



General Topics :: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God?

Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God? - posted by dkr777, on: 2012/5/26 0:51

Today a man I knew very well who has a large family and was a professing Christian was sentenced to 19 years in prison for molesting 5 young girls under the age of 13 over a few years.

He was also an elder of the church we attended (and after we left) and was committing these crimes while we were attending the church around 10 years ago.

I apologize for this thread's topic, but on a theological understanding, I am trying to wrap my mind around this. While in my own life I have personally walked through repentance of sexual sin in my life, it did not come to this level of breaking the law of the land.

I guess my theological question is, how can a man in his position commit such an incredible sin, and still profess Salvation in Christ and be an elder in a local church as well?

Was he a Judas, a "false convert"? or was he saved during his acts of sin and believed that God would forgive Him after he committed this devious act towards these young girls.

Does a theological position encourage one to sin and think it's "ok" because I'm really saved still or does one person who sins like this just was 'never saved' or 'would lose his salvation'???

I know I'm bringing up alot of controversial theological topics but in all reality, I need to understand the truth Biblically on this because it really happened close to home.

Thanks,
dkr777

Re: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God? - posted by Miccah (), on: 2012/5/26 1:14

You asked,

Quote:
-----Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God?

Answer: Yes.

Re: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God? - posted by onemite, on: 2012/5/26 3:23

Hi dkr-

This subject most definitely causes us to look at what we believe and why. It's very important too. All these answers are in the word of God. He is above all things a loving and JUST GOD wanting none to perish. When I find myself needing to compartmentalize things in black and white but cannot, I am reminded that God is always just.

Miccah is right, a child molester can inherit the kingdom of God. They can be forgiven just like you or me for our sins and the good news is they can be transformed out of their dead life and be conformed to the image of Christ if they come to the saving knowledge of the truth and repent.

I know that you asked for theology, for which I am not qualified to discuss, but here are the verses that came to my mind

as I read what you posted. I am sure that many here will add some good things for you to read.

2 Timothy 2: 19" Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, " The Lord knows those who are His," and, " Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

Galatians 5:21-19 "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God."

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."

1 Cor 6:"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

Mark 9:42 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a mill stone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea."

1 Corinthians 5 "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person."

"For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

1 Corinthians 5:"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!"

So it is easy to judge that molesting a child would have been considered severely immoral.

Hebrews 10 says, " For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

That being said,I've resolved myself to accept that while I do make judgements pertaining to behavior in the church, I do not make myself judge over a persons eternal life or death(lest I defile my own heart). I leave that to the Lord, who is truly just.

I hope some of this helps.
I'm convinced of it.

Re: Entering the kingdom of God!, on: 2012/5/26 3:29

Quote:
-----I guess my theological question is, how can a man in his position commit such an incredible sin, and still profess Salvation in Christ and be an elder in a local church as well?

If this man repents from his sin then God is just and righteous to cleanse him from all unrighteousness. Grievous as this account is in its implications for the children and even this man, his family and church, it is the Lord's name which is brought down in the minds of many as a consequence.

Regarding whether or not this man was somehow false is a mistaken question because his conversion would have preceded these crimes. Moreover he may never really have know deliverance from lust in his life. His problems could have simmered away drawing him ever closer to evil actions. Had he judged himself concerning his mind, when he had he chance he would not have come to this place at all. Becoming an elder would have made more certain his guilt was found out now rather than not being found out. I don't mean this in regards to authorities or governments of men; I mean found out by the other elders and brethren for Christ's sake.

From the beginning his marriage to a woman may well have temporarily restrained him. In the end, even now he could continue "in his mind," and his condition when the Lord returns may be no better than in the hour he was uncovered. He may even repent with real sorrow and brokenness. Who knows! One thing is clear. He is found out. This gives him an opportunity in bitterness of his soul to make restitution of letters and in that the Lord may be comprehended as ever merciful and faithful for his family, brethren and church. For the little girls a more difficult labour may be required. The Lord have mercy.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/5/26 8:08

Quote:
----- Does a theological position encourage one to sin and think it's "ok" because I'm really saved still or does one person who sins like this just was 'never saved' or 'would lose his salvation'???

This seems to be a common default question in an attempt to resolve such matters, but I think it is unhelpful. This question does not help God's people move towards an understanding of the actual sin problem, or of the solution, or of the prevention. And even if we do happen to know the sinner's rationality or his final destiny, nothing will change. If we determine that he was hell-bound anyway, we will simply write off the culprit and absolve ourselves of any responsibility in the matter. Child molestation is a serious evil that affects everyone.

For now I merely offer some questions to consider:

- 1) What predisposes some people to become addicted to sexual exploitation of children?
- 2) Who "out there" can help us grow in our understanding, and how can we avail ourselves to those resources? (This question prevents God's people from drawing from their own uninformed opinions and superstitious notions)
- 3) What children are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation?
- 4) What is there about a Christian church family that enables such sin problems to flourish unchecked, and that allows the people to remain in denial about their sinfulness?
- 5) What changes among God's people are needed in order for it to become a repentant community, to restore and strengthen the bonds of family relationships – and also expose falseness of any kind among their people. (remembering that the church is typically an ideal hideout for any unchecked sin – oh... and why is that?)
- 6) What has God given his people through Christ, which can deliver them from besetting sin problems and make them, together, a strong deterrent against sin?

