



Brenice Fire Angel



#### From The Author

This book is about a group of ministers under the umbrella of 'Christianity'. This group represents a small percentage of the problems encountered in organized religion today. It just happens that the discussion is on Christian Ministers in this book.

I would like to acknowledge that there are some dedicated, wonderful men and women of God who are passionate about tearing Satan's kingdom down, fighting the evil, in this world. This is not a Christian bashing project.

Through the stories of these select preachers, we will focus on some of the temperaments and personalities of some preachers. They are not doing what they were called to do, in the way they were called to do it, by God. Some are selfish and self-centered. Some have tunnel vision and depend upon other books, people, money, sex....... There trust is in the wrong gods and they do not realize it.

My hope is that this book will serve as a mirror to some who may have made ,or are making mistakes in carrying out the call on their lives. I know that most ministers of the gospel are dedicated and do the best they are capable of. Ministers should make sure that they avail themselves of the best information [The Torah, Bible],to make intelligent: spiritual plans, decisions, choices, for themselves and the flock of Jesus Christ. Sometimes ministers forget that the flock is for the Great Sheppard, Jesus Messiah, and not for the THEM! They also forget that God is the great husband of Israel and of the Gentile nations who become believers, in His Son.

He is not obligated to take care of any nation/and/or individual; [which/who do not have a viable covenant with **Him. His covenant -creation must be immersed** in **His** spirit and **His** truth, continuously. The Creator did create all things and all peoples, but He had to make a **new covenant** with man **due to the disobedience of Adam**.

Consequently, all descendants of Adam have to be spiritually transformed into the image of God, through His Son, Jesus Messiah. **This is a command from God,** for eternal life with Him, whether we like it or not, whether we

believe it or not. It is a mute subject, as far as God is concerned!"Like it or not!"...... "God Rules!"

a.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subject Page(s)
a. Foreword 3-7

# Chapter (s)

1.	The Beginning		8-12	
2.	The Bodyguard		13-	-15
3.	The Trip		17-	-18-
4.	Sister"B"		19-22	
5.	"Jen"		23-	-24
6.	King David	25-31		
Scr	ipture Reference		32-33	
7.	The Delema		34-44.	
8.	The Scoop on other C	hurches	45-58.	"The
Preacher Should Have"		59-70	" In	
Conclusion"		71-96		
Ref	erences			

# FOREWORD

This Book serves to address and voice the concerns

(questions) of, many victims of selfish uneducated individuals, in the truth of the Torah and or the Bible. hence, they misappropriated the Truth of the Torah and the Gospel of Christianity.

Their error has cost many individuals to live in bondage instead of, instead of preparing the flock of God to reap the inheritance of the Kingdom of the Creator of Heaven and earth. His Son Jesus Messiah shed His precious blood, to afford believers freedom from sin and eternal death.

I would like to add, that there are many dedicated, genuine men and women of God, who truly are feeding the Lambs and Sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ. This does not imply that we are all perfect. None of us is more valuable than the other, in the eyes of the Lord, (in the Kingdom of God).

Some congregations have encountered unfortunate events entailing clergy, injuring members by exhibiting inappropriate, selfish or abusive behavior. Some Pastors, Ministers, Preachers or laypersons, in high positions, in "the church." may have misled, mistreated members of the congregation, knowingly or unknowingly.. This could have

caused damage to "a babe in Christ" This project is about, the concerns of a man who, was the bodyguard for a pastor, suspected of misconduct in her congregation....

## "THE BEGINNING"

The timeline for these events was from the mid- 1980's through the 1990's. The story begins with the concerns of

**John Hastings**. A well built , former athlete who 'found Jesus Messiah and dedicated his life to the ways of the Bible."

John, a dedicated man of God and the bodyguard to Pastor Jennifer Whallings, had concerns crop-up regarding the Pastor, he had been dedicated to for a number of years. His suspicions came about due to the way his pastor appeared, not to be able to maintain healthy relationship with other pastors, business persons, personal relationships, for a number of months. John witnessed what he saw as manipulative tactics used by the pastor. This was in contrast to the behavior of the Pastor, he has known, in the past-few years. There were rumors circling around other churches, regarding the reputation of Pastor Jen. (this is an endearing nickname she was called by everyone). She was being accused of a lack of integrity in her interpersonal and business relationships. People complained, "they did not **know her** anymore",

Pastor Jennifer Whalling is, certainly, a woman of great charisma, style and beauty. Members of her metropolitan church of 2000 (+), "adore her". She is a prophet, and her meetings brought people from all, over the world, wherever she spoke. There were many who sought her Prophecy, in the early 1990's.

According to sources, several years prior to her becoming a pastor, herself, Jennifer Whalling was trained by another Pastor. When she was in seminary, she remained adamant about, "adequately, preparing herself, for church leadership, someday."

Pastor Jen was mentored by, a Male Pastor, named Pastor B.J. Biggs, who belonged to the same organized denomination which sponsored her ministry. She really looked up to this pastor. He was her Idol. Pastor Biggs was a very good business person and, he appeared to have solid business/ministry practices. His church of over 5000 members was very successful, according to secular

standards. Jennifer Whalling was an integral part of the ministry for about ten years, before she got her own church.

Jennifer, closely, followed the **philosophy and doctrine** of her mentor, Pastor Biggs. She professed in her church, that "members should, 'not only' support the church/ministry through tithing, but in addition; however **the prophecies** dictated in the words of prophecy..

For example, (If the word came forth that they had to raise \$20,000.00 in two months, "this was mandated, from the pulpit, to the members." All members of the congregation were given a written covenant to read as a declaration, individually and as a corporate group. The congregation would make this covenant as a group, while they were attending Sunday service. The Covenant was between the church organization and the congregation. This was done by non-members, as well as members, with not distinction announced or made, in any way; everyone just read the "church covenant, along with the congregation. Some of

them had no clue as to what they were doing when they stood up and read that covenant. They did it out of ignorance, to the fact. There was no instruction or explanation as to what they were doing.

This BECAME a ritual, in Pastor Jen's church, and when it was done, : compliance, cooperation and obedience to the prophecies were expected from those who declared it . The ministry thrived throughout the 90's, very strongly and amassed a fortune for the church and the pastor. In spite of this , inappropriate act.

John, who served as the Pastor's bodyguard, was aware of everything that went on in the ministry. He was the closest individual to pastor Jen, at all times, because she lived alone. She had three dogs to share her days and nights with. Pastor Jen was "a very private person"

Pastor Jennifer, was called "Pastor Jen"., by most who knew her. She was a very attractive woman with a curvaceous figure and long beautiful legs. Her beauty was quite evident to everyone. She would command the attention of everyone, with her stunning looks and

personality. Her members felt "she could never do anything wrong." Women of the congregation were smitten by her wit, intelligence, command of language and her great peopleskills. Most of the women tried to emulate pastor Jen, in dress, style and presentation.

#### "THE BODYGUARD"

The body guard, John, was very concerned because he felt that he saw some inconsistencies in Pastor Jen's deportment. He had served as her bodyguard for a few years. The magnitude of his position qualified him to monitor

and recognize any behavioral changes, in Pastor Jen...

John, a bible- believing- Christian, was adamant, about "not deviating from the precepts and laws found in the, inerrant, Word of God. "His life, and spiritual fruit, which., "should line up with the bible." Not only did he live his life according to the bible, he also judged the fruit of other Christians by the Word of God (bible).

John began to see "little foxes creeping into" the faith-walk and talk of his pastor. He noticed a pattern, which manifested in all of the interpersonal relationships Pastor Jen attempted to develop. There would be an abrupt end to all of the relationship (s).,[ personal and business]... John thought to himself "Pastor Jen pursues her subjects with such great intensity, when she wants something from the person. What Pastor Jen wanted!; she usually got!." Her beauty and brains were effective in luring unsuspecting persons, into her web she would weave."

John was devastated, at the thought of how she used certain, questionable, dynamics, toward others to get what she wanted from them.. Sometimes Pastor Jen seemed unconcerned about the person she was pursuing, especially if it was for some type of personal or corporate gain. Men were her greatest targets. She knew that she could make herself irresistible to them and she was very successful at extracting favors from them.

John thought to himself "This woman is married!" She is an anointed woman of God! Oh Lord what do I do?, "John decided to confide in his wife, Sarah, regarding his newly acquired theory regarding the deterioration of the standards Pastor Jen had been living by for the past couple of years. He couldn't wait to get home and share this burdensome ordeal with his wife.

His wife, Sarah listened intently, and she asked John, "Do you want to know what I think you should do?" John answered, "Most definitely!"

