

THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF MALACHI 2:1-9 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR PRIESTLY ETHICS AMONG PASTORS IN ECWA EBUTE-METTA,
DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL, LAGOS.

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ABSTRACT

This research “The Theological Analysis of Malachi 2:1-9 and its Implications for Priestly Ethics for ECWA Pastors in Ebute Metta District Church Council Lagos” examines the problem inherent in the theological analysis of the first nine verses of Malachi chapter two. This will help in understanding the various implications such as the issues of breaking covenant with God as priests and the other priesthood corruptions. Unethical practices among Pastors had been a phenomenon which had generated much controversy within the Christian circle. Observably, this concept was riddled with ignorance and had been treated with levity, as people of God were the direct receiver of the consequences. It was in this regard that this research was initiated so as to investigate the priestly unethical practices inherent in the Malachi 2:1-9 and the theological implications on ECWA Pastors in Ebute Metta District Church Council. To this effect, descriptive method and literatures were consulted to juxtapose the research work. Extensive review of related literature was embarked upon. Relevant library materials and internet facilities were studied and properly analyzed. It was found that when pastors or parents fail in their ethical responsibilities, their children and church members suffer the consequences. The message of Malachi is clear enough for all and sundry to learn from and not to treat with levity.

5.2 Conclusion

The question to ask is why should pastor in ECWA, Ebute Metta DCC wait till God's judgement fall on him before amending his way as Malachi told the priests in verse three that they are already cursed? The answer to this question is the conclusion to this research. This conclusion can be seen in the following manner. First of all, God is sending a caution message to every pastor in ECWA, Ebute Metta DCC to consider his way.

Secondly God is calling every erring Church leader in ECWA, Ebute Metta DCC to genuine repentance so as to avert the hot judgement of God.

Thirdly, God is interested in every pastor in ECWA, Ebute Metta DCC who reveres Him and keep to the covenant between God and him. Even though, He, God has the sole decision on the terms and condition of the covenant.

5.3 Recommendations

Having carefully examined the theological implication of Malachi 2:1-9 and the implications for priestly ethics for pastors in ECWA Ebute Metta DCC the researcher recommends "Code Of Ethics For Pastors." An excerpt from National Association of Evangelicals contains the following "Code of Ethics for Pastors".¹

All who are called by God to the ministry of the gospel solemnly commit to a life of joyful obedience and selfless service in order to glorify God and enrich his people. Therefore, a minister in ECWA, Ebute Metta should:

1. Pursue integrity in the following ways; personal character, personal care, and preaching and teaching
2. Be trustworthy in these areas; leadership, information management and resources stewardship.
3. Seek purity as demonstrated by pastoral ethics; in maintaining sexual purity, through balanced spiritual formation, through balanced theology, through ethical professional practice.
4. Embrace accountability on matters such as; finances, ministry responsibilities, and denominational or a ministerial organization.

¹ A resource from National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) www.naecodeofethics.com

5. Facilitate fairness as you relate with; staff, parishioners, the community and prior congregation.