In view of the answers to such questions, how effective are our "prevention policies"?

Diane

Re: , on: 2012/5/26 9:59

What is very disappointing in churches like this is that no one had "discernment". That no one got a word of knowledge, as we see in the book of Acts. That none of the other elders nor the pastor nor any mature Christian was in a position to discern through the Spirit that something was going on with this man. Many times we hear people say After the fact - "I had an uncomfortable feeling around him." and the such - but the churches haven't been taught on how to use this discernment in a helpful way. It doesn't help these girls to say afterward that some had a "creepy feeling inside", and the other elders and pastors would be or should have been used of GOD, if they had been a Church that knew His voice or 'gifts' and would know how and what to do about the discernment given. Was GOD not able to expose before all of this happened? I believe He is always faithful - but He needs an open vessel 'in' the church and the church needs to stop fearing that true discernment is 'judging' or unloving. The fault was not GOD's.

Re: - posted by White_Stone (), on: 2012/5/26 11:50

I completely agree with JiG.

Re: - posted by hulsey (), on: 2012/5/26 12:54

Can you see yourself as unclean as this man? Then you will know that he can be forgiven. And you will know there is healing for the ones he's hurt.

edit Here is a link to the story of another 'terrible' man who was known as the Son of Sam killer. He now calls himself the Son of Hope:

<http://www.thesonofhope.com/david.html>

Re: , on: 2012/5/26 13:23

Another hard issue with these things is the responsibility sometimes has to fall on the wife of such a man, if she's aware of something being sinful in her husband's life and he's in any position of leadership as well - as in 'preventative measures' ordered by The LORD, individually.

Since The Word warns us that in the last days these things will only increase, we do need to be more careful than ever to walk in the fear of The LORD and circumspect, but this too falls upon the wife, if she knows at all that her husband is having trouble in any area. Even if he's a treasurer of a church and a thief - or etc - her first responsibility is to GOD and His Church.

If he's involved with pornography and she knows it - she is obliged to GOD and His Church and others, above her own safety, to protect others as she's led by GOD. She needs to approach her husband asking that a third party be involved in his problem and if that doesn't work - then she needs to take it to the pastor or whatever elder type man in the church that GOD tells her to go to about it, after much prayer.

I've seen this carried out the Matthew 18 way by a wife and the Church was spared being deceived, or worse, but the man did not repent, though the Church was one of the most compassionate, forgiving of Churches - he got seven times worse instead and had to be removed from membership.

It is a tough time to be a NT Christian. We truly do need to get back to the model of His Word.

Re: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God? - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/5/26 15:10

QUOTE: "Today a man I knew very well who has a large family and was a professing Christian was sentenced to 19 years in prison for molesting 5 young girls under the age of 13 over a few years."==DKR777

I think the key word here is PROFESSING. He was/is a PROFESSING Christian. I can walk into a donut shop and profess myself to be a donut. In time, I can even make MYSELF believe I am one if I want to.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/26 15:55

Absolutely Not!

There will definitely not be any child molesters in heaven!

Marvel not, for we must be born again!

Re: - posted by hulsey (), on: 2012/5/26 16:08

Quote:

-----Absolutely Not!

There will definitely not be any child molesters in heaven!

Marvel not, for we must be born again!

The way the original post is worded insinuates that the sin being reported is not repented of. In that case I agree that a person in that state cannot inherit the Kingdom. But neither can gossips, slanderers, those who hate their fellow brothers and sisters, and liars, etc.

But do you think there is no repentance for someone caught in this sin? I think there is.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/26 16:18

quote-

But do you think there is no repentance for someone caught in this sin? I think there is.
quote

Yes, but only if God grants him the repentance, but that would be true of any sin. If there is true godly sorrow of sin and true faith in the Lord Jesus then I believe that God desires to grant repentance unto life.

Re: Nero and Caligula in Israel? Saved? yes., on: 2012/5/26 17:47

"Child Molester saved? In heaven?

..."Yes, but only if God grants him the repentance, but that would be true of any sin. If there is true godly sorrow of sin and true faith in the Lord Jesus then I believe that God desires to grant repentance unto life...
RBANKS...Amen Rbanks!

"What sin can God not forgive?" Jesus said all sin except the blaspheming of the Holy Spirit "Shall be Forgiven!". ALL means ALL...and that means confessing it and forsaking it. The sinner of any ilk who does not forsake his sin, turn away, repent of it, is still dead in his sin. All of those who are dead in their sin, are lost.

..." And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still!"

Let us consider one worse than a child molester, if there be such a thing. Manasseh; the Caligula of Israel. How great is God's grace? Profile of King Manasseh.

Following from "Christian Forums" online.

Manasseh came to power at age 12. His father was the famous, righteous king Hezekiah. Ironically, his son was the even more famous, and more righteous Josiah, who was responsible for the greatest revival and most consistent faithful

leadership of all the kings.

But Manasseh was more infamous than even the kings of Israel. He single handedly brought on the utter destruction of Jerusalem. Here is how his account begins:

2Ki 21:2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

As if this wasn't enough he surpassed the heathen, of whom God declared that their sins were 'full'.