Sarah stated, don't do anything which would hurt the ministry or Pastor Jen, prematurely, since the basis of your theory is unsubstantiated with facts. Find a way to investigate your concerns without alerting anyone of your plans.

Pastor Jennifer was from a small town about one hundred miles from the city which they resided in. Both, John and Sarah decided to go there and see what they could find out about Pastor Jen's past and/or current life. They planned on leaving on Friday and returning on Sunday.

They left about 5:00Am on that Friday morning. It was a beautiful spring day. And the ride was a pleasant one for John and Sarah. The air was crisp, clean and odorous of Jasmines. They drove, with the widows down. The temperature was very cool, about 59 /f. The trip was so pleasant; they arrived in the town of Bukingham, Georgia, in no time.

## "THE TRIP"

Upon their arrival to the small town, which Pastor Jen was from, they encountered a very alluring smell in the air.

The scent of food cooking, was coming from a local diner ,in the rural area of the city. Sarah said "Umm that smells so

good. ." John replied, "Oooo yea!, like fried chicken or pork chops." They followed the scent and were lead directly to a little diner called. "The Katchin" The owner of the diner was a local, whom the persons in the community called, Sister "B"

The lovely lady greeted the couple, as they entered the diner, with such a genuine and warm greeting. One of the waitresses seated John and Sarah, in a quaint little booth, with a beautiful view from the window. There were tall green oak trees, dressed with the finest greenery and flowers which were meticulously placed, going up a hillside. The red clay mixed with soil was so beautifully colored. The view looked like a painting from Heaven, which had been painted, just for John and Sarah.

Sister "B" loved to knit and crochet. Her diner was lavished with beautiful mirrors, gold and silver castings of beautiful figurines [butterflies, scenic pictures. All of it was meticulously placed in the diner with a professional/artistic

touch. The décor created a warm, nurturing atmosphere.

Anyone seeking refuge from the reality of this harsh world felt safe and warm at the Katchin. After the meal was over John and Sarah were about to leave to find themselves a hotel.

#### "SISTER "B"

They were about to leave, when a very sweet voice came from over the counter, "did you enjoy your meal?". John turned around to discover this beautiful elderly lady with gray hair and a pleasant face. She appeared to be in her seventies, but was a very fit –looking senior. She was

beautiful for her age, and her body was in great shape.

When she spoke it was with such wisdom and authority, yet, not abrasive in any way. "I am Sister "B"!, she exclaimed.

Her question to them was "are you going to be staying in town for a while?". You don't appear to be from .Buckingham.

Sarah replied," we are doing research in this area, regarding our pastor's life story."," Our Pastor is Jennifer Whalling, from Canting, Georgia., where we live., is the reason we need to do some research. My husband, John is her bodyguard. "We are working on a tribute to her in April of this year, and we would greatly appreciate any information shared with us, by anyone who knows her.

The sweet little lady's lovely smile quickly transformed into a hard -sigh and a look of shock and surprise.

manifested. It was as if someone had hit her in the stomach with their fist. Sarah ran over to Sister 'B', and asked her if

she was alright. Sarah gently sat her down. John then asked if there was something they could do for her. She said, "Please get me a drink of water?" After a few minutes of recuperation, Sister 'B; asked John, "did you say Pastor Jen?"; and where did you say you are from?" "Oh my !I have often wondered where Jen has been ,for the past fifteen years.

The sweet little lady appeared to have something she just had to say. It seemed as though she had this compelling need to empty herself of some burden!. She looked up at Sarah and John and asked, "Do you have time to listen?" Sarah, replied, sure! take your time and we will be here for you, as long as you need us.. Sister 'B' showed a sigh of relief. "She began with a plea, "Please! assure me that this will remain between us?" I have prayed for the Lord to send someone! Somebody! whom I could trust, and talk to. I have always comforted so many others in my lifetime; but I have been so busy taking care of everyone else;. And have

buried myself in Community Service, at the church. This would take my mind off of my concerns, so I would immerse myself in charity work.

Please! Please, said Sister 'B', promise me you will not divulge what I am about to tell you?" You are providing the opportunity I have been praying for and I cannot stop, even if I wanted to. I feel compelled to tell you something." Sarah assured her that she and John would honor her request. They explained the real reason for their trip, and this seemed to have assured Sister 'B' she was doing the best thing by telling them her story.

Sister "B", began by telling them that she knew Pastor
Jen. She said, "Jen was the most beautiful baby she had
ever seen. She stated that Jen was so smart in school. She
said Jen was very smart and quick to learn new things. Jen
seemed to have the gift of prophecy, as a child." Oh!, God
would use that child to melt the hard hearts of adults. She
grew up as a lovely, mild-mannered teen and had developed

into quite a beautiful young woman.

#### "Jen"

Sister 'B' said that Jen was in her thirties when she decided it was time for her to become a minister. There was a church which she called her home church. She was very comfortable with the doctrine and interaction with the pastor, his wife, and the congregation. She had been married when she was in her twenties, but her husband died and she was left as a widow, without any children...

Gen had lived a life of the "straight and narrow" all of her life.

She totally respected and loved the tenets of Marriage, in the church.

When she was married, "She was married." No fooling around or cheating, on her husband. Jen believed that," one may be forgiven but "There is a price for disobedience of God's laws. ""Thou Shall not commit adultery and Thou Shall not covet/take another man's wife." Jen always enforced this law, in her life and others.

## "KING DAVID"

As a child, Jen was very impressed by the life of King David. She asked me when she was a teen. Why did King David and Bathsheba's baby die? I took out my bible and read to her: the story about David and Bathsheba:

This is what I read to her:

	World English (II Samuel 12)	KJV
2sa	Yahweh sent Nathan to	And the LORD sent
12:1	David. He came to him,	Nathan unto David. And he

and said to him, "There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2sa The rich man had very **12:2** many flocks and herds,

2sa but the poor man had 12:3 nothing, except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up together with him, and with his children. It ate of his own food, drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was to him like a daughter.

2sa A traveler came to the rich And there came a traveller **12:4** man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man who to dress for the wayfaring had come to him, but took the poor man's lamb, and had come to him."

2sa David's anger was greatly **12:5** kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan. "As man; and he said to Yahweh lives, the man who has done this is worthy to die!

came unto him, and said unto him. There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, man that was come unto him; but took the poor dressed it for the man who man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

> And David's anger was greatly kindled against the Nathan. As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely

die:

He shall restore the lamb 2sa

**12:6** fourfold, because he did had no pity!"

2sa Nathan said to David. "You And Nathan said to David.

12:7 are the man. This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, saith the LORD God of savs: `I anointed you king you out of the hand of Saul.

2sa I gave you your master's

12:8 house, and your master's wives into your bosom, Israel and of Judah; and if that would have been too little. I would have added to you many more such things.

2sa Why have you despised

12:9 the word of Yahweh, to do that which is evil in his sight? You have struck Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he this thing, and because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

Thou art the man. Thus Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul:

And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy and gave you the house of bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little. I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

> Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

Now therefore the sword

2sa Now therefore the sword **12:10** will never depart from your shall never depart from

house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

2sa This is what Yahweh says: Thus saith the LORD, **12:11** `Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take vour wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

2sa 12:12 will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun `"

For you did it secretly, but I For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

2sa David said to Nathan. "I 12:13 have sinned against Yahweh." Nathan said to David. "Yahweh also has put away your sin. You will The LORD also hath put not die.

And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David. away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

However, because by this 2sa **12:14** deed you have given great deed thou hast given great occasion to Yahweh's enemies to blaspheme, the the LORD to blaspheme, child also who is born to you shall surely die."

Howbeit, because by this occasion to the enemies of the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

2sa Nathan departed to his 12:15 house. Yahweh struck the his house. And the LORD

And Nathan departed unto child that Uriah's wife bore struck the child that Uriah's to David, and it was very sick.

2sa David therefore begged 12:16 God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night on the earth.

The elders of his house 2sa 12:17 arose, [and stood] beside him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

2sa It happened on the 12:18 seventh day, that the child died. The servants of David feared to tell him they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he didn't listen to our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead!

2sa But when David saw that 12:19 his servants were whispering together, David David perceived that the perceived that the child was dead: and David said to his servants, Is the child servants, Is the child dead? They said, He is dead.

2sa Then David arose from the Then David arose from the

wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for that the child was dead; for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, child was dead: therefore David said unto his dead? And they said, He is dead.

12:20 earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his clothing; and he came into the house of Yahweh, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he ate.

2sa Then said his servants to **12:21** him, What thing is this that unto him, What thing is this you have done? you did while it was alive: but when the child was dead. you did rise and eat bread. thou didst rise and eat

2sa He said, While the child 12:22 was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who knows whether Yahweh will not be gracious to me, that the child may live?

