

## INTRODUCTION

As a leader of God's people, I recognize that I will be judged more strictly. While no human other than our Savior will be perfect this side of eternity, I am required to be above reproach. As an under-shepherd, I must be an example for the people entrusted to me, whether it is a congregation or a group of students. They will look to me as much for character as they will for knowledge and wisdom. May this code of ethics be a point along the path to encourage me to be holy as my God is holy. This is my code of conduct. May God give me grace both to work to meet this standard and not to hold others to what is between my Lord and me.

### **My personal conduct**

I will keep the goal to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength first and foremost in my life.

I will love my neighbor as myself.

I will maintain a daily time of communion with my God, with the study of his word and prayer.

I will confess my sin to God and man without rationalization or excuse.

I will represent his word accurately when I am given the opportunity to preach or teach.

I will consider the pulpit or lectern as a privilege and hold it with an open hand.

I will not preach something I have not put into practice myself.

I will eschew pornography.

Wherever I am, I will seek out an accountability group or partner.

My "yes" will be "yes", and my "no" will be "no".

I will keep all financial commitments and will not go into debt.

When I travel, I will keep my wife informed of my activities and whereabouts.

I will maintain a healthy lifestyle.

I will strive to place people above tasks.

### **Family relationships**

I will maintain a pure relationship with my wife and strive to love her as Christ loves the church.

I will seek God's guidance in parenting four grown children and supporting their future marriages and families. In doing so, I will let them leave and cleave.

I will treat my daughters with utmost purity.

I will model for my son a sacrificial, loving father and husband.  
I will lead my family to corporate worship.  
I will honor my parents and my wife's mother. Given the opportunity, I will care for them in their old age.

### **Congregation/Workplace relationships**

I will not be alone with a woman, nor develop any more than a professional relationship with a secretary.  
An elder of the congregation may check my computer history on an unannounced basis.  
Money will not be my goal of ministry.  
I will not take bribes or do favors for the purpose of money.  
I will strive for a plurality of elders and seek not to dominate, but to train and enable others to develop and use their gifts.  
I will maintain confidentiality unless, in extreme cases, someone is in danger.  
I will seek reconciliation and/or forgiveness where relationships have soured and/or I have wronged someone.  
I will continue to study and learn under others so as to continually grow professionally and intellectually.  
I will be impartial and sincere (James 3:17).  
As a shepherd, I will watch for wolves among the sheep.

### **Collegial relationships**

I will not compete for congregants nor students.  
I will encourage and build up my colleagues and seek friendships to help them in their ministries.  
I will strive for sending capacity, not seating capacity (J. D. Greear).  
I will send out, with blessing, those who have been trained and called.  
I will actively equip others for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up in unity and maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13).  
I will seek the benefit and building of others in the church or school, not a personal agenda.  
I will not seek titles or recognition, but work as part of a team. (These last two are adapted from Paul Chappell.)  
I will be humble in hearing a colleague's instruction, rebuke, or correction.  
I will not speak ill of a colleague in order to build myself up in comparison.  
I will strive to see differing opinions as valuable, without compromising orthodoxy.

### **Community relationships**

I will be consistent in all walks of life. What the community sees is the same person in standard and character as my family and colleagues see.

I will seek to be a part of a community, but not compromise Christian ethic to do so (adapted from Trull and Carter).

I will look for ways to bless my neighbors, not just preach to them.

I will strive to use my vocation to draw people to Jesus.

I will look for ways to assist vulnerable members of the community.

### SUMMARY

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...God, I ask you to help me fulfill this code of conduct.

according to his power that is at work within us...Please, Lord, I know I cannot do it on my own. Show me where I am failing.

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever... May your glory be my only goal. I am a servant. May I act like one, even when I am treated like one.

Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)