MAINTAINING ORDERLINESS IN THE CHURCH

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
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Topic:
MAINTAINING ORDERLINESS IN THE CHURCH

Bible Text:1 Corinthians 14:40, 1 Timothy 3:15

Prayer

Father in Jesus name, we exalt Your Holy name for tonight's gathering, Father we pray that You speak to us tonight through Your vessel, help us to come to a deeper understanding of You. Thank You Father, in Jesus mighty name we pray.

Introduction

Brethren, I want to urge us to take today's study seriously and follow suit. Because, we are about to address one of the pressing issues in Christendom which many christians are guilty of. Many of us here (if not all) are also guilty of it and we need to deeply take a look at it so that we can know what is expected of us as Christians.

Bible Text

1 Timothy 3:15:

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

1 Corinthians 14:40:

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

Study

We are all aware of the fact that the gathering of the believers is called church and not the buildings. According to our topic which says "maintaining orderliness in the church", it is literally speaking on maintaining orderliness as a body, most especially when we are gathered together in the sanctuary. Paul was addressing Timothy in our first text about the need to behave the right way in the house of God. Let's look at the text in NIV version

1 Timothy 3:14-15:

"I hope to come to you soon. I am writing these things because it may be awhile before I get there. I wanted you to know how you should act among people in the church which is the house of the living God. The church holds up the truth."

He said he wanted them to know about how to "act" among people in the church. Why was he particular about the way Timothy ought to act in the church? It's because there is a way we must behave whenever we are gathered together. Our second text in NIV says

1 Corinthians 14:40:

"All things should be done in the right way, one after the other."

The fact that we are christians and that our father is loving is not a license to behaving unruly when we gather together in one accord. This is one of the issues we are facing now as a body. Many christians in church behave the way they will never behave if they were in their various offices. This is wrong and bad. Everything should be done in order and one after the other.

We will be looking at a lot of things which need to be corrected in churches these days. Please, follow carefully.

Our God is a God who is decent and always does things in order. You can't claim to be a child of God or hear the Holy Spirit when he speaks and yet, you won't do things in order. It's not possible! Let's look at what orderliness means.

What is Orderliness?

Orderliness is to be arranged or disposed in some order or pattern. It means the arrangements of things in a well defined pattern/way. For example:

When you enter some people's rooms, you will discover how unkempt the place is, not well tidied and not well arranged. You will discover shoes scattered, bags scattered and clothes scattered too. It shows that such room is not in order. But, if you have been to a boutique before or a supermarket, you will notice how arranged the goods are. That is an example of a place in order.

Now, apart from the arrangements of things, to put in order also includes putting one's behaviour and attitude in the right frame. Aligning and positioning one's self the right way which can also mean comporting one's self. And, that's majorly where we are going to this day.

In order to delve more deeper into the study, let's look at ways to maintain orderliness in the church. We will also discuss those things that are done in church which shouldn't be and which causes disorderliness in the church.

Maintaining orderliness in the church

1. **THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS AND WORDS:**

This is very wide and can be categorized into the following:

A. **Avoid irrelevant discussions in the church:** This is joy to many christians as they pick places to sit in the church just to start discussing. It happens **mostly** amongst young females and elderly males. You will see females gossipping, you will see the elderly men talking about the situation of the country and how costly things are. Those who are supposed to be role models to other youngsters in the church, they will sit at the back discussing and laughing when the service is on. This is an act of lack of orderliness! It also happens amongst young males as they discuss football fixtures and the likes. This is wrong in the house of God. Silence is expected in church to avoid being distracted, this is why they say people should put off their phones or silence them when entering the church.