2sa But now he is dead, why 12:23 should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.

2sa David comforted Bath-12:24 sheba his wife, and went in Bathsheba his wife, and to her, and lay with her: and she bore a son, and he called his name

earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

Then said his servants that thou hast done? thou fast and weep for the child, didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead. bread

> And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

But now he is dead. wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him. but he shall not return to me.

And David comforted went in unto her, and lav with her: and she bare a son, and he called his

Solomon, Yahweh loved him:

12:25 Nathan the prophet; and he named him Jedidiah. for Yahweh's sake.

name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

and he sent by the hand of And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD

I told Jen after reading the story to her from the bible, "David was not punished for having more than one wife, he was punished for committing adultery with another man's wife and murdering the man so he could marry his wife.

Jen found out that God did not condemn men for having more than one wife if their lives dictated to them that they would choose to have more than one wife, at the same time, even in this day and time. People from Europe were of the philosophy that it was less complicated and cheaper to have only one wife to take care of, because the bible states, clearly: that they have to take care of each wife equally.

## Scripture reference follows: For Multiple

#### wives

- De If a man has two WIVES, one greatly loved and the other hated, and the two of them have had children by him; and if the first son is the child of the hated wife:
- 1sa And David and his men were living with Achish at
- 27:3 Gath; every man had his family with him, and David had his two WIVES, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, who had been the wife of Nabal.
- 2sa And David took more women and WIVES in
- 5:13 Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron: and he had more sons and daughters.
- I gave you your master's daughter and your master's
- **12:8 WIVES** for yourself, and I gave you the daughters of Israel and Judah; and if that had not been enough, I

would have given you such and such things. "God has not condemned man having more than one wife, unless the wives were pagans who turned the hearts of His servants to strange gods. God did object to a man having sex with another man's wife, maid-servant.... A woman may only have one husband, until death do they part., if they are in the family of God." This is what Jen preached and she did not deviate from this, ever, said Sister "B" She has always hung on to that story and she took on the philosophy of the bible.

I was taught in bible study that a man should have one wife and that was all. Sometimes I would wonder why it was changed from how it was back then when David had all of those wives. But! I was taught to listen to what the Pastor said and don't question it. I tried to teach that to Jen, but she was adamant about the fact that the bible did not condemn men for having more than one wife, ever! She said" man changed that law, not God."

#### "The Dilemma!"

Sister 'B" said, "I had trouble with what Jen was telling me. She asked me what did I think about her becoming the other wife for the pastor, who was her mentor?" I asked her how they could do this. It is illegal in this country to have more than one wife., I said. . She replied, "But it is not illegal with God." Well, back then I bitterly rebuked Jen instead of trying to understand how she really felt about the issue. I guess I was afraid of being ostracized by the

church., because this just was unthinkable, here in this country..

Jen told me that she was going to tell the pastor that she had found a way for them to legally be man and wife, regardless of what I thought. She told him, about her feelings on the matter and he agreed that he would accept her as his wife. Being that Jen was serious about her walk with God. She made sure that the relationship was sanctioned by God.. Jen was a happy woman for about one year, and then the pastor started trying to get out of the marriage because he became fearful of his reputation in the community. No one knew about the fact that Jen was his wife, in the eyes of God, but me. Jen was so heart broken, she moved away and I have not seen her in fifteen years.

John said "I have made awful speculation about Pastor

Jen, because of the reactions of some of the people which

Pastor Jen has dealt with in her ministry. We all knew she

said that her husband worked out of town. No one in the congregation has ever seen her husband. Pastor Jen would take trips out of town to join her husband, but he never came back to the city to be with Pastor Jen.

Pastor Gen has rebuked several male associates, in front of me, John said; but she would not explain why she would have me remove them from the premises so harshly.

(They were probably harassing her!)

Sister 'B' said," I wonder if her experience with her "husband" has made her bitter?." He would always ask her "what she was going to give him " . The giving person she is; when she gives of herself, or gives something to someone, it is never anything she would not want herself (quality gifts) was always her style.). Jen would tell me that" her husband was just kidding," but I don't think he was. "just kidding "when he asked. "What are you going to give me?". I had heard rumors from some folk, about that, same, pastor. They called him a Pimp. He was "pimping (using them for his own personal, unrighteous, gain by courting them)" other women for what they had and could what they could give him. When he grew tired of relationship or the woman, he would leave them, talk about them to his wife or others and imply that they were after him. . The women he had violated called him a spineless pimp!" There are women who were afraid to speak out because he had devastated them. When he was through with them he would not say a word, he would just dump them and end all contact with

them. I do not understand how he got away with it. The women did not come forward because they did not want people to know how stupid they were, to succumb to his advances. **Results: 5** 

# For 'widows 'God's Laws were clear. – Many Widows are mistreated/abused

- Therefore the Lord will not rejoice over their YOUNG
  9:17
  men, neither will he have compassion on their
  fatherless and WIDOWS; for everyone is profane
  and an evil-doer, and every mouth speaks folly. For
  all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is
  stretched out still.
- Their WIDOWS are increased to me above the sand of the seas; I have brought on them against the mother of the YOUNG men a destroyer at noonday: I have caused anguish and terrors to fall on her suddenly.
- Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and give them over to the power of the sword; and let their wives become childless, and WIDOWS; and let their men be slain of death, [and] their YOUNG men struck of the sword in battle.
- But refuse YOUNGer WIDOWS, for when they havegrown wanton against Christ, they desire to marry;
- 1ti I desire therefore that the YOUNGer WIDOWS
- 5:14 marry, bear children, rule the household, and give no occasion to the adversary for reviling.

Justice, Not Religion Isaiah 1:23

Isaiah 1 paints a striking picture of conditions in

Judah. Descriptions of luxury indicate the nation was prospering economically. There was no shortage of offerings, prayers, and religious celebrations (verses 11-17). But Isaiah condemned Judah for not putting religion into practice by defending weak people, such as widows and the fatherless. The country's prosperity had come at the poor's expense.( NIV)

World English (Luke	KJV
20)	

Lu 20:45 people, he said to his disciples,

Lu 20:46 who desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces, the best markets, and the seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts;

who devour widows' Lu 20:47 houses, and for a pretense make long prayers: these will receive greater condemnation."

In the hearing of all the Then in the audience of all the people he said unto his disciples,

"Beware of the scribes. Beware of the scribes. which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a show make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.

This is the scriptural reference for what I am saying,

said Sister"B". I am a teacher of the Word of God, I

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Excerpted from Compton's Interactive Bible NIV. Copyright (c) 1994, 1995. 1996 SoftKey Multimedia Inc. All Rights Reserved

Practice backing up whatever I say with the Words from the Bible.

Sister 'B' told Sarah, "Jen is a very formidable woman; that she is also, an independent, selfless person. She said, "Jen is so giving, and kind hearted. She will help others obtain their dreams and visions. Jen, really, threw herself into assisting the pastor and his wife with the building and development of their ministry and church, when she was there. "

At the beginning of her tenure at the church, she was approached by the Pastor to become an integral part of the church and ministry. Jen had some personal issues, from her childhood she had not been able to shake and she confided in Pastor Biggs.. They became good friends and their closeness became a problem for both of them.. Pastor Biggs and Jennifer new this was a dangerous situation.

They discussed the pros and cons of continuing to work so

closely together. Jennifer could not live with herself if she were in an adulterous relationship, with anyone. So! This is what prompted the discussion about King David and his wives. Jen told, her trusted friend, Pastor Biggs about her philosophy on God allowing a man to have more than one wife, at one time and this would be the only way they could be together without living in sin. Her friend, Pastor Biggs agreed to the specifications and they were joined as one, in the biblical way. Jen made a covenant with God and her husband, till death do us part. Her husband said he would always be there for her.

Jen made a commitment to him, but he was not a true husband to her. She adored this man and she was committed to God and to her husband. Without fail, he could always depend on her for anything. But! He never gave her the respect and love she deserved, "In my opinion.", said Sister 'B'. This is why I could not support Jen in this. I opposed Jen in every way, because I could not agree with

the fact that she was a man's other wife and was not treated as such by him. He did not affirm her as his wife. He backed up, like a crawfish and deserted Jen. But Jen is still committed to him, as his wife. "She said she will never cheat on or disrespect her husband, because she is committed to God and her husband until death."

Jen felt she had to move away. She decided to remain committed to God and to her husband, because she believed in the sanctity of marriage covenant. She said the marriage covenant is a prototype to how our relationship to God, should be. God already has shown that he is "Married to Israel and believers who have slipped and failed, so many times, in spite of their unfaithfulness.