Manasseh seduced (Jerusalem) to do MORE evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

Not content with building groves and high places or even the temples that Solomon built for his pagan wives; And he built altars in the house of the LORD, also; 2Ch 33:7 And the carved image of the idol that he had made he set in the house of God, of which God said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever,

Jewish tradition tells us that Manasseh was the one who had the great prophet Isaiah to be placed inside a hollow log and sawn in two; which is referenced in Hebrews 11:37. His father had been greatly benefited by respecting this incredible prophet.

Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

But if that was an unthinkable sin, how does it compare to the next thing he did, in being used of Satan to wipe out the lineage of the Messiah;

2Ch 33:6 And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom,

This man was truly the essence of evil, no matter what generation or people you come from, and it just goes on; and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

2Ki 21:10-14 And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying, Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

" And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies."

<http://www.christianforums.com/t7650477/>

After all this, Manassah repented after some cruel discipline, and was restored by the Lord; Amazing grace, for sure.

Re: , on: 2012/5/26 18:13

My heart goes out to both the perpetrator and the victims. To the victims it's senseless, it makes absolutely no sense to them why these things are done to them at all. Their hell is to continue living in frustration and confusion, they are damaged goods. I know what that's like, it ain't pretty.

To the guy that went to jail, he is no different than us, for him though, he got caught, while the most of us got away. Perhaps we didn't do what he did, but we've done other sneaky stuff that we're not proud of.

This goodness from God was him being caught and carted off to jail. He needed to be apprehended lest he'd continue on hurting more innocent lives. He may be in jail but his damage is lifelong in the lives that he has hurt. Though he may be getting what he deserves, what he deserves is to be restrained. If he truly belongs to God he will come to himself in the piper of despair, God will grant him repentance.

It's an awful feeling of being out of control when it comes to sexual immorality, the driving power to commit this crime overwhelms the person. The thing that he may have hated he was constantly doing. It's an awful state to be in.

May God have mercy on him and those that have been affected by his sin. Those poor girls, such tender minds violated.

Re: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/5/27 9:21

dkr777,

I understand your concern for this pervert - it is a legitimate concern. How can a person who knew the WORD do such a horrific thing? Can God redeem him? This is as I would understand your question.

Now, I would like to focus on the victims - FIVE girls under the ages of 13. FIVE! get that! FIVE young girls!

Ever consider the damage he did to these FIVE girls? He killed something in each and everyone of them. He did it! He killed their innocence! Not only that, he made it very difficult for them to relate properly to males; this difficulty will be carried over into the marriage relationship! No kidding! These girls will have a very hard time relating sexually to a husband, even if he is loving.

Yes, this pervert killed something in these innocent girls. Does he care? Does he even begin to realize the damage he inflicted upon these girls? Can he ever begin to internalize this? Or, is he only sorry because he gets free room and board for 19 years and has to jump and walk when someone else tells him to?

Does this man realize how repulsive he is to other females/mothers? Does he realize that his sin has earned him the mistrust of females? the disgust of females out there who know him? Or, is he only sorry for the disadvantages that came his way because he got caught?

For the victims, it will take an supernatural intervention by the Holy Spirit to heal the scars inflicted upon these girls AND it will take time.

Yes, God can forgive but he must realize the depth of his sin and work to heal the damage he inflicted upon them. This work will be much more difficult than the pleasure he ever derived from playing out his sexual fantasies.

My response is one shared by my female friends. It is not just me...

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/5/27 9:59

It is interesting. My older brother pastored a church where a child molester got saved. The man had gone to prison for many years. He was released, and naturally, his family was not there to celebrate his release. He couldn't find a job. And shortly thereafter, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer that would later take his life. But being broken and destroyed, he came to powerfully know the Savior. Glory would come to mark that man's life, and he was beloved by the church there. I am glad to have met him a few times. His life became a testimony to the change our gospel can truly make in the lives of others. A change which psychologists tell us is impossible for a child molester to experience.

Re: A deeper reality, on: 2012/5/27 10:54

Quote:
----- Ever consider the damage he did to these FIVE girls? He killed something in each and everyone of them. He did it! He killed their innocence! Not only that, he made it very difficult for them to relate properly to males; this difficulty will be carried over into the marriage relationship! No kidding! These girls will have a very hard time relating sexually to a husband, even if he is loving

Sister GinnyRose your passion and focus is real and it is shared by many, both male and female.

In every tribe and tongue this crime is carried out, sometimes in the full visibility of authorities as well as male and female witnesses. The ancient world, much of which is recorded in Scriptures, consistently failed to resist it, and its effect was not always to produce 'victims' but in the end willing participants. I am not lying. Jezebel the daughter of a king, and w

ife of a king of Israel was not Jezebel without good reason. Her perverse willingness to always overthrow authority has as much to do with this crime as a king who is willing to take a child into carnal knowledge.

I realise that this is like walking into a fire, but it has to be said. The real instigator of this crime is Satan and not male or female. Countless millions of children are brought into carnal knowledge throughout the world and the deep purpose of it is to destroy lives. To rob and steal and to make ruin. Regardless of whether the visibility of this crime is seen as predatory male, it is a crime against God as well as children. In this sense God Himself speaks for and is the avenger of children. This man should be in a state of complete terror concerning what God will do to him, if he is not granted repentance. Only God knows his heart and so only God in the end can judge whether the prayers of His servants to redeem him, are able to be answered. Without Christ most men would happily take such a man and cut him to pieces. And yes many men would do so in a fearful knowledge of the very same condition of lust which they know flickers across their minds at some time or other. Such as these, would exact the punishment to expiate the knowledge of their dreadful nature, fearfully. If this is seen only as hypocrisy and not a fleeing from a terrible knowledge, then the deeper and more dreadful reality of this crime is lost.

