

**PROCLAIMING TRUTH MINISTRIES**  
**REV. DR. RODNEY A. CHAPMAN**  
**INFORMATION ARTICLE**  
**“THE WORLDLY SPIRITUAL LEADER”**  
**JUNE 23, 2025**

The Black Baptist Church has a rich history of spiritual leadership rooted in the teachings of the Bible. However, in modern times, we have witnessed the rise of some spiritual leaders prioritizing titles, personal gain, and worldly success over the true principles of faith. This behavior can have damaging effects not only on the church community but also on the reputation of Christianity as a whole. Let's explore the biblical aspects of the negative impact of a worldly spiritual leader in the Black Baptist Church and the scriptural support. Moreover, we will discuss the steps ministry leaders can take to avert such behavior in today's environment.

One of the primary characteristics of a worldly spiritual leader is their drive for titles and recognition. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus warns us about the danger of seeking titles and praise from others in the church. He says, "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Christ" (Matthew 23:8-10). In contrast to this biblical teaching, we have seen some modern-day leaders more interested in being referred to by titles such as bishop, apostle, or prophet, rather than humble servants of Christ. This title-driven mindset can lead to a sense of superiority and pride, which contradicts the teachings of Jesus.

Furthermore, a worldly spiritual leader often exhibits traits of jealousy and insecurity. In the book of James, jealousy and selfish ambition are identified as the roots of all kinds of evil (James 3:16). When leaders are more concerned about their success and recognition, they may become envious of other successful leaders or ministries. This

can create a toxic and competitive environment within the church, hindering the growth and unity of the body of believers. Insecurity also plays a significant role, as leaders must constantly prove themselves and their worth instead of relying on God's guidance and grace.

Self-centeredness is another characteristic of a worldly spiritual leader. In Philippians 2:3, Paul urges us to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves." A self-centered leader is more interested in their own gain and gratification than in their congregation's spiritual well-being. They may use manipulative tactics to gain control and authority, harming the community and damaging the church's reputation.

So, how can ministry leaders avert such behavior in today's environment? The solution lies in staying true to the teachings of the Bible. First and foremost, leaders must have a deep personal relationship with Christ and be rooted in His Word. They must constantly check their motives and intentions, ensuring they align with God's will and are not driven by the desire for titles or personal gain. Secondly, leaders must cultivate humility and a servant's heart, understanding that they are called to serve and not to be served. They must also be accountable to God and to a community of trusted believers, who can offer guidance, support, and correction when needed.

In conclusion, the negative effects of a worldly spiritual leader in the Black Baptist Church are clear, and they contradict the core principles of Christianity. As ministry leaders, we must uphold the teachings of the Bible and lead by example. By remaining grounded in our faith, focusing on serving others, and being accountable to God and our community, we can avoid worldly behavior and foster a healthy and thriving church environment. Let us always remember the words of Jesus in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."