Israel will be at the marriage supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, Jen told me., as will those who have sinned, but repented of that sin and returned back to being faithful to God through His Son Jesus Messiah." This is how Jen explained her love for her husband. [unconditional love, in

spite of what he did in the past, there is always hope for him, as long as he has breath in his body." She said I live for the day that he realizes that God gave me to him as a means of giving him a way not to sin. Erroneous tradition, imposed on God's people by men who changed the laws of the land to fit their selfish whims. They have distorted God's truth. God knows his creation and he gave women and men a way not to commit adultery, or fornication by allowing the institution of marriage, unto Himself., for all believers. All we have to do is read the bible. Jen said, Think about it! Would God allow King David to have more than one wife if this was a sin? He did not tell David to get rid of his wives. If God told anyone to get rid of a wife, it was because the wife was a pagan and he did not want His people turned away, by pagan practices. Jen was so adamant about this, but I just could not accept it, at the time. I hurt her very much. I wish I could make it up to her, said Sister "B" Jen is such a beautiful person **inside and out**,. said Sister 'B'. I do not

know how she is , being that I have not seen her in fifteen years." How is she?" Is she alright?" Sarah told Sister "B" she would keep her apprised about Pastor Jen's , well being, if she wanted her to. Sister "B" was so happy with the prospect of that.

John said," Sister B" You have explained so much to us. We were faced with the dilemma of having to intervene, for the sake of the congregation. We have been fasting and praying about, what to do about, what [we thought], were immoral acts being committed on the part of Pastor Jen. I became suspicious because she said she was married, but no one in the congregation had ever seen Pastor's husband. She would go on trips to meet him, but no one ever witnessed seeing, any husband. She had visitors, business partners and others, come to visit her or the church, but the relationships were always short lived. I suspected she was living a lie. Now I see that I was mistaken. People have

been talking about Pastor Jen., and she knows it. But she has never explained or defended herself. I was one of those persons, until I heard your story. Oh, how can we help our Pastor?" Does she need help? What shall we do?" for our Pastor? Sarah suggested that they continue to fast and pray for the Lord to lead them and guide them in helping to minister to Pastor Jen.

It was getting very late and John and Sarah were invited to sleep over to Sister 'B's home. They accepted.! There were plans made by the three to take a tour of other parts of the city. They had a good nights sleep and awakened the next morning about 9:00AM. They ate a delicious breakfast and headed out for the day with Sister B". It was a beautiful Saturday morning.

John, Sarah, and Sister 'B' visited many churches in the little town, during their that Saturday... They got the scoop from Sister 'B', on all of the churches in the area. As they passed the churches, Sister" B" had a story to tell.

Sarah and John were taking notes, for future reference.

They wanted to avoid the pitfalls experienced by those who had problems with their ministries.

"The Scoop On Other Churches"

#### 1. Church A-Pastor A

This pastor had a business which could have benefited many people. He was a very quiet man, but he believed in scheming on people. He did not want to pay his help what they were due. His philosophy was use their weaknesses against them; and pay them minimum pay. This preacher did not show brotherly love to God's flock. He used people and treated them badly, at their weakest point.

	19)	KJV
Le 19:1	Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,	And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Le 19:2	Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and tell them, You shall be holy; for I Yahweh your God am holy.	Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.
Le 19:3	You shall fear every man his mother, and his father; and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am Yahweh your God.	Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.
Le 19:4	Don't turn to idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am Yahweh your God.	Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.
Le 19:5	When you offer a sacrifice of peace-offerings to Yahweh, you shall offer it that you may be accepted.	And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will.
Le 19:6	next day: and if anything	It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire.
Le 19:7	If it be eaten at all on the third day, it is an abomination; it shall not be accepted:	And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted.
Le	but everyone who eats it	Therefore every one that

World English (Leviticus K.IV

**19:8** shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned the holy thing of Yahweh: and that soul shall be cut off from his people.

eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Le When you reap the harvest And when ye reap the 19:9 of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, neither shall you corners of thy field, neither gather the gleaning of your shalt thou gather the harvest.

harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the gleanings of thy harvest.

You shall not glean your Le 19:10 vineyard, neither shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am and stranger: I am the Yahweh vour God.

And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor LORD your God.

Le You shall not steal; neither Ye shall not steal, neither 19:11 shall you deal falsely, nor lie one to another.

deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

You shall not swear by my And ye shall not swear by Le 19:12 name falsely, and profane the name of your God: I am Yahweh.

my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Le You shall not oppress 19:13 your neighbor, nor rob him: the wages of a hired rob him: the wages of servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

#### 2. Church B- Pastor B

This pastor was the kind who did not want to preach about hell. He did not believe in the devil and hell. He taught that God is a good God and he would not send any of His children to such a place. He had his congregation pledge their support to his church and he told them God will give you back more than you gave. Part of what he said is true. He rarely preached about repentance of sin being a must, to be forgiven and to receive salvation from eternal death and hell. His congregation lived to please him, more than God and he knew it; but he did nothing to teach them any better. People would come to the church for a while and then leave. Only a few of what he called, "the faithful few remained. They were under his spell and had agenda's of their own. This was the reason they remained

Isa 5:13	Therefore my people are gone into captivity for lack of knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude are parched with thirst.	Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.
Isa 5:14	Therefore Sheol has enlarged its desire, and opened its mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he who rejoices among them, descend [into it].	Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend
Ps 86:13	For your lovingkindness is great toward me. You have delivered my soul from the lowest Sheol.	For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell
Ps 139:6	This knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty. I can't attain it.	Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.
Ps 139:7	Where could I go from your Spirit? Or where could I flee from your presence?	Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
Ps 139:8	If I ascend up into heaven, you are	If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my

there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art bed in Sheol, behold, there. you are there!

## World English KJV (Isaiah 14)

Isa 14:1 **ABOUT** JESUS! ISRAEL AND THE

have vet choose Israel, and set **CHURCH** them in their own land: and the sojourner shall join himself with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.

For Yahweh will For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will compassion on yet choose Israel, and set Jacob, and will them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.

Isa 14:2

The peoples to their place; and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of Yahweh for servants and for handmaids: and they shall take them captive whose

And the people shall take shall take them, them, and bring them to and bring them their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

Isa 14:3 It shall happen in the day that Yahweh shall give you rest from your sorrow, and from your trouble, and from the hard service in which you were made to serve,

And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve.

Isa 14:4 that you shall take up this the king of Babylon, and say, How has the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of parable against Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

Isa 14:5 Yahweh has of the wicked. the scepter of the rulers;

The LORD hath broken the broken the staff staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

Isa 14:6 peoples in

who struck the He who smote the people in wrath with a continual

wrath with a continual stroke, who ruled the nations in anger, with a persecution that none restrained.

stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

Isa 14:7 The whole earth is at rest. [and] is quiet: they break forth into singing.

The whole earth is at rest. and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

Isa 14:8 Yes, the firtrees rejoice at you, [and] the cedars of Lebanon. [saying], Since you are laid low, no lumberiack is come up against us.

Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

Isa 14:9 **ABOUT** HELL AND SATAN

Sheol from beneath is your coming; it stirs up the dead for you, even all the chief ones of

Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet moved for you thee at thy coming: it to meet you at stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

the earth; it has raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

IN HELL

Isa 14:10 All they shall you, Are you also become weak as we? are you become like us?

All they shall speak and say PEOPLE answer and tell unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

About HELL

Isa 14:11 Your pomp is the noise of worm is spread under you, and worms cover you.

Thy pomp is brought brought down down to the grave, and to Sheol, [and] the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under your viols: the thee, and the worms cover thee.

ABOUT SATAN

Isa 14:12 How you are fallen from heaven, daystar, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low!

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground. which didst weaken the nations!

lsa You said in For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend 14:13A your heart, I into heaven, I will exalt About will ascend into heaven, I my throne above the Satan will exalt my stars of God: I will sit throne above also upon the mount of the stars of the congregation, in the God; and I will sides of the north: sit on the mountain of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north; SIsa I will ascend I will ascend above the 14:14 above the heights of the clouds; I will ABOUT heights of the be like the most High. SATAN clouds: I will make myself like the Most High. Isa 14:15 Yet you shall Yet thou shalt be brought ABOUT down to hell, to the sides of be brought down to Sheol, the pit. HELL to the uttermost parts of the pit. Isa 14:16 Those who see They that see thee shall ABOUT you shall gaze narrowly look upon thee, SATAN at you, they and consider thee, saving, shall consider Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that you, [saying], "Is this the man did shake kingdoms;

who made the

earth to tremble, who shook kingdoms:

Isa 14:17 who made the SATAN

**ABOUT** world as a overthrew the cities of it: who prisoners? didn't let loose his prisoners to their home?"

That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed wilderness, and the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his

ABOUT SATAN

Isa 14:18 All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, everyone in his own house.

