

Looking at Ministry as Honor: A Correlation of Understanding Christian Ethics and Ministry in the Church

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ABSTRACT

Serving is a form of expression of our love for God and pleasing Him. The motivation to serve must be based on a correct understanding, viewing service as honor. This study aims to see the relationship between understanding Christian ethics and students' perspectives on ministry in the church. The research uses a quantitative approach, with instruments in the form of questionnaires. The object of the study were students, and the sample numbered thirty-five people. Based on the results of the data processing, a correlation coefficient of 0.602 was obtained which showed a positive relationship and was classified as a high correlation. Thus students need to be encouraged to understand Christian ethics correctly because it is also closely related to the way they view ministry in the church, so they will come to the understanding that service is honor.

Keywords: service; honor; Christian ethics

1. INTRODUCTION

A pastor in the Church is a person who is specially selected for the duties to be performed in his ministry. Therefore, a pastor of the Church must be one who serves and is aware of his duties as a servant in the Church. When a person decides to shoulder the burden of serving the Church, a common problem is that the person does not understand what he needs to accomplish or what he needs to show in his vocation as a servant. Unqualified pastors are, of course, one of the problems of the Church. Often a person receives a call or assignment as a minister of the Church because of inappropriate motivation.¹ Some accept this task because they are forced to, some accept because they

¹ B. Jatmiko and D. E. Zega, "Etika Keuangan Hamba Tuhan: Kajian Eksegetikal Terhadap 1 Timotius 6: 3-10," *Integritas: Jurnal Teologi* 3, no. 2 (2021): 133–147.

are crazy about respect, or even some are willing to serve as long as they get paid. These things are of course the wrong motivasi to serve. Where as Jesus gave an example of how a servant should behave, He "... humble himself and obey to death even to death on the Cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). It is natural that a true servant of the church will pay attention to how he lives his daily life, how he acts, and how he does his ministry. So that the service he does will be useful.²

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses quantitative methods, with instruments in the form of questionnaires. The question items in the questionnaire are divided into two, with indicators of each variable in it. The object of research is high school students, with a sample of 35 people. The data was retrieved by random sampling method, and processed with the help of SPSS 23.0.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following are shown the results of processing data on the level of understanding of student ethics towards the motivation of service in gereja using quantitative methods:

Model Summary				
Type	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.602	.362	.356	7.273

Based on the data in the table above, the correlation coefficient is 0.602 and is classified as high, while the R Square number obtained is 0.362. This means that the

² N. Lilomboba, "Profesionalitas Pelayan Gereja," *JURNAL RUMEA: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Teologi Kristen* 1, no. 2 (2021): 34–45.

influence of Christian ethical understanding affects the motivation for ministry in the church by 36.2%.

Old Testament words for church include "qahal," which means "to call," and "edhah," which comes from the verb "ya'adh," which means "to lift." The word "qahal" is usually associated with the word "ekklesia" from the New Testament, which means "called out." The meaning of the term "church" is thus understood as people who are invited to gather to God because the word "edhah" is related to the word "synagogue", which means to come or gather together. Another way to think about the church is as people whom God has redeemed from sin and brought into eternal life.³

One task or role of the church is to preach Jesus Christ to the world, including preaching the Good News. This concept is true, but both the Old and New Testaments require that missionology be viewed from the perspective of "How God the Father calls and sends His servants, to perform the duties entrusted to them."

Church ministry is encouraged from a young age not when it is an adult. The Church has provided a place to serve starting from the age of elementary school students, so good guidance is needed to begin the ministry of the Church guards who have provided a place to serve. This is one of the ways in which the Church seeks to cultivate a spirit of service in its members from an early age.⁴

The Church understood early on that she was called to serve not only God, but also the world and mankind. Service is something embedded in the identity of the Church as a profession. The true Church is the Church that serves. It also implies that doing service

³ S. Manca, "Pelayanan Gereja Di Tengah Dunia: Tegangan Antara Pelayanan Karitatif? Reformatif Dan Transformatif," *Jurnal Alternatif-Wacana Ilmiah Interkultural* 9, no. 1 (2020): 41–54.

⁴ Sandy Ariawan, "COUNTERING THE NEXT PANDEMIC AFTER COVID-19: An Effort of Christian Education to Stop Phubbing," *Mahabbah* 3, no. 2 (July 31, 2022): 1–12.

is not a choice the Church can make. The following qualities should define Church service as the basic vocation of the Church:

Church Ministry Work Is Participation in the Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Church participates in the work of Jesus Christ, the True Servant, in carrying out his ministry. The Church only assists in the saving work of Jesus Christ. This is accurate because the only mission of the Church is to fulfill God's mission through Jesus Christ. People must be guided by the mission of the Church to face the Kingdom of God, defined as Jesus Christ's Role in Church service serves as further evidence that He is the ideal servant. Every pastor of the church has a responsibility to imitate the character of a True Servant. He showed his sincere devotion by acting as a shepherd who gave his life to protect his flock.⁵

The Work of Church Service Must Be Based on Love

A church that truly frees people from slavery when its ministry is based on love. Love-based services don't hold people back or burden them with thinking about things to return. Therefore, without sincere love, there will be no true service. Only the spirit and power of love can enable sincere, liberating, and saving service. Without such love, the Church would only use people as tools in its ministry to further its reputation and success, which may seem great to the world and man but not to the Lord

Ethics is not a natural science as a result, therefore ethics is not a descriptive science that solely addresses and characterizes human actions and behavior, as is the case with cultural anthropology, the science of nations that examines and analyzes the practices and

⁵ Sandy Ariawan, "Countering Zeitgeist of Self-Centered through Role Playing Methods among Junior High School Students," *IJECA (International Journal of Education and Curriculum Application)* (2019).

conditions of different countries. Ethics is a normative science, everything good that God desires.⁶

God entrusts teachers to educate and teach students according to the talents God has given them to shape them into better people. The teacher is one of the factors that has a significant influence on how students develop as human beings and is crucial in changing the way students view how to fulfill their duties as servants of the Lord.