In Christ, the same dreadful nature is fled from by fleeing to the cross with a groan of deliverance. Every man who takes the name of Christ should understand this if he has a need to understand it. Some understand it because they themselves; including this man, have been abused and are as this world understands it, a victim. But to see this and not the more dreadful reality that it is Satan who is pleased with these things, then even the victims become the abusers. My own daughter is my own testimony in this regard as are the children of many who have been abused. This is God's doing for which we are immeasurably grateful.

Andrew

Re: , on: 2012/5/27 12:30

Quote:

----- He killed their innocence!

And who killed his?

Re: , on: 2012/5/27 12:49

Having almost gone into the psych-field before I came to learn His Word - I've always noticed how His Word never goes into the sop of excuses of what 'supposedly' makes a person sin and defile others - especially when discussing any that 'lead' in the Church.

No psychological excuses - Just a lot of "sin not " instructions to those professing Christ.

eta - as a matter of fact - if this happened in my Church - I would keep a distance from those that leaned toward "sympathy" for the abuser and didn't handle this in a Biblical manner. I don't see "sympathy" for the sexually immoral in His Word

. This man may or may not be able to repent. Romans 1 is still a possibility, which is being given over to reprobate.

No one will know if sincere repentance and forgiveness has taken place until the end.

That's why we're told to "keep ourselves" and why the State keeps a file on these people for the rest of their lives.

Re: - posted by maxlaboy, on: 2012/5/27 13:22

God already granted repentance through The Cross of His Son, Jesus. But this man all he has to do is receive it by faith on what the Son did for all of us.

Re: , on: 2012/5/27 14:05

"all he has to do"

We don't know this for a fact. He may very well be "given over to reprobate". He may have been a reprobate while he was molesting these children. What if the whistle wasn't blown on him? Does anyone here know this man's soul? Even the State is showing more wisdom -- because they keep these people on the "Sex Offenders List" for the rest of the person's life - because NO ONE KNOWS if these people will be "Repeat Offenders".

He has children of his own - and there are young people in his Church where he was "an elder", that know about this now and his wife - they ALL are affected by this now and his own children will bare the shame of their father probably for the rest of their lives - but there's more "sympathy" going out for this defiler than for all of these others.

I pray that they and 'he' knows the Word of GOD better than some here.

1Co 5:9-11 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators : yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Eph 5:5-7 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which

I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

I pray for his children and all the young people that knew this man. GOD Help, Guide and Heal Them.

Re: Will a man cause offense or will forgiveness?, on: 2012/5/27 15:16

We all need understanding when speaking about something which is so harmful and which has harmed others. It may well be that some saints cannot realise how dark and wicked this subject is. To speak of the world as showing more wisdom in this is really to fail to see that the world doesn't actually understand what produces such wickedness in the first place. Psychology is the best which the world has to offer, and its best effort is precisely that such men are kept on file for the rest of their lives.

I wouldn't advice this, but in anyone were to read the theoretical perspectives presented by Psychology on this issue they would find that it is a claim to irresistibility which drives men to commit these crimes. In this, lies the reality of making excuses. There are no excuses. In the Scriptures there are no excuses. There are reasons. The things which have been spoken in this thread are all true in part because they have to do with a realisation that this man is both guilty and accountable for his own actions before men and God. Yet he may be forgiven in the end. This possibility of forgiveness may seem to one saint as "all he has to do" but to another, "who killed his" innocence?

It would be easy to share something of the dark reality of this crime from the position of the children, yet even that would not explain or shed light on how it was possible in the first place. Psychology is a blasphemy because it takes away the Lord's sacrifice of Himself for sin. The Scriptures can't speak as Psychology speaks for this reason alone. God is not restrained in His mercies because He sees the destruction which is wrought in the lives of children who have been abused. God sees both the instrument of destruction as well as the creature which is destroyed. Many saints know the reality

of being abused. Sometimes because we are taught of the world we continue to see ourselves as victims. As children innocently assaulted we are victims. But here on SI we are none of that because we are all adults and saints regardless of what has happened to us in life we are in Christ; neither male or female. God Himself is the avenger of these children and all children, including what happened to ourselves when we were children. It would be perverse to make a claim to forgive another man for what he has done against little children. But if God Himself grants repentance to that man, how will his victims respond when as adults they hear of it. Will they freely forgive recognising that Christ died for them also? Or will they be offended?

Speaking a balanced truth does not amount to keeping company with fornicators. To keep company with this man you would have to go to prison with him. This man may be reprobate, but only God Himself knows that. His actions certainly do exclude him from any inheritance in the Kingdom of God. But will we ourselves be offended if God grants him repentance? And he turns?

Andrew

Re: - posted by dkr777, on: 2012/5/27 16:11

There are a few facts I left out of this story, the 5 young girls were his daughters.

Also, his wife knew about this "secret" and the senior pastor knew as well and since he was 'repentant' they allowed him to be an elder of the church.

It was his oldest sons who turned him over to the police when the daughters confessed about this sin to their older brothers that occurred when they were under 12 yrs old...

