

SESSION EXCERPT

Continuation From last session...

6. ***Never pretend***: it's doesn't represent the real you, the church these days is the seat of pretense. Be intentional about what you are doing. Be real to yourself!

WHAT IS PRETENSE?

- a. **The act or appearance that looks real**: Another word for pretense is simulation (*football*), fiction (*in films*), and ostentation.
- b. **A false reason used to hide the real purpose of a thing**: For example a person being nice just to get something from someone.
- c. **A claim to having a particular quality, ability and condition**: Always attempting to prove something that you are not. Be rather truthful than being a liar, be consistent in all your dealings. Nigeria has the largest and highest number of churches in the world, but even in the church, lies, gossip, corruption still exists. Christians are supposed to be the light of the world.
- d. **It is the root of every form of falsehood**: Its pretense that births lies, before every pretense manifest, there is always a "cover up". Ask yourself "what's that thing am covering up?" that is pretense. Psalm 101:7 (KJV) "...he that tells lies ***shall not*** tarry in my sight".
- e. **It is the mirror image of the false you**: That is why they are called pretenders, there is a mirror of pretense by which many hide themselves, false identity/personality/Christianity, and deceptive followership. You

can't hide your life, you are a believer and you are meant to be the light, and you can't hide light. So, you would be exposed. There is something called life after death, death won't tell you when it's coming. If you live a life of falsehood...the best of you is in your realness. You are not sincere and you want to lead people, how?

WHAT PRETENSE DOES?

- i. **Corruption:** It never allows you to form well completely, Gal 4:19; 2 Cor. 3:18
- ii. **Self-damaging:** It never leaves you the same, never build a business on pretenders. It doesn't just damage self, but the system. Any seed sown is harvested, if you sow pretense you would reap harvests of it. Can you be real? It's a seed you are sowing. The future is out there. If I am not true to you, if I weigh my truth, then I am not true to myself. Everybody can clap for you, if God leaves you, you are finished. You are trading with your future by playing with your today. Pretense doesn't leave anybody the same
- iii. **It alters your belief system:** This will ultimately corrupting your value system, damaging your dignity. Don't confuse dignity, with pomposity and pretense. Dignity has got nothing to do with money and position.
- iv. **It puts you under tension:** It never leaves you at ease, because you are trying to be who you are not. Be an unassuming person.
- v. **It keeps God far away from you:** Psalm 101:7, Psalm 26:4 (AMP). Be true in your office, stop doing deceptive followership, and be real. Don't talk against your boss, if you are working with people, be truthful, and help the system, the organization. Two people would remember you, the person you told the truth and the person you lied to. The one you lie to would curse you, the other would bless you.

I'd rather be sincere and fail than to shine in lies. God would begin to separate you and put a spotlight on you, distinguishing you from the crowd. Matthew 23:14 (MSG) Pretense brings trouble, calamity and damnation into your life. Matthew 23:12 (MSG), Luke 18: 11-14 (MSG), Luke 14:11 (MSG), 1 Peter 5:6 (MSG), Acts 15:8 (MSG), Gal 6:7 (KJV) Romans 12:9 (TLB) Ephesians 4:25 (MSG) Jeremiah 23:26, 36 & 38 (MSG)

Everything God tells a man; the devil will always contends with it. Be convinced with what God has said, stop deceiving yourself, and don't be corrupted by nonsense. We are going somewhere far; the fabric God would use to make us is Truth not pretense. The Bible said, pretenders and liars won't stand before God. They would go to hell. Rev 21: 7 & 8 (KJV). Relate with your boss with no ulterior motive, so he can be sincere to you and love you. Stop damaging an organization. All the great visions you are seeing, you won't get there if you continue in deceit.

To listen to the full audio teaching of this message, kindly visit:
ecclesiachristianembassy.org/audio-resources/

God's best to you!

Victor Oluwadamilare

The Ecclesia Embassy,
Apo Resettlement, Abuja, Nigeria.