Not Making Material the Purpose of Servant

A servant of God should abstain from the mind through the ministry of making money, in his mind the ministry of only pursuing money this kind of thought should be avoided.

Develop Self-Control

A sincere desire to be able to control his desires, especially about worldly possessions. According to this advice, greed will cause a person to tragically destroy both physically and spiritually. Therefore, a servant of God must have the ability to cultivate, control, and manage desires.

The word "example" comes from "very good things" and is exemplary. "Something that is exemplary or good to imitate, while exemplary is something that can be imitated, according to the KBBI. A church leader or pastor must set an example for others to follow (Hebrews 13:7, I Timothy 1:16, 4:12, 1 Peter 5:3).

Exemplary in the Word

Everyone should constantly speak the truth in love and keep the truth in love, according to Wiersbe. Useful words are those that raise the degree of others, while useless words are those that bring about the fall of oneself and others. A servant of God must

⁶ Sandy Ariawan, *Etika Guru Pendidikan Agama Kristen* (Jawa Tengah: CV. Pena Persada, 2020).

continue to set an example in speaking and distinguishing himself from unbelievers so that, even in the face of difficulties, he can continue to live according to the core principles of the Christian faith. Jesus was called the Great Master because of the authority, miracles, and power that accompanied his teaching, according to Telaumbanua's claim. His life, which placed great emphasis on love for God and neighbor, became the basis for His every teaching (Matthew 22-37-40).

Exemplary Behavior

Behavior is an outwardly visible attitude of everyday life. Since words are usually manifested in behavior, words and behavior are completely interrelated. Samarenna & Siahaan argue that personality has a role in determining whether a person will be a good leader or vice versa. The behavior and character development of a person's personality governed by God's word can have an impact on a person's environment. Those who communicate with God and have confidence in God's words that produce obedience to God's commandments and prohibitions are servants of God who are behavioral tests for believers.⁷

The doctrine of the Bible must be taught to the ministers of God, and they must reject false doctrine. Apostasy occurred when people began to follow Satan's instructions to worship idols and saints and angels who served as intermediaries between eternal God and man. By train yourself to worship, people meet God through prayer, because prayer is an activity directly related to the heartbeat of Christianity, it is even further mentioned that prayer is the breath of life for believers. Thus, prayer is at the core of the existence of worship and not just as part of the practice of worship. Because worship is the best work a Christian does and a way of connecting spiritually with God. This view

⁷ V. Magezi and C. Magezi, "Holistic Ministry Approach to Migration: Towards a Practical Theological and Integrated Ecclesiological Model," *In die Skriflig* 56, no. 1 (2022): 1–8.

is based on the belief that God controls all parts of life, and views faith as a positive component through which people can have confidence in God's omnipotence, love, and affection for all their problems.⁸ According to Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is the foundation of everything we hope for and the evidence of something we do not see."

Communicating with God is through prayer. Through prayer, one can communicate to God all their difficulties and inability to manage their workload.⁹ Effective prayer must, of course, be based on the belief that God can help parents manage their various workloads.¹⁰

A person's ability to cope religiously is demonstrated by understanding and applying moral principles found in the Bible or the Word of God. The Bible says. In fact, all God-inspired writings are valuable for instruction, pointing out errors, rebuking behavior, and enlightening the reader (2 Timothy 3:16).

It can be explained that through this research it opens our eyes that how to interpret righteous service before God is not only for the settlement but to praise the name of God with a sincere heart and through this we receive blessings from God.

4. CONCLUSION

The Lord Jesus Himself taught that "whoever serves Him will be honored by the Father," in other words, serving God is an honor (John 12:26). Being a servant of God requires a person to be serious and earnest in his service because serving the Lord is a glorious calling. Being trusted to serve the Lord indicates that they have been chosen and

⁸ H. Gulo, "MENGAPLIKASIKAN MODEL KETELADANAN HAMBA TUHAN BERDASARKAN 1 TIMOTIUS 4: 12," *BONAFIDE: Jurnal Teologi dan Pendidikan Kristen* 2, no. 1 (2021): 68–82.

⁹ C. Halawa, P. N. Hestiningrum, and I. Iswahyudi, "Peran Guru Pendidikan Agama Kristen Dalam Pembentukan Karakter Peserta Didik Di Sekolah," *Didache: Jurnal Teologi Dan Pendidikan Kristen* 2, no. 2 (2021): 133–145.

¹⁰ E. Baumgartner, "Servants and Friends: A Biblical Theology of Leadership," *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership* 9, no. 1 (2018): 106–108.

sent for honorable duty. The results showed that the understanding of Christian ethics was positively correlated with the way of looking at ministry in the church, which was 0.602 which was classified as a high correlation.

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