-dkr777

Re: , on: 2012/5/27 16:42

dkr, you waited until page 3 to tell us this, after asking if he can be saved and letting us all go on and on with this 'not knowing'?

And they allowed him to remain "an elder"?

Have they not read the Biblical Qualifications for "elders"?

Re: Why?, on: 2012/5/27 17:03

DKR777 why did you wait until now to reveal these facts. Your original post taken at face value should have been about the difficult question of whether a child molester could enter the kingdom of heaven. I can see why you asked the question the way you did given your disclosure that this man was said to have repented. Maybe you should have asked can a repentant child abuser enter the kingdom of heaven. I can also see why you asked about him becoming an elder or continuing as one. Seeing between the lines it would appear that this all happened 6-10 years ago or thereabouts. His daughters having now grown up. He having continued or having become an elder after the crimes were revealed to the senior pastor etc.

I am not taking a swipe at you. Please don't see that or believe it. I have been a little confused at the way you asked the questions. Now I understand why. Perhaps the answers would have necessarily been the same as far as the kingdom of heaven is concerned. Becoming or continuing as an elder that truly beggars belief.

Andrew

Re: - posted by hulsey (), on: 2012/5/27 17:22

dkr777

Would you mind telling us approximately how long ago this happened and perhaps what led the daughters or his son in t his case to report him?

Is there evidence of any attempt at reconciliation in the past?

Re: , on: 2012/5/27 19:55

Quote:
----- Also, his wife knew about this "secret" and the senior pastor knew as well and since he was 'repentant' they allowed him to be an el der of the church.

It was his oldest sons who turned him over to the police when the daughters confessed about this sin to their older brothers that occurred when they w ere under 12 yrs old...

Okay let me get this straight. The sisters confessed to the brother what their Dad did to them before they were 12, but si nce then the Mother knew and the Pastor knew and the Dad has since repented, but the brother decided to turn his old man in anyway.

Some information is missing. Did Dad face his daughters and asked them to forgive him, or what? It seems that he did n ot, otherwise the brother would have known about it if they had a sit down during Dad's repentance. Usually repentance i nvolves all injured parties. If he failed to do that, it was a fatal mistake.

Re: , on: 2012/5/27 21:52

Well, my heart is going out to dkr in this. This has traumatized him and whomever went to that church with him, I'm sure and we can see that in his OP.

I'm sorry dkr that you were hit with this news, even though you had left that church, it's still a shock to anyone's system.

They should have asked him to step down from the elder position as soon as they were told yrs back.

Again, I'm sorry that you, yours and I'm sure, very many others as well have been so close to this whole issue. The LOR D heal you and yours also. Only the truth from His Word straightens our own minds back out and only GOD knows if his repentance was sincere, but the Pastor and whomever decided to leave him in a leadership position were wrong.

The Balm of Gilead of our Precious LORD on you, yours and all involved.
GOD Bless you.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/5/27 23:24

In our church Alliance there was a church leader who molested a couple girls...the girls told on him and he went to the p olice and turned himself in.

The law took over and now he is under its restrictions as per a child molester.

The Alliance leadership stripped the man of any leadership responsibility for the present AND future.

This decision was not made by vote of the churches but by the overseers..

In the meantime there are those working to bring some kind of restoration, repentance but it does not include restoration to leadership.

I think the overseers were very wise...

Re: Hi! An Interesting Question - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/5/28 0:00

Sin is first and foremost a negative spiritual power. Sin should not be viewed as an "activity" as much as it should be perceived as an "inspiration". So, it is that this man was inspired (perhaps a better word 'compelled') to commit this evil. I say compelled because the power of sin announces itself first an inspiration ... a thought.

An individual has the opportunity to take possession of the inspiration/thought and choose to make it his own or not. No man is held accountable for the multitude of negative thoughts which might inspire him throughout any given day or hour. He is only accountable for those which he voluntarily takes possession of and conceives by cooperating with them.

For instance, it is indeed true that Satan does not know our thoughts; it's not as if he can read our minds. Why is this? Simply put: our "inner man" (secret place) is only completely naked to the Heavenly Father Himself. (This can be awkwardly illustrated by the privacy of a husband and wife relationship). The other reason is that those thoughts which the evil one can rightly know, he is incapable of believing ... having faith in. (Otherwise, the Lord would never have been crucified and triumphed over evil.)

So, it is that this man plainly took hold of inspirations and acted on them. Eventually, the inspirations became a torrent of compulsion which devoured the man's spirit ... which contains the core of his will-power. He became unable to resist the demonic onslaught. He became "one" with the evil powers.

We know AIDS as Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome. But Christians also know something akin to AFRAIDS. Acquired Failures Related to the Immune Deficiency of the human Spirit.

This is precisely what happened with this man. He allowed the inspirations of the evil one to damage the immunity of his "inner being" to such a degree that he eventually came under their compelling dominance.

Now, the added item about whether he enters into the Kingdom of God, I presume your mistaken choice of the term actually intends to mean "heaven".

Yes, he remains eligible.

God is ONLY and PERFECTLY good. His desire is always that man should have a share of eternity in His Kingdom ... this includes EVERY MAN. The only occasion of an individual not entering the Kingdom of God (the Light side of the Kingdom of Heaven) is because the evil powers have the legal right to drag their possessions with them as they are thrown in the bottomless pit. It is not for nothing that the Bible clearly states that we have been "ransomed" from this possibility because our ownership has changed ... we are no longer slaves to sin ... no longer eligible for the wages of sin.