B. **Operating of mobile gadgets during service:** This is the most common form of distraction introduced by the devil into this generation. It is a very wrong act to start operating your phones in church when it's not to access other versions of the bible. Some would even bring only phones to church as their Bibles and keep replying chats even as they access the bible on their phones. This is an act of disorderliness in the church which God dislikes. Many have missed their blessings as a result of losing focus when their phones rang in the church. There shouldn't be any reason you would pick your phone to receive any call in the church unless if you had been expecting the urgent call before coming to church. And, In most cases, you are even meant to silence your phones or shut it down the moment you enter the church, to avoid being tempted to pick up any call. Another common thing is that during announcement, many believe the service has ended and begin to operate their phones. This shouldn't be, until the shepherd dismisses or ends the service, it is still on and you are not expected to use your phones to suit your fleshly desires. Many would ask of what of in a case you wish to pay offering or tithe online. Yes, the thing is that, if you know that paying your offering online at that point in time

during the service will make you get distracted and you will start chatting or playing with your phone, just wait till the service ends before transferring the money to the respective banks. You know yourself more than the way anybody may know you. So, let everything be done in order to the best of your knowledge and ability. You can be in the publicity unit if your church and you are to use your phone to capture some moments in the church. Do not allow it distract you to the point that you focus on it more than the happenings in church. Some will even sit with the projector and their laptop and be projecting as well as watching movies during the service. This is wrong and disorderly!

C. **Sleeping in the church:** It's so funny how that some can stay all the night watching movies and won't blink their eyes to sleep, but they cannot spend just 3 hours in church without the ushers tapping them because they would have gone far in their Dreamland. We should be disciplined to the extent that we don't sleep in church. It's true that we might be stressed out greatly and burdened with a lot of things. But, the moment we are in the presence of God especially amongst the brethren, do everything within your capability not to take sleeping an hobby. You can stand at the back of the church or wash your face in order to remain active rather than sleeping when the message is on. Some have turned the Sunday's messages to sleeping pills. They sleep at the beginning of the pastor's message and wake up immediately he ends it. That is how the devil has so much determined that they wouldn't hear the word of God.

D. **Comporting one's self:** This part is another part lagging in the body of Christ. Most especially during praise ministration, some will become too loose that they will begin dancing worldly dances and be happy with it. Some would even carry chairs up and be shouting "ride on, pastor". It's disorderliness in the church for chairs to be carried up to be used in hailing the pastor Or God. That's the "tout kind of gathering" and it happens mostly amongst youths. We should learn to comport ourselves when we are gathered together in the house of God. Also, eating inside the church when service is on or chewing gums is a very bad action. If you feel like eating, excuse yourself from the church's premises and eat. But, eating when the service is on (except on different occasions where the program going on allows it) inside the church is another form of disorderliness in the church.

E. **Using more than the stipulated time given to you deliberately:** When you are to minister and you are given a stipulated time, deliberately using more than the time is wrong. Let all things be done in order. In a case

whereby the Spirit of God decides to move beyond the time, no one can or is expected stop Him. But, in a case where someone just decides to show to others that He can pray well or do things well by exceeding the time allocated to him or her is wrong.

F. **Speaking to others in an unruly manner:** Choice of words really matters. We should always ensure we choose the right words to say rather than saying words that can cause despair in the church. Some will address the ushers anyhow just because they were instructed to sit in a particular place. In fact, refusing to follow the ushers words and wanting to do whatever pleases you causes disorderliness. Some christians still portray stubborn attitudes which shouldn't be. The attitude of "no one can correct me" and this is wrong!

G. **Coming late to services:** This is very common in churches as people see coming late to church as a normal thing. This is very bad. Some would wake up early, start looking for ways to look good and in the process will waste time and still walk majestically into the auditorium without any sense of remorse. Late coming is one thing that God detests so much. Some would come when it's just an hour to the end of the service and still be monitoring the time for the preacher to leave the altar and close the service. What a bad act! The number of times many christians have attended church according to the register in heaven is just 3 times this year. The other times they attended service lately, they were not marked present in the register of heaven. Many do not even know that the angels mark register of those who attend services that's why they still go late to church. May the eyes of our understanding be enlightened.

We will never go late to work during the week, but we care less when it comes to going early to church services. We deliberately bring up flimsy excuses to back up our claims as to why we are going late to church. Many will even say God understands. The truth is, God understands either that you are not serious and that you do not regard Him and He understands if you have a genuine reason for going late to any service. And, the interesting part is that He will give rewards to everyone according to each person's works.

