardest to help foster unity within the congregation.

- The leaders of the Lord's Church should not take part in division and should do their part to heal the wounds of division.

Romans 16:17-18 (NKJV):

'Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.'

- The leaders of the Lord's Church should be led by God and God is NOT the author of confusion, which means they should not be entangled in confusion!
- Satan doesn't want the Church to be unified because he knows the blessings that unity bring.
- Unity produces Supernatural Provision, Supernatural Progress, and God's Supernatural Presence!!!

- **Supernatural Provision:**

Psalm 133 (NKJV):

'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; FOR THERE THE LORD COMMANDED THE BLESSING – Life forever.'

- **Supernatural Progress**

Genesis 11:6 (NKJV):

'And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; NOW NOTHING THEY PROPOSE TO DO WILL BE WITHHELD FROM THEM."

- **Supernatural Presence**

Matthew 18:19-20 (NKJV):

'Again, I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I AM THERE in the midst of them.'

- No matter what we must **STICK TOGETHER** and encourage our congregation to do the same!

Commandment VI: THOU SHALT PERPETUALLY PURSUE PROGRESS

A leader in the Lord's church should always be working towards the progress of the church not the past of the church.

- Leaders in the Lord's Church should never allow the Church to be content with having a mediocre existence. The constant battle cry of Church Leaders should be: "FORWARD MARCH!"
- "More than 80% of U.S. churches have plateaued or are declining, because they are structured to provide ministries for those who are already inside our doors and most churches think they are better than they really are and stuck in the accomplishments of their past instead of progressing towards the victories of their tomorrow." – Thom Rainer, CEO & President, Lifeway Christian Resources
- "We must be committed to what WORKS not what WAS!" - Edward V. Hill, III.
- Leaders of the Lord's Church should strive to help the Church progress towards Her best spiritual, financial, numerical, and socially engaged future.
- Leaders of the Lord's Church should have open minds and optimistic attitudes towards change, because there can be no progress without change!
- We can embrace change and pursue progress by trusting and teaching the promises of the Word of God!
- "Hold fast to the Bible. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future."- Ulysses S. Grant
- I believe Paul said it best in Philippians:

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV):

'Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I PRESS toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.'

Commandment VII: THOU SHALT BE INTENTIONAL TO INSPECT

A leader in the Lord's church should always measure and evaluate aspects of our ministry to see how we are doing and how we can become better.

- Churches are subconsciously rated like other institutions, which is why like other institutions we should be mindful of our reviews!
- Our goal is to make everyone who is involved in leading and working in a ministry to be constantly involved in discussions regarding how things are going and how they can be better.

- This means that annual reviews are dinosaurs. Weekly discussions on “How did it go?” should become the norm.
- We should not just have planning meetings, but we should have meetings post-event to gain feedback and ask questions: What should we do differently next time How can we improve? Do we want to do this again?
- We should INSPECT what we Expect!

•**I – Initiate respectful accountability** – Make sure people feel safe to share ideas and feedback.

•**N- Never confuse inspection with expectation** – How things went is not always the same as how you thought they would. Face it.

•**S- Select what you expect.** – Know what “success” looks like.

•**P- Performance must be measurable** – Set goals that can be charted.

•**E- Excellence demands it** – Excellence should be our standard not our goal.

•**C- Celebrate the victories** – Pause to celebrate the success of different objectives.

T- Take time to follow up – Meet to discuss how things went/are going.

Commandment VIII: THOU SHALT BE ENGULFED WITH EXCELLENCE

A leader in the Lord’s church should make excellence the standard not the goal.

- Many churches have the mentality that sincerity is all God wants. – Yes, He wants us to serve Him with sincerity, but He also wants our best!
- “Good stewardship and being cheap are different concepts. Like it or not, times have changed. People are more quality conscious than ever. Their preference is for programs that look rehearsed and printing that appears professional, to name a few.” – Excerpt from “The Five Star Church” by Stan Toler and Alan Nelson (pg. 45)
- If we want to be an effective and growing church in the 21st Century, we must embrace EXCELLENCE as our standard and not our goal.
- “The church, perhaps more than any other organization, needs to care about how and where we spend our limited dollars. The temptation is to find the cheapest provider, the least expensive furnishings, the lowest bidder for service – thinking this is good stewardship! ... The best way to use God’s money is as the old saying goes, “The most bang for the buck.” What will help us get further down the road? Sometimes, the cheapest way to go is the worst stewardship. We turn people off with less-than-professional publicity, lousy sound, boring music, or crummy carpeting, and we end up losing people and dollars instead of attracting people and dollars.” – Excerpt from “The Five Star Church” by Stan Toler and Alan Nelson (pg. 45-46)
- Here’s The Message: We cannot cut corners with excellence! Churches must have excellence with their property, programming, and publicity.
- We must remember we are ambassadors and liaisons between God and humanity. Churches must never compromise our message, but we must change our methods if they are going to meet the needs of people. As our

culture changes, we must respond to its needs in a different way. If we do not, we will lose touch and eventually close our doors.

- Churches that seek to grow will develop events, programs, and services that attract people. --- And you attract what you produce! Do you want to attract cheap members are excellent members? (It'll show up in the offering plate! LOL!)
- Biblical Support for Developing a Culture of Excellence:
 - *Psalm 8:1 (KJV) - "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens."*
 - *I Corinthians 9:22 (KJV) "—To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."*
 - *I Corinthians 14:40 (KJV)- "Let all things be done decently and in order."*
- **"Efficiency is getting the job done right. Effectiveness is getting the right job done. Excellence is getting the right job done well." – Zig Ziglar**

Commandment IX: THOU SHALT HAVE A LOVE FOR THE LAITY

A leader in the Lord's church should have love for the members of the church that is unmatched and unquestioned.

- "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." – Howard Hendricks
- You will never be able to lead those who do not feel you love them.
- As Leaders of the Lord's Church, we should lead the church in LOVE. Nobody should beat the leaders loving on the laity.
- Leaders should love because it's apart of their Christian duty and is the attribute that defines us as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. – (John 13:35)
- *Mark 12:33 (NKJV) "—And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."*
- *I Corinthians 13:1-2 (NKJV) "—Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*
- *I Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)- "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*
- *I John 3:18 (NKJV) "—My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."*
- *I John 4:7-8 (NKJV) "—Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows of God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."*

Commandment X: THOU SHALT HAVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF GLORIFYING GOD

A leader in the Lord's church should live to glorify God in all that they say and do.

- The Leaders of the Church should be committed to living out these commandments because their ultimate goal is to glorify God.
- We should love and serve the people of God all for His glory.
- Our ultimate goal as leaders of the Lord's Church should not be to build buildings, meet budget, or add bodies. Our ultimate goal ought to be for God to be glorified through our service and lives.
- *1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV) "–Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*
- *Colossians 3:17 (NKJV) "–And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*
- *Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV) "–And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."*
- As Leaders of the Lord's Church, we do all we do for His glory, knowing that whether we or not we receive credit here, we've got a crown in Glory!