By the way: God is ONLY good and so we would do wrong to believe that God pays the wages of Sin. God rewards those who are His while the evil one has the legal right to render payment to those serving him.

Hope this helps! :)

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/5/28 17:22

Quote:
-----Also, his wife knew about this "secret" and the senior pastor knew as well and since he was 'repentant' they allowed him to be an elder of the church.

Someone needs to define what repentance is on a biblically sound foundation, the fact of the matter is the word has been so watered down that anyone who voices a semi contrite heart on a matter is deemed repentant. This man was not repentant, he had confessed his sin but in no way wanted to make restitution for the sin, this is not repentance.

If we look at Zacchaeus we get a biblical definition of what repentance is. Upon conviction by the Spirit the person changes to the point where God moves on their heart not only confess, but to act (Zacchaeus paid back 4 times what he exto

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rted from the people).

A repentant man in this case would have went not only confessed his sin, but would have went to the police as well. The elders involved should have went to the police with this heinous crime and told them everything that they knew. This is a requirement for worldly counselors, should the body of Christ function below the worldly requirements? God forbid.

Peace :-)

Re: , on: 2012/5/28 20:43

Quote:
----- A repentant man in this case would have went not only confessed his sin, but would have went to the police as well. The elders involved should have went to the police with this heinous crime and told them everything that they knew. This is a requirement for worldly counselors, should the body of Christ function below the worldly requirements? God forbid.

God forbid?! do you even know what your saying?

If a man repents of his sin and makes reconciliation for his wrong doing with those that he has wronged, there is no reason to call the police. Leave the world out of it as much as possible.

This all could have been avoided had the brother gone to Dad and demanded that he go and speak to those he wronged, there could have been healing brought into this family.

1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1 Corinthians 6:5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

This could have all been done discreetly, by bringing in the world, the rest of us Christians become the laughing stock, the world looks at us as no different than they.

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/5/28 21:30

Quote:
-----If a man repents of his sin and makes reconciliation for his wrong doing with those that he has wronged, there is no reason to call the police. Leave the world out of it as much as possible.

This all could have been avoided had the brother gone to Dad and demanded that he go and speak to those he wronged, there could have been healing brought into this family.

What kind of fantasyland do you live in? Let's play this out:

"Hi dad I know that you are raping my sisters, could you please stop?"

How ridiculous is that?

Counselors in the US are REQUIRED to report lawbreaking like this to the authorities, should they choose not to, they lose their license.

The brothers in this situation acted more correctly than the wife, elders, pastors and everyone else.

The church that Christ died for is not a shield for unrepentant pedophiles, I'm very aware what the word says about this, it says to respect the laws and authorities that are above us (Romans 13:1-7).

The scripture that you mentioned above is pertaining to a man who has relations with his dad's wife (a vile thing indeed), there were no minors involved and there was no Roman law prohibiting it so lets compare apples with apples.

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/5/28 21:41

Quote:
-----Also, his wife knew about this "secret" and the senior pastor knew as well and since he was 'repentant' they allowed him to be an elder of the church.

Hi Approved,

One last thing, as I detailed in the post above the man was not 'repentant' he made a 'confession' there is a big difference between the two. Confession without repentance is worthless.

"She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." ~Genesis 3:6b

The above is confession without repentance, and we all know how that turned out.

EVE: "Hi Adam, I ate this fruit. I know it was a wicked thing but here, have some."

ADAM: Ok, no worries...

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/5/28 22:26

hi, the example of adam and eve does not work at all. adam was innocent and was not under the old covenant or the new and only had 1 commandment that he had to live by. the tree of the knowledge of good and evil(the tree of religion)was and still is the problem with him and us... as he ate of this tree ,he rejected the tree of life(christ). they had no idea this was as wicked as you say and repentance after the fact would not have changed a thing.true repentance has nothing to do with sin.true repentance is death to self and self rule. altars are places of sacrifice and you die there(reckon yourselves dead unto sin and alive in Christ)He must be Lord.jimp

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/5/28 23:09

I was somewhat disturbed by your claim that repentance is somehow validated by volunteering to subject oneself to the punishing authorities.

Perhaps, I have more credibility with this issue because I have been in the identical situation. Prior my hearing the Gospel of Repentance, I was a professional thief. At one point in my life a prosecutor stood up in Court to say: "Your honor, there isn't a building in this city -- indeed, in this country! --- that this man can't get in to."

I heard the Gospel in 1969 through a David Wilkerson Outreach ministry. Afterwards, I read the Nicky Cruz book titled "Run, Baby Run!" where Nicky himself offered the same advice as yourself here. Such advice bewildered me then as much as it does this day reading your comments here.

In any event, I prayed very much about the issue at the time. I was very willing to follow through with whatever was required to begin a new life with Jesus. The answer I received was not after your poorly informed advice as stated here.

As a matter of fact, I wrestled long and hard with the issue and sought advice from multiple Christians. Some were agreeing with your sentiment; but the majority were not.

One Pastor told me about a woman who had come to his office that same morning to confess a problem with adultery. The Pastor said to me: "The only difference between that woman's sin and your own is that adultery is not eligible for imprisonment". He continued: "While you were dressing up in black clothing to enter a building in the darkness of night, this woman was putting on her best dress and committing sin too".