2. **WAYS OF DRESSING:**

As Christians, our dressing should show we are and should be easily distinguished between those that belong to this world of sin. Disorderliness has taken over some churches that instead of their choristers to lead you

more to Christ, they will lead you into the valley of lust. Why? Because of the bad clothes they wear to minister. And, this is meant to be corrected by the leaders of the church but, many of them will look away to avoid being hated by any in the church. Some females will open their hair in the church while some males will use caps in the church during service and the leaders care less. This is mainly because disorderliness has taken over the place.

Due to how perverted the world has been, churches especially youths churches should have a dress code/structure for workers and even executives. And, also, if there be any members dressed in a way that is so outrageous, she could be given a piece of cloth to cover her nakedness or told to excuse if she proves too adamant. The reason for this is because the devil deliberately sends his children into churches these days to lure children of God into immoralities. While some are just unbelievers who still dress badly due to the lack of Christ in them. You may argue with me that nobody should be stopped from fellowship in the house of God, but hear this:

When a naked person enters a church, do you leave such a person in the congregation or you cover his/her nakedness or ask such to leave if he/she refuses to be clothed? If you will leave such to be in the congregation, then such a church should be dismissed for promoting sexual lust and immorality.

What pains the most in this generation is that ministers mount the pulpit with short and tight clothes, especially females and those they are ministering to will begin to see their cleavages and being drawn into sexual lust instead of being free from it. Yet, some leaders will refuse to speak against this. Some females even wear trousers inside the church which is very wrong! In order to maintain orderliness in the church, our dressing must glorify God and honour Him. We must not dress to seek people's attention but to glorify God in us. Also, we see a lot of people with devilish haircuts mounting the pulpits these days and because they are operating in various gifts of the spirit, church leaders will refuse to rebuke them. When the bible says in:

Leviticus 19:27:

"Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard."

May God help us.

3. **HEART POSTURE:**

You might be wondering how this is part of maintaining orderliness in the church, but it's surely part of it. Many miss their blessings during services mainly because of the wrong heart posture. What didn't make God tell Samuel to anoint Eliab, the first son of Jesse king?

1 Samuel 16:7:

"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the HEART."

His physical appearance looked so good and fit to be king but his heart was not right. His heart posture was wrong. In maintaining orderliness in the church and seeing that things go smoothly, our heart posture must align with Christ. We must position our hearts the right way.

It's very easy for a person to hate a fellow church member and still behave as though he loves the person physically. But, the person's heart is not right towards such fellow. When our hearts are not rightly positioned, it could birth a lot of bad things which will later manifest physically.

Proverbs 4:23:

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

We are to keep our hearts with our diligence. When we do not keep our hearts with ALL diligence, disorderliness will definitely occur, because a lot of people will have rancour against themselves.

4. **LEADERSHIP:**

This is a part where if missed, can cause a lot of havoc in the church. When the leaders of the church are not well organized or spirit led, there will definitely be disorderliness in the church. We have seen cases where leaders of the church end up sleeping with church members and even defrauding them. And, these so called people are regarded to leaders in the church. This has now made many to disregard leaders of churches when the bible tells us to give them double honour. The leaders of the church must be Spirit filled, filled with the word, disciplined, loving, sensitive and ready to rebuke at any point in time. The mistake churches make these days is that they elect leaders outside the leading of the Spirit. They only look at the appearance

and do not rely on God who looks at the heart to choose. And, this has made some churches to elect sheep in wolves clothing as leaders over their churches. Selecting of leaders in churches has now turned to politics where those who are rich and wealthy are being elected into positions, what has come over the church?

When did being wealthy become a criteria to choosing leaders in the church, I remember how the 7 deacons in the bible were chosen and the criteria

Acts 6:2-6:

"Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them."

If you read the above verses well, you will notice that the place of the Spirit choosing for them was never ruled out. This should be the basics of the criteria that should be used in choosing leaders, not because the person contributes a lot financially or has some gifts of the Spirit.

Choosing the right leaders and God-given leaders will increase the rate of orderliness in the church and reduce disorderliness. May the Lord grant us more understanding beyond this in Jesus Christ name, Amen.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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