All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

Isa 14:19 But you are ABOUT SATAN

like an abominable with the slain. who are thrust through with the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit: as a dead body trodden under foot.

But thou art cast out of thy cast forth away grave like an abominable from your tomb branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain. thrust through with a sword, branch, clothed that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

Isa 14:20 You shall not

Thou shalt not be joined

### ABOUT SATAN

be joined with them in burial. because you your land, you have killed your renowned. people: the seed of evildoers shall not be named forever.

with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and have destroyed slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be

### Isa 14:21 Prepare ABOUT SATAN

slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers. that they not rise up, and possess the earth, and fill the surface of the world with cities.

Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

against them, Hosts, and cut off from

Isa 14:22 I will rise up

Babylon name and remnant. and son and son's son, says Yahweh.

For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of says Yahweh of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.

Isa 14:23 I will also make I will also make it a

it a possession possession for the bittern, for the and pools of water: and I porcupine, and will sweep it with the besom pools of water: of destruction, saith the and I will sweep LORD of hosts. it with the broom of destruction, says Yahweh of Hosts.

Isa 14:24 Yahweh of Hosts has sworn, saying, Surely, as I have thought, so shall it happen; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

Isa 14:25 the Assyrian in Assyrian in my land, and my land, and on my mountains his yoke depart shoulders. from off them. and his burden depart from off

that I will break That I will break the upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off tread him under them, and his burden foot: then shall depart from off their

**Isa 14:26** This is the

their shoulder.

This is the purpose that is purpose that is purposed upon the whole

purposed on the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out on all the nations.

and who shall turn it back?

earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

Isa 14:27 For Yahweh of For the LORD of hosts hath Hosts has

purposed, and who shall purposed, and disannul it? and his hand is who shall annul stretched out, and who it? and his hand shall turn it back? is stretched out.

**Isa 14:28** In the year that In the year that king Ahaz was this

burden.

king Ahaz died died was this burden.

Isa 14:29 Don't rejoice, O Rejoice not thou, whole you, because the rod that struck you is root shall come serpent. forth an adder.

Philistia, all of Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come broken; for out forth a cockatrice, and his of the serpent's fruit shall be a fiery flying

flying serpent. the poor shall feed, and the

and his fruit shall be a fiery

Isa 14:30 The firstborn of And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in

needy shall lie and I will kill your root with famine, and vour remnant shall be killed.

safety: and I will kill thy root down in safety; with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.

Isa 14:31 Howl, gate; cry, Howl, O gate; cry, O city; city; you are melted away, Philistia, all of you; for there out of the north, times. and there is no straggler in his

ranks.

thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none shall be comes a smoke alone in his appointed

Isa 14:32 What then shall What shall one then answer the nation? That Yahweh has founded Zion, and in her shall the afflicted of his people take refuge.

one answer the the messengers of the messengers of nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.

#### 3. Church C-Pastor C.

This pastor was one who was a no nonsense guy. He

taught straight from the bible and he valued the Torah. He taught his congregation about their Jewish roots. He was of the philosophy that if Christians studied the history of the Jews, they would understand Christianity better. His entire congregation respected him highly, and they loved his teaching. This church is a moderate sized church, with much power. They empowered and educated believers to make them disciples for the Kingdom of God. The goal was not to keep them in the sanctuary, but to go out into the highways and byways to preach the truth of God, through His inerrant Word. This pastor had no problem with people giving to his ministry. God provided all of his needs. He spoke about giving like Paul instructed Scripture Reference for giving according to Paul.

World English	KJV
World Eligibii	NJ V
(Philippians 4)	
(Fillippians 4)	

Php Therefore, my brothers, Therefore, my brethren,4:1 beloved and longed for, my dearly beloved and longed

joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

Php I exhort Euodia, and I 4:2 exhort Syntyche, to think the same way in the Lord.

**Php** Yes, I beg you also, true 4:3 yoke-fellow, help these women, for they labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

**Php** Rejoice in the Lord always.

**4:4** Again I will say, Rejoice!

Php Let your mildness be

4:5 known to all men. The Lord known unto all men. The is at hand.

**Php** In nothing be anxious, but

**4:6** in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to requests be made known God.

**Php** The peace of God, which 4:7 passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and

your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

**Php** Finally, brothers, whatever **4:8** things are true, whatever

for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true. things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things.

**Php** The things which you **4:9** learned, received, heard, and saw in me: do these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Php** But I rejoice in the Lord 4:10 greatly, that now at length you have revived your thought for me; in which you did indeed take thought, but you lacked opportunity.

Php Not that I speak in respect **4:11** to lack, for I have learned in of want: for I have learned, whatever state I am, to be content in it.

**Php** I know how to be humbled. 4:12 and I know also how to abound. In everything and in all things have I learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need.

whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ve were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

Not that I speak in respect in whatsoever state I am. therewith to be content.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Php I can do all things through 4:13 Christ, who strengthens me.

**Php** However you did well that **4:14** you had fellowship with my affliction.

**Php** You yourselves also know, 4:15 you Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no assembly had fellowship with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you only.

**Php** For even in Thessalonica **4:16** you sent once and again to my need.

**Php** Not that I seek for the gift, 4:17 but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account.

**Php** But I have all things, and 4:18 abound. I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus Epaphroditus the things the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable and well-pleasing sacrifice to God.

**Php** My God will supply every 4:19 need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Not because I desire a gift:

but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Php Now to our God and Father Now unto God and our4:20 be the glory forever and ever. Amen.Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Php Greet every saint in Christ4:21 Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.

Php All the saints greet you,
4:22 especially those who are of Caesar's household.

Caesar's household.

Caesar's household.

Caesar's household.

Php The grace of the Lord4:23 Jesus Christ be with you all.

Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.
All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of

Caesar's household.
The grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

#### 4. Pastor D Church D

Another of the church leaders Was working on becoming rich. The things of God and the church took a backseat to his aspirations to become rich and influential in the community. He was dabbling in politics. His teaching was always of prosperity in finances. His focus was not on the calling of the gospel. Most of his sermons were tailored to fit the current trends (whatever was politically correct for pseudo– Christian ethics.) And teachings. He was afraid

to lose his congregation if he told them the truth about not sinning and not being specific regarding their sin.

Sister 'B' said I really can discern those who do not preach the truth. Those who preach a watered-down-gospel will be one of those which Jesus will say:

MtThen I will tell them, `I NEVER KNEW YOU. DEPART7:23 FROM ME, YOU who work iniquity.`

#### 5.Pastor E. Church E

The pastor of Church E was a backslidden preacher who had a **lust** problem. He would always get entangled with women he "counseled. No one did as much preaching against women, like he did. He always blamed women for the ills in society. According to him, women wore clothing which enticed men to sin. Women didn't appreciate good men. He really had a problem with women! He was a domineering person who had to be in control of everything or

he would not be involved. This pastor had a spirit of criticizing everyone and everything. He always had to correct everyone and everything. No one could ever satisfy this man. There was hardly an encouraging word which came out of his mouth for anyone. He played the victim in every situation.

When he counseled women in his congregation he would, start off with good intentions, but invariably he would, somehow end up in bed with some of the women and this would create a dilemma which he could not change without hurting the "women" He was "very-much" married and had a large family. He had eight boys and nine girls, by four women, throughout his twenty years as pastor of. this church. He had been married three times and about to loose this wife, because of his unfaithfulness. Tow years ago, he became very ill and he died; they brought him back to life in the hospital, placed him on life support for two weeks.. It took him, two years to rehabilitate. This is what saved his

marriage and his soul. He stated he died and went to hell, "he saw hell-fire, people being tormented twenty-four hours per day, with not breaks, and no way of getting out. He also stated that he saw ugly, smelly demons which "scared hell out of him". He was brought back to life and he vowed he would not touch another woman, who he is not married to. Today he is happy and satisfied being a husband, father, and pastor, who lives his life according to the word of God, without deviation from the truth. Praise be to God!...... This was his scripture, below, which prefaced his new-found-challenge.Exploiting Widows~~~Mark 12:42 (NIV)

The simple act of faithfulness by an impoverished widow made a stark contrast to others' pompous public displays. Some teachers "devour widows' houses," Jesus had said (verse 40). Teachers of the law lived off the gifts of supporters, and, then as now, the gullible poor made a tempting target.2

The Preachers Should Have been Preaching!"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Excerpted from *Compton's Interactive Bible NIV*. Copyright (c) 1994, 1995, 1996 SoftKey Multimedia Inc. All Rights Reserved

## This is what those preachers should have been

# preaching!!!!!!

	World English (Matthew 7)	KJV
Mt 7:1	"Don`t judge, so that you won`t be judged.	Judge not, that ye be not judged.
Mt 7:2	For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged: and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.	For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
Mt 7:3	Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye?	And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
Mt 7:4	Or how will you tell your brother, `Let me remove the speck from your eye;` and behold, the beam is in your own eye?	Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?
Mt 7:5	You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.	Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.
Mt 7:6	"Don't give that which is holy to the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the pigs, lest perhaps they	Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample

trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Mt "Ask, and it will be given 7:7 you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you.