That settled the question for me.

Sin is not like walking through a Walmart Store and some sins are on sale while others are not. Sin does not possess a value on its own. Sin is a deviant power that attaches to one's desires and becomes conceived or made visible in the world. It can be jealousy, rage, unforgiveness, adultery and and, yes, theft too.

All I can say is that I'm hoping that you are not a Christian counselor because your advice would unwittingly injure a lot of

people.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/5/29 0:12

blayne, i am talking about turning your life over to Jesus.jimp

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/5/29 0:40

Hi! Jimp

That's a unique unusual Nick that I've never bumped into before.

Ummmm, I don't know where it is that I should be looking to see where you are "talking about turning your life over to Jesus" ... I'm new to these Discussion Forums, sorry 'bout that.

I was simply trying to reply to a Post here about a supposed pedophile and someone's advice that he should volunteer to hand himself over to the constabulary authorities.

Repentance is often mistaken to be synonymous with renewal; healing too can often be mistaken for restoration. We so easily throw around terms and words without giving a thought to their origin or true scriptural meaning. Such is the persistent activity of the parrots among us. :)

Re: Entanglement with the World, on: 2012/5/29 3:41

I very much doubt that any pastor or elder in a church in the USA, UK or many other countries has a choice in LAW as to whether they can take a spiritual attitude on the issue at the heart of this post. Whether we realise it or not such a position would itself be a dereliction of a legal duty of care which the LAW demands of anyone who comes into contact with children in a public place.

In this the LAW has become a snare of the world to saints. Seeing that the LAW protecting children is a modern reality, perhaps only 200 years old from its beginning, helps make sense of this. Most child protection laws are less than 50 years old.

Perhaps it would be better and more glorifying to God in Heaven if these terrible crimes can be reconciled privately. But only if it is a real reconciliation in which all the family members have a part. I fear that without a singular move of God Himself that can't happen. Today even if it did happen, the pastor and the elder would still have to go to the police and make LEGAL restitution if they were to uphold the LAW.

It isn't that the LAW enforcers themselves don't understand that private restitution is possible. Many of them do understand it. Some LAW enforcement agencies would privately welcome the burden being removed from the State. But they can't ever say that because the LAW itself doesn't allow for it. Like Darius they are caught in their own LAW and must abide by the LAW. Which is become a snare.

Quote:

-----Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: King Darius, live forever! All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions den. Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked. Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. Daniel 6:6-10.

Replace Satraps with Sociologists and you have the picture. In the USA The Chicago School of Sociology began in 1926 or thereabouts. It has been a profound influence ever since. The power of this influence can in no small part be understood by the men and women who drove it. They were God haters and rebellious. They consistently uncovered, to the public gaze, dreadful crimes by a few, to the demand of LAWS. In the end we have come to this. We need more wisdom sometimes to understand why God has allowed this and like Zaccheus, and Daniel we need to learn to respond appropriately. Daniel prayed realising that he was headed for trouble. Zaccheus gave half his wealth to the poor and was willing to restore 4 fold any thefts he had entered into. If today we have to be a part of another man's wickedness by realising that God has forgiven him (If it is so) then we will have to rush to our room and pray knowing that we ourselves may be carte

d off to prison as well as the LAW breaker. Or if you prefer it and find it easier then just hand him over yourself. Which attitude do you believe is more pleasing to God?

Andrew

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/5/29 6:54

Andrew,

I too, have pondered this question: how the state does not recognize the possibility of repentance. Actually, the issue is a thorny one. How can one be certain the perpetrator is truly repentant and will no longer pose a risk to females? If the state would allow the pastors to make that call, it would put them in a precarious position because what if they are wrong and the fellow pursues it again? There are people who will say anything what they perceive you want to hear. And they are good at persuading you how "genuine" they are. On the other hand, maybe, just maybe, allowing the state to make this call will take pastors off the hook as well?

We have a sister, now married with children, in our church who was molested by her adoptive father. Presently he is incarcerated and will be until the youngest in this family is 18 YO. He says he did no wrong. Opps! Regardless how he considers his sin, the damage he inflicted upon this woman was so severe she says that unless Christ had intervened in their marriage it would have broken up. (In a moment of utter despair the Lord Jesus appeared to her hanging on the cross.. He said something but I forgot the exact words.)

In my opinion we are dealing with an issue that is just as bad as murder. The victim is still living with damaged emotions, bad memories; relationships impaired. It is a situation where Jesus says it would have been better if a millstone were tied to his neck and cast into the middle of the sea. Rough? Jesus said it...as the Creator, he knows well the problems inherent in the offence of young children.

This is a serious issue...and I think we are all aware of it and this is gratifying.

ginnyrose

Re: Mercy Triumphs Over Judgement. - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/29 11:25

"Mercy Triumphs over Judgement"

"Forgive and you will be forgiven."

Measure for measure, As we measure others, so will we be measured on judgment day.

I believe this man, Hernandez, suffered everyday of his life over what he did, the murder this boy. Even as he embraced Jesus Christ as his saviour, he grieved continuously over what he did.

Against the advice of the inner circle of those Christians who knew him and what he did, he gave himself up to our earthly authorities.

I grieved and prayed for Ethan Patz when he was kidnapped. It was extremely sad that someone kidnapped the boy.

