

OBEDIENCE - A TRUE TEST OF STEWARDSHIP

*Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.
- Philemon 1:21 N.I.V.*

When Jesus was walking on the earth, they wanted to make him king. They wanted to start some political government and set Him on the throne (John 6:15). But no! He came to serve. We don't find it anywhere in Scripture where it says that we are to run around and chase title that God has not given. It says we are to humble ourselves (James 4:10). God has not called anyone to ministry and He has not call us to look for it either. God has called us to serve. Jesus came to serve the Church. He was not looking for ministry.

*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give His life a ransom for many. - Matthew 20:28*

Just because our pastor or superior has asked us to do something, does not mean that he is trying to control us. The pastor will have a vision, which he needs others to help fulfil. This does not mean he is trying to control people. It is the duty of the Church and the chosen leaders to run with that vision and be willing to serve within that vision to see it fulfilled. If we must understand God to obey Him, we will never obey God and that may tantamount to 'choosing to stand or act against the will of God'.

We must recognise that there is a natural flow of leadership and authority in the Church, which must be respected since God is not known to be God of confusion. But most of the times we desire to do things in our own way and treating the instructions given by the pastor with contempt, forgetting that it is God's own business. We do this without realising how much damage we are doing to our individual lives. Below is what the bible has to say on it:

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgement on themselves. For rulers are not terrors to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, and avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake. - Romans 13:1-5. N.K.J.

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will

reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

- *Ephesians 6:7-8.*

Please note that this letter is prompted by what I would describe as “*lawlessness and a gross violation of biblical norms regarding stewardship in the ministry*” that is now rampant at all levels of this ministry. Let it not be seen as an attempt to intimidate anyone, but know that it is my responsibility to sound this *note of warning* to who ever may see the need to listen to the voice of his/her conscience and repent.

When there is a letter or message of this kind and you seem not to like it, then it is for you. If therefore, you feel a resistance or negative in your spirit to this letter, or there are things in your manner of stewardship that is *resisting and opposing the vision* and move of God in this ministry, I appeal to you in the mighty name of the Lord and the author of His vision, to act wisely and avert the possible consequences.