

MORNINGSTAR BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION



Church History & Church Etiquette

CHURCH HISTORY

What great and marvelous things the Lord has done with the Morning Star Baptist Church. With Bishop Dwanye C. Debnam's leadership, anointed vision and a supportive flock, God has demonstrated what faith, humility, and obedience can do. MSBC is proudly remembering yesterday, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb. 13:8) (NIV)* and recognizes its role in empowering individuals for their tomorrow. *"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way". Eph. 1:22-23 (NIV)*

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Introduction - The Church is perhaps one of the last social institutions where dignity, protocol, respect, and reverence are maintained. This is primarily because when we come to the church and its services we are entering the Kingdom of God on earth, His habitation (Matt. 18:20), and we choose to honor this sacred place by our attentiveness to what is proper and ordered.

We have the opportunity to reflect the image of Christ within us by our actions. *“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation”* (**1 Peter 2:9**).

DEFINITIONS OF ETIQUETTE



HONORING THE SANCTUARY



Speaking from the Pulpit:

- ❖ Only Bishop or invited speakers are allowed to speak from the center pulpit. (1Cor. 14:40), (Heb. 13:7)

Being in the Pulpit:

- ❖ Only Bishop or Elders/Ministers or persons authorized by Bishop should ever be in the pulpit.
- ❖ Children should be taught at young ages that this is a sacred space and can never be used as a play area. (Prov. 22:6)

HONORING THE SANCTUARY

If you must leave the sanctuary during church service, do not pass in front of the pulpit. Use the side aisles and exits so that you will not disturb others. If you want to step out during the sermon, you will be asked to remain in the back of the sanctuary until the conclusion of the sermon.

Parents please escort smaller children to the restroom. Please do not send the little ones to the restroom alone.

(1st Cor. 14:40)



HONORING THE SANCTUARY & OTHERS

- ❖ We ask that you do not enter or leave the sanctuary during prayers, the reading of the Scripture or during the sermon.
- ❖ You are also to remain in church until the closing *benediction* (final prayer of the service) has been said.
- ❖ There will be times when a person really needs to leave the sanctuary. When this occurs, please do so as discreetly as possible, with the least amount of disruption to the service and the least amount of distraction to your fellow brothers and sisters who are worshipping.
- ❖ The same holds true for reentering the sanctuary. If you must leave the sanctuary during church service, do not pass in front of the pulpit. (Ps. 100) (1st Cor. 14:40)

HONORING THE SANCTUARY

Maintaining Silence Before God

- ❖ During the service, the congregation is expected
- ❖ to actively participate in worship.
- ❖ However, God's house is a place for reverence
- ❖ and worship, not loud and idle conversations
- ❖ (between each other or on cell phones). (Hab. 2:20) (Ps. 11:4)



HONORING THE CHURCH BUILDING



- ❖ Cleanliness is Next to Godliness - Be certain to keep the church (interior and exterior) clean as a way to honor God.
- ❖ Eat Only Where It Is Allowed - Follow the church rules for eating in the church building

HONORING EACH OTHER

Treat One Another with Kindness:

❖ God wants us to be good to one another, so, whatever bad mood you had in the car on your way to church, you should greet each other kindly, in God's name, when you meet in church.

(Ps. 141:3) (Rom. 12:10)

Row Two Is Not Your Pew

❖ If you like a particular seat in the sanctuary then be sure to get there early enough to claim it. It is unreasonable to ask someone to give up a seat that they are in because you normally sit there.

❖ Don't Say Bad Things about God's People

❖ God warns against gossip and backbiting. (Prov. 18:21) Our grandmothers recalled this lesson and tried to teach it to us by saying, "If you can't say something good about someone, don't say anything at all." We should try to remember this in all aspects of our lives, but especially in God's house.

❖ Dress Appropriately

❖ Many churches have relaxed their rules about dressing for church from the strict adherence to suits and ties for men and boys and dresses and suits for women and girls.

❖ While the 21st century Baptist church still tends to be somewhat formal, it recognizes that it is most important for members to be present in worship in a manner that is appropriate and that honors God. To that end, we are expected to wear our very best, whether it is dressy or casual. We should always dress as if we are going to meet someone important (and there is no one more important than God.)

Haggai 1:7 , I Timothy 2 9-10