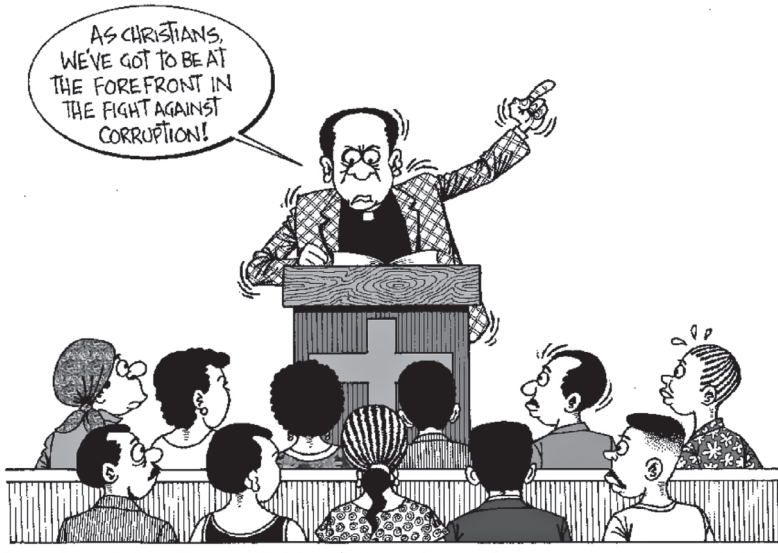


11 RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION: THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



A. Introduction

Christians, being God's people, are his agents in society. He expects His people to represent Him, bringing His values to bear on society. This is done both by modelling these values, teaching them as well as speaking out whenever they are trampled. In the fight against corruption, the church has a unique role to play.

A large part of our society today looks up to the religious people/institutions for leadership on the moral front. It is therefore highly appropriate that the church takes its position and provides the same. If this is done right and effectively, the results are guaranteed.

B. Setting the Standard: Matthew 5:13-16

1. To what does Jesus compare the believers and what are the resultant implications?

2. What nature and roles does this comparison assign to the believers?
3. How effective do you think Kenyan Christians and the church have been in playing this role, especially in the fight against corruption?

C. The Prophetic Voice: Ezekiel 3:16-21

1.
 - a. Identify the different circumstances described in this passage. What did God expect of the “watchman” in each of the circumstances?
 - b. What would be the consequences of his doing or failing to do as he was expected in each case?
2. What were the responsibilities, therefore, of the prophet towards God and his society?
3.
 - a. Are there instances in which you, as an individual or the church, have failed in effectively playing the prophetic role, as God would have you do? What have been the consequences of this failure?
 - b. What practical steps can be taken, in both cases, to do this effectively, especially concerning corruption in our society?

D. Memory Verse: Matthew 5:13

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”

E. Point of Reflection

Are you a member/leader of a particular Christian fellowship? Determine at least one thing you will do to mobilise your fellowship for their role according to the teaching of this study.

Additional Passage

Matthew 5:13-14.

It is very important to connect evangelism with involvement in issues affecting the society, and a major issue is corruption.

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