Μt For everyone who asks

7:8 receives. He who seeks will be opened.

Mt Or what man is there of

7:9 you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

**Mt** Or if he asks for a fish, who Or if he ask a fish, will he 7:10 will give him a serpent?

If you then, being evil,

7:11 know how to give good gifts how to give good gifts unto to your children, how much your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Mt Therefore whatever you

7:12 desire for men to do to you, whatsoever ye would that vou shall also do to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Enter in by the narrow gate; Enter ye in at the strait 7:13 for wide is the gate, and

broad is the way, that leads and broad is the way, that

them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that finds. To him who knocks it seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

> Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Therefore all things men should do to you, do ve even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

gate: for wide is the gate,

to destruction, and many leadeth to destruction, and are those who enter in by it. many there be which go in thereat:

## World English (Matthew 7)

How narrow is the gate. and restricted is the way

7:14 that leads to life! Few are those who find it.

**Mt** "Beware of false prophets,

7:15 who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.

**Mt** By their fruits you will know Ye shall know them by their

7:16 them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

**Mt** Even so, every good tree

7:17 brings forth good fruit; but evil fruit.

Mt A good tree can't bring

7:18 forth evil fruit, neither can a forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth aood fruit.

Every tree that doesn't

7:19 grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire.

Mt Therefore, by their fruits 7:20 you will know them.

**KJV** 

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree brings forth a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

> A good tree cannot bring corrupt tree bring forth aood fruit.

> Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Μt Not everyone who says to 7:21 me, `Lord, Lord,` will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is the will of my Father which in heaven.

Mt Many will tell me in that 7:22 day, `Lord, Lord, didn`t we prophesy by your name, by your name cast out demons, and by your name have cast out devils? and do many mighty works?`

Mt Then I will tell them, 'I 7:23 never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.

"Everyone therefore who 7:24 hears these words of mine. and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock.

Mt The rain came down, the 7:25 floods came, and the winds and the floods came, and blew, and beat on that house: and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock.

7:26 words of mine, and doesn't these sayings of mine, and do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, the winds blew, and beat upon that house: and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Everyone who hears these And every one that heareth doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man. which built his house upon

Mt The rain came down, the And the rain descended, 7:27 floods came, and the winds and the floods came, and

blew, and beat on that house; and it fell -- and great was its fall."

Mt It happened, when Jesus 7:28 had finished saying these

things, that the multitudes were astonished at his teaching.

Mt for he taught them with

**7:29** authority, and not like the scribes.

the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

#### "In Conclusion"

Sister "B" is a very dedicated woman of God and she makes it plain to those she witnesses to about the Lord and the Gospel. She is a great intercessory prayer-warrior for the whole town.

John told Sister "B", "This visit has, indeed, been an education for Sarah and I, in so many ways. He asked Sister 'B', "how do you know so much about Pastor Jen 's

life. She replied, "She is my child", my only child. My late husband and I adopted her when she was just a baby. (two days old). Ooh! What a delight she was to us. We poured our lives into her. Jennifer was the most envied child in the city. she wanted for nothing.!" I miss her so much. Tears were streaming from her eyes, while she sobbed ,so intently.

Sarah asked Sister 'B' if she was going to rebuild a relationship with Pastor Jen? She stated she had to pray about it and get back with them. Sarah assured Sister "B" of her promise to keep her apprised on the wellbeing of Pastor Jen, regularly

John and Sarah thanked Sister" B" for her warm hospitality and they assured her that a bond between them had been created and it would never be broken. They felt as though they found a spiritual mother and would cherish her for the rest of their lives. Goodbyes were said and John and Sarah rode off into the sunset, feeling like their lives had

been enriched and extended. Both John and Sarah had a new agenda. They were going to be lead by the Holy Sprit and restore their Pastor Jen and the congregation and the Lord willed. They dedicated themselves to the Lord, to each other, to Sister "B", The Pastor and the congregation, until Death do they Part..

Don't just be hearers, only of the Word, but be doers of the Word of God. Choose everlasting life by embracing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Admit to Jesus that you are a sinner who needs forgiveness. Confess sin, Turn away from the sin (s) and back to God through the name and blood of His Son Jesus Christ. By Asking Jesus to forgive you, and to cover you with His Blood onto Salvation and Abundant Living? Don't be a Sunday-go-to-meeting person who does not have a personal relationship with God and His Son, through His Holy Spirit. Find a bible believing and teaching Fellowship to keep you strong, in the Lord. If you have not

accepted Jesus Messiah, as your Lord and Savior, ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Ask Jesus to forgive you for your sins. Name the sins to Him. He knows them, but it will help you to have a cathartic (deep cleansing process) in your spirit, to call out your sins to Jesus. Turn away from the sinful nature you have and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you, the rest of the way... Read your Bible, learn the Word for yourself. Do not just take what people tell you about Jesus. Research the Word of God for yourself. Become a believer who is on fire for the ways of the Lord. Testify to others and tell them what Jesus has done in your life. Become an active participant in the Community of the Messiah Jesus and His Father, The Creator of Heaven and Earth. SEE YOU IN THE NEW JERUSALEM! AMEN Jesus is alive and well! He is not dead! He is pleading to the Father for the lives of all believers, whose name is written in the Book of Life! Father "God is married to the backslider" who has covenant with Him. And turn away from

his/her old sin nature.

FY|-----'

Betrayed By Your Pastor, Priest, Rabbi?

Do Not Feel Guilty! God can forgive you and the Clergy.

FYI This article retrieved from the internet on Nov. 15, 2007.

#### **Fair Use of Material Statement**

Articles in the Journal (except those copyrighted) may be reproduced if you indicate the source and date of publication. If the web site is quoted include <a href="https://www.ChristianEthicsToday.com">www.ChristianEthicsToday.com</a> along with Volume number

Issue 029 
Volume 6 Number 5 >next> Issue 031

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'"

# The Forbidden Zone The Nature and Prevalence of Clergy Sexual Abuse

- The Scope of Clergy Sexual Abuse
- The Nature of Clergy Sexual Abuse
  - Betrayal of Sexual Trust
  - Betrayal of Power Trust
  - Types of Abusive Ministers
    - Predator
    - Wanderer
    - Lover
- ENDNOTES

[In 1998 the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas established a special committee to study the problem of clergy sexual abuse. The group discovered the problem was serious. The issues involved included education, counseling, local church assistance, convention policies, and financial assistance. This month the CLC will report to the BGCT a wide range of resources for churches, pastors, and family members of

victims and perpetrators. Following are two of the pamphlets available (other pamphlets deal with "Impact" and "Responding to CSA"), as well as a "Covenant of Sexual Ethics." The Editor assisted the committee by preparing these educational materials.]

The sexual abuse of parishioners by clergy is a major ethical problem. No denomination has escaped the spotlight of scandal. One example, recorded by Marie Fortune, is the story of Peter Donovan, pastor of First Church, Newburg (actual names and places are changed). Six women lodged formal charges against the pastor. Donovan's misconduct included sexual contact with counselees and employees, misuse of the pastoral office to manipulate members, verbal threats to intimidate victims, and rape. [[1]]

Incidents like this have become all too common. Numerous studies over the past decade support the research of pastoral counselor G. Lloyd Rediger, who contends that 10 percent of clergy are guilty of sexual malfeasance, and another 15 percent are approaching the line of misconduct. [1][1]

In addition to the number of ministers involved, numerous persons are victimized by clergy sexual misconduct. Pastor Donovan at First Church Newburg abused as many as forty-five members. A growing number of survivors have organized to provide support for victims and to wage an aggressive battle against clergy sexual exploitation. [iii]

Through numerous interviews within his own profession, psychologist Peter Rutter has brought to light the power dynamic often at work in abusive relationships. In our culture the connection to power makes sexual misconduct mainly a male problem. Rutter asserts 96 percent of sexual exploitation by professionals is by a man in power who capitalizes on a woman's trust. [N[iv]]

Rutter also clarifies sexual abuse. He defines as "the forbidden zone" any sexual contact that occurs within the framework of a professional relationship of trust (such as a counselor or pastor). Thus clergy sexual misconduct includes any contact or action intended to arouse erotic interest, whether there is touching or not. V[V]

Seminary professors Stanley Grenz and Roy Bell assert that sexual misconduct in the pastorate is a grave betrayal of trust that operates in two directions. "It is a violation of a sacred sexual trust, marring the beautiful picture God has given of the relationship of Christ and the church. And it is a violation of a power trust, abusing the privilege of the pastoral position with which the ordained leader has been endowed by the church and its Lord." vi[vi]

Sexual exploitation ordinarily occurs in an atmosphere of enforced silence. This silence is maintained not only by the participants but also by others who are unwilling to breach the dictated censorship. The director of an organization for survivors of clergy abuse writes that the initial response of church officials is to hush the victim and cover-up the sexual abuse, which continues

unchecked for years. Vii[Vii] Rutter insists that this "code of silence" must be broken. Viii[Viii] A major step in breaking the silence about clergy sexual abuse is to understand the prevalence of the problem.

#### The Scope of Clergy Sexual Abuse

For years congregants and the wider community have assumed ministers are persons of integrity, worthy of respect and trust. Yet, from King David's illicit affair with Bathsheba to Jim Bakker's liaison with Jessica Hahn, the reputation of spiritual leaders has been tainted by sexual scandal. Most preachers begin their ministries with good intentions. Yet as they face sexual temptation, some succumb. When they fall, they land hard and injure others.

During the past decade the media has profiled case after case of ministers, priests, televangelists, and other religious leaders who were guilty of clergy sexual misconduct. Ethical failure in ministry has become so widespread that insurance companies are reevaluating their coverage of abuse cases, sometimes excluding coverage altogether. [XI]

Clergy sexual abuse is not new. The Old Testament records the story of the sons of the priest Eli, who misused their position to engage in sexual misconduct—"they lay with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting" (1 Sam. 2:2). In the first century of Christianity, the apostle Paul warned church leaders about the dangers of sexual sin (1 Cor. 6:9-16; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3; 1 Tim. 3:2). Early church leaders such as Jerome, Tertullian and

Augustine instructed pastors about sexual misbehavior.

Today the situation is especially acute for Roman Catholics, who have lost almost one-fourth of their active priests due to sexual and marital reasons. <sup>x[x]</sup> Protestants are not immune. One denominational study reported "clergy were sexually exploiting their parishioners at twice the rate of secular therapists." <sup>xi[xi]</sup>

Present research indicates the incidence of sexual abuse by clergy has reached "horrific proportions." Two seminal studies in 1984 reported 12 and 12.7 percent of ministers had engaged in sexual intercourse with members, and 37 and 39 percent had acknowledged sexually inappropriate behavior. More recent surveys by religious journals and research institutes support these figures. The disturbing aspect of all research is that the rate of incidence for clergy exceeds the client-professional rate for both physicians and psychologists. XiI[XiI] Often the clergy sexual offender is guilty of multiple transgressions. In one case reported by Newsweek, while seducing one woman her minister boasted of having slept with thirty others.

Along with an increasing number of allegations, reports of clergy sexual abuse involve broad areas of misconduct: long-standing affairs, homosexual liaisons, abuse of children, seduction of youth, inappropriate touching, and verbal and non-verbal sexual innuendos. Rediger identified six specifics of sexual malfeasance:

- Sexual intercourse with persons outside of a marriage covenant.
- Oral sex with persons outside of a marriage covenant.
- Unwanted or inappropriate physical touch.
- Physical-sensual displays of the body or titillation of senses in suggestive ways.
- The use of pornography, individually or with others, to stimulate erotic fantasies.
- Verbal or visual contact with another person which implies or demands sexual response. xiv[xiv]

### The Nature of Clergy Sexual Abuse

After we grasp the scope of the problem, a second necessary step is to understand the nature of clergy sexual misconduct. When a male minister exploits his privileged position for personal sexual satisfaction—whether seemingly innocent innuendos, obnoxious harassment, or actual contact—he has strayed into the "forbidden zone."

Clergy sexual misconduct is a violation of the integrity of the pastoral office, a betrayal of ordination vows. Regardless of how it happens, it is a betrayal of trust between pastor and people, which involves both an abuse of sexuality and an abuse of power. [XV]

Betrayal of Sexual Trust. The Christian ethic proposes that God has placed boundaries for sexual expression, which reveal and support its intended meaning. Only within the context of heterosexual marriage can sexual intercourse express the proper

intent of the sex act: unconditional, covenantal love. Sexual expression is meant to be both the symbol of mutual commitment and the celebration of the "one flesh" marital relationship (Mt. 19:4-6).

When the sex act is practiced outside the context of marriage, it also carries meaning, but not the one God intends. Extramarital sex relations lack unconditional commitment, and all too easily become an expression of self-gratification, exploitation, and infidelity. Outside the boundaries of the marriage covenant, sex relations actually work to deny the intended meaning of the act--sexual intercourse becomes bonding without permanency, a nonbinding covenant, and a false declaration about the depth of the relationship. \*vi[xvi]

For the married pastor, the basic commitment is to marital fidelity. For the single minister, sexual faithfulness begins with an equally important commitment to sexual abstinence before marriage. Some have tried to put a positive face on certain extramarital sexual activities, but any intentional sexual contact beyond the boundaries of marriage violates the marital bond and constitutes adultery (Mt. 5:27-28).

Thus, sexual misconduct by clergy is a distortion of human sexuality--a betrayal of sexual trust. For an offending pastor, whether single or married, the betrayal is a violation of God's intention.

Betrayal of Power Trust. Every act of clergy indiscretion also is a betrayal of trust in the use of power. One writer asserts the problem "is less about

sex and more about power. It has less to do with sexual misconduct such as adultery, and more to do with exploiting one's professional position for personal gain." Only when the power aspect is accepted, writes Pamela Cooper-White, can the church stop engaging in denial and collusion and become a place of authentic power and healing. Viii[xviii]

Every minister is a symbol of religious authority. By virtue of the pastoral office, the minister interprets religious truth, the meaning of life, the way of faith, and even the reality of God. Add to that status the power of the pastor's presence through ministry, and you realize the special influence a minister holds among his congregants.

For example, in pastoral counseling a female member brings into the relationship her intimate, wounded, vulnerable, or undeveloped parts, which the minister holds in trust. Often the problems are closely tied to her sexuality. Whatever the cause of her wounds, she comes to her minister seeking acceptance, self-worth, and emotional support. Ultimately she seeks healing.

A special bond of trust develops between her and her pastor, which may lead to more openness and more vulnerability. Peter Rutter notes that even a woman with a firm sense of sexual boundaries often stops guarding them in order that her inner self may be seen and known by this healer. Motivated by his own needs, a minister easily may move this relationship into the sexual sphere, seeking his own "healing." Whatever the motive, through sexual

contact a pastoral counselor has exploited a congregant's vulnerability, violated her trust, and met his own needs at her expense. Lebacqz and Barton conclude, this sexual contact "revictimizes her, repeating patterns from her past, and keeps her from recognizing and claiming her own strength apart from a man." xx[xx]

While this scenario describes the typical situation in clergy sexual abuse, what about the congregant-initiated sexual contact? Or what if the sexual affair is by mutual consent? Most male ministers have encountered seductive behavior in unstable members, and the story of a colleague who has left his spouse because of a sexual involvement with a congregant is not uncommon.

Recognizing these situations do occur, most authorities insist that *any* sexual contact between clergy and congregant involves an abuse of power. Whatever the circumstances, any sexual behavior by a man in power is inherently exploitive of a woman's trust. Even a woman's advance does not relieve the minister from his responsibility to maintain boundaries.

Types of Abusive Ministers. Clergy sexual misconduct takes many forms: voyeurism, exhibitionism, incest, child molestation, homosexual liaisons, and rape. Clergy sexual abuse usually begins with acts or statements intended to arouse erotic interest, sometimes including harassment. When pastoral power is used to manipulate a congregant to engage in sex relations, the results are

#### devastating.

What type of minister becomes involved sexually with a church member? A *Newsweek* article provided a profile of the minister who strays. He is usually middle-aged, disillusioned with his calling, neglecting his own marriage, and a lone ranger who is isolated from his clerical colleagues. His failure commenced when he met a woman who needed him. \*xxi[xxi]

There are many ways to classify abusers. Observers of clergy abuse list as many as seven profiles. Marie Fortune has made a major distinction between *predators* and *wanderers*, to which may be added a third type, the *lover*.

The **Predator** is a person acting as God's representative who actively seeks opportunities to abuse women sexually. Targeting his prey, the predator pretends to be a caring pastor, using his power and position to manipulate his victims. The pastoral predator is "manipulative, coercive, controlling, predatory, and sometimes violent. He may also be charming, bright, competent, and charismatic. He is attracted to powerlessness and vulnerability. He is not psychotic, but is usually sociopathic; that is, he has little or no sense of conscience about his offending behaviors. He usually will minimize, lie, and deny when confronted. For these offenders, the ministry presents an ideal opportunity for access to possible victims of all ages "xxiii[xxiii]

In contrast to the predator, the *Wanderer* is not violent, not premeditative in his sexual abuse, and

generally less successful personally and professionally. Because he is a vulnerable and inadequate person, the wanderer easily becomes emotionally and sexually involved with a congregant or counselee. According to Fortune, the wanderer "has difficulty maintaining boundaries in relationships and attempts to meet private needs in public arenas." The catalyst for his sexual misbehavior is usually an equally needy woman who holds her minister in high regard, almost to the point of adoration.

The growing intimacy between pastor and parishioner usually culminates in an emotional moment when inhibitions are cast aside and the two engage in an episode of sexual intercourse. Once the passions have subsided, both begin to feel anxiety, shame, guilt, and a sense of betrayal. The two express regret and swear themselves to secrecy. Although things seem to return to normal, a trust has been violated and a shadow falls over their lives and relationships.

The *Lover* is another minister who enters the forbidden zone with a parishioner. This spiritual shepherd becomes infatuated with one of his flock. Though a sexual transgressor like the other two, he is motivated neither by the desire to conquer nor the need to overcome personal inadequacies. Whether single or married, the minister knows a sex relationship with a church member is wrong and tries to guard against inappropriate behavior.

Although there is no stereotypical perpetrator of clergy sexual abuse, the distinction between

predator, wanderer, and lover is insightful. The predator offender moves from conquest to conquest, leaving a trail of victims. The wanderer minister yields to temptation in a moment of crisis and immediately feels remorse over his failure. The romantic minister is drawn to a church member when his passion convinces him he is in love.

Clergy sexual abuse raises many other important questions. What is its impact on victims and churches? How can sexual abuse be prevented? Is restoration possible for fallen ministers? How should churches and denominations respond? What are the legal implications? The ethical problem is many-sided. Understanding the issue is vital, but it is only the beginning.

#### **ENDNOTES**

xxv[i].Marie M. Fortune, *Is Nothing Sacred?* When Sex Invades the Pastoral Relationship (San Francisco, Harper & Row, 1989).

xxvi[ii].Cited in Joy Jordan-Lake, "Conduct Unbecoming a Preacher," *Christianity Today*, 10 February 1992, 26.

xxvii[iii]. *The Linkup* (1412 W. Argyle #2, Chicago, IL 60640) conducts annual conferences and publishes a quarterly newsletter (*Missing Link*) in which news reports of "Black-Collar Crimes" are printed to identify

clergy sexual abusers.

xxviii[iv].Peter Rutter, Sex in the Forbidden Zone: When Men in Power--Therapists, Doctors, Clergy, Teachers, and Others--Betray Women's Trust (Los Angeles: Jeremy P. Tarcher, 1986), 15-16.

xxix[v].lbid., 15.

xxx[vi].Stanley J. Grenz & Roy D. Bell, *Betrayal* of *Trust: Sexual Misconduct in the Pastorate* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995), 17.

xxxi[vii].Tom Economus, "Buzz -words that put victims over the edge!", *Missing Link*, Spring-Summer 1998, 1.

xxxii[viii].Rutter, 17.

xxxiii[ix]. Thomas S. Giles, "Coping with Sexual Misconduct in the Church, *Christianity Today*, 11 January 1993, 49.

xxxiv[x].David Rice, Shattered Vows: Exodus from the Priesthood (Belfast: Blackstaff, 1990), 3.

xxxv[xi].Bob Harvey, "Sexual Harassment," 31 March 1992, A14, cited in Grenz & Bell, 22.

xxxvi[xii].For a summary of the surveys see Joe E. Trull and James E. Carter, *Ministerial Ethics* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993, 80-81 and Grenz and Bell, 22-23. A research survey by Jeff Seat of Southern Baptist pastors (*The Journal of Pastoral Care*, Winter 1993, 364)

revealed 14.1% engaged in "inappropriate sexual behavior" and 70.4% had knowledge of other ministers who have had sexual contact with a congregant.

xxxvii[xiii]. Newsweek, 28 August 1989, 49.

xxxviii[xiv].G. Lloyd Rediger, "Clergy Moral Malfeasance," *Church Management--The Clergy Journal*, May/June 1991, 37-38.

xxxix[xv].Grenz & Bell, 62-106.

xl[xvi].Grenz & Bell, 81.

xli[xvii].John D. Vogelsang, "From Denial to Hope: A Systemic Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse," *Journal of Religion and Health*, Fall 1993, 197.

xlii[xviii].Pamela Cooper-White, "Soul-Stealing: Power and Relations in Pastoral Sexual Abuse," *The Christian Century*, 20 February 1991, 199.

xliii[xix].Rutter, 124.

xliv[xx].Karen LeBacqz and Ron Barton, Sex in the Parish, (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991), 124.

xlv[xxi]. Newsweek, 48.

xlvi[xxii].See Grenz & Bell's list in footnote 4 on page 179.

xlvii[xxiii].Fortune, 47.

xlviii[xxiv].lbid., 156.

Updated Tuesday, December 12, 2000

Mission Statement | Fair Use of Material | Disclaimer |
Contact | Board of Directors | Submit Corrections
Printing Company for the Journal

All material on this site Your comments and copyright ©2000-2007 inquiries are always by The Christian Ethics welcome. **Today Foundation** Manuscripts which Web Site started November 14, fulfill the purposes of 2000. Christian Ethics Include the following if your Today may be use/reference any material: submitted to the ©2000-2007 by **The Christian** editor for publication **Ethics Today Foundation** consideration. www.ChristianEthicsToday.comContact for postal address. Format for and the URL of the page you are Submissions citing.

This information is provided to help you understand that

Jesus died on the cross of all who sin and seek forgiveness

by believing that the Father sent Him to become the last

Sacrifice for sin and iniquity against God. Educate

yourselves on the signs to look for in those who are sexual predators in the ministry. There are many dedicated men and women in ministry who are not deceivers of the flock.

But! There are a few, who abuse their power and trust the flock places in them.

#### <u>ALERT !</u>

• To those ministers who are sexual predators I ask you to get help. Learn for yourself that there is a need which you did not get fulfilled, in your past which has be distorted by your environmental experiences. Ask the Lord to place you with someone or some source which will help you identify your true self and allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to Cleanse you and restore you back to the way God meant for you to be. God loves you and He will forgive you, but you must be honest with God and Yourself. Do not blame

anyone, just get help and STOP! what you have been doing to God's innocent people, who are not aware of your weaknesses.

You can be made whole again. Allow God to help you dayby-day- to bring a life change for you and everyone you come in contact with.

May our Lord be the love of your life and the finisher of your future so that you can live with Jesus eternally and not with Satan in the lake of fire prepared for Satan and his followers.

❖ To the Victims: Do not "Just take it a do nothing" Tell it. Get Help for yourself. "There is no such thing " As holy fornication or holy adultery, if the perpetrator is not married to you, but is a part of the clergy, priesthood, church staff., synagogue, Mosque ...

Men if you have not made a commitment to a female, as your wife or one of your wives before God. Do not have sex with that female who is not your wife. WOMEN do not have sex with a man who is not committed to you as your

husband, before God. Make sure your relationship with the Creator of Heaven and Earth is an honest, pure relationship, with no deceit, lies, or individuals who pervert / CONTAMINATE you, before our Creator; ACCORDING to His Words/Commands.

One can fool other humans and himself, but one cannot fool the One who created you and loves you. He is called "The Great One who was, who is, and always will be. YHVH.

## **REFERRENCES**

Bible Suite Collection, (World English Version, King James Version) 2004

<sup>1</sup>Excerpted from Compton's Interactive Bible NIV. Copyright

(c) 1994, 1995, 1996 SoftKey

All material on this site copyright ©2000-2007 by The Christian Ethics **Today Foundation** Web Site started November 14, Today may be submitted to the 2000. Include the following if your use/reference any material: ©2000-2007 by The Christian Submissions **Ethics Today Foundation** www.ChristianEthicsToday.com and the URL of the page you are citing.

Your comments and inquiries are always welcome. Manuscripts which fulfill the purposes of Christian Ethics editor for publication consideration. Contact for postal address. Format for

94