I now rejoice that the boys' murderer, Mr. Hernandez, will be in heaven because he repented and put himself under God's mercy through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. I rejoice, because this is precisely what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about.

Re: , on: 2012/5/29 12:59

Of course God can save a child molester. I don't know the man, but I would venture to say that this man needs (or needed to) be saved. It is one thing for a believer to fall into occasional sin. For someone to live a lifestyle of sin, particularly something as evil and deviant as what this man did... I find it hard to believe he was walking with the Lord. I do not believe for a second that his life during that period of time was washed and bathed with the Word and prayer.

But I don't know.

Here's what I do know: Christian adults will willingly sacrifice children.

You say "What do you mean? We would never do that!" Oh yes they do, and I see it all the time. Christians want to believe the best about people, and they certainly don't want to be labeled as unloving or unforgiving.

I've watched Christian parents sit by and let coaches verbally (and sometimes physically) abuse their children... even on Christian sports teams... and not say one word about it. I've seen Christian adults use cuss words in front of children at church events and other such things... and parents not say a word about it.

Why? Well because! Didn't you know? One of the commandments is "Thou shalt not rock the boat"!

Someone mentioned earlier in this thread that it always seems people will say after the fact, "Ya know, I always had a gut feeling about that guy..."

If you had a gut feeling about the guy why didn't you do something about it? There are ways of checking your gut feeling without making a public accusation against the guy. But instead, we don't want to seem like we're gossiping or "rocking the boat".... so we do nothing while evil is being perpetrated on a child.

When we allow that happen it is WE who failed those children!!

Whenever I see a pastor or "youth minister" (a phrase never used in the Bible) being arrested on the news for this type of thing... I always blame the adults in the church because measures can be taken to help ensure those type of things never happen.

That's my rant... I'm gone.

Krispy

Re: - posted by dkr777, on: 2012/5/29 21:21

husley,

this happened approximately 10 years ago the abuse against his daughters (all happened under the age of 12), so this happened for a long time...

I am not aware of any reconciliation with his daughters but he confessed to his wife and the senior pastor and his wife backed up his repentance (so he could still be an elder...) since his daughters now are in their early 20's/ late teens today.

The girls had enough hiding it from their family and others and confessed it to their older brothers and one brother called the police immediately on his dad.

dkr777

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 6:06

What is very disappointing in churches like this is that no one had "discernment". That no one got a word of knowledge, as we see in the book of Acts. That none of the other elders nor the pastor nor any mature Christian was in a position to discern through the Spirit that something was going on with this man. Many times we hear people say After the fact - "I had an uncomfortable feeling around him." and the such - but the churches haven't been taught on how to use this discernment in a helpful way. It doesn't help these girls to say afterward that some had a "creepy feeling inside", and the other elders and pastors would be or should have been used of GOD, if this had been a Church that knew His voice or 'gifts' and would know how and what to do about the discernment given. Was GOD not able to expose before all of this happened? I believe He is always faithful - but He needs an open vessel 'in' the church and the church needs to stop fearing that true discernment is 'judging' or unloving. The fault was not GOD's.

I say AMEN AMEN AMEN.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/30 8:16

I must disagree with you evangis.

It would be horrible to have Christians take the Law in their hands to severely punish or ostracize the imagined wicked people as determined by someone's alleged spiritual gift of "creepy feelings inside". This would be vigilante-ism.

What you are asking is to revive the Salem Witch Trials.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 10:53

There is Biblical church discipline, but it should NEVER be carried out based on someone's "word of knowledge".

Like in a court of law there has to be sufficient evidence that proves sin has taken place. No where in the Bible do you see church discipline taking place without evidence.

In Act when Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied to Peter, and thus to God... there was obviously some proof that could back up what took place. Obviously Peter was being led by the Spirit and knew they were lying because of that... but what happened next? They both died.

The Holy Spirit punished them, not Peter. Peter did not kill them, God did.

If there is evidence, then the church needs to exercise church discipline as described in scripture. If we were to deal with sin the way it was done in Acts with Ananias and Sapphira then why did Paul spend so much time explaining how to exercise church discipline?

My goodness, can you imagine the chaos in the church if we just went on everyone's whim about someone else? We would all become accusers of the brethren... and the poor pastors would be bogged down in all of that and not able to minister and preach.

Follow scripture. Wise church discipline done Biblically is what is needed. Not kooky "I got a feeling about that guy" type of stuff.

By the way... church discipline without sufficient evidence opens churches up to civil liabilities as well. Christians are not to sue one another, but if some church disciplined me falsely based upon some kook's gut feeling about me... the temptation would be there.

Krispy

Re: - posted by onemite, on: 2012/5/30 11:41

What I don't see here and perhaps I missed it somewhere is that repentant or not, there are certain qualifications in the bible for being in any kind of leadership in a church!

This is the word of God, and if we follow it, we can leave out the guess work.

1 Timothy 3

"It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, 9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons IF THEY ARE BEYOND REPROACH. 11 Women (their wives) must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

Re: - posted by onemite, on: 2012/5/30 11:51

Repenting from a sin is not the same as mastering a sin. and not allowing a person to be in leadership because of a sin they have not mastered or because they have not obtained a high standing among the flock is not the same as not forgiving them.

Allowing this person to go on as an elder was not biblical even if he was repentant. Those who accepted his repentance should have given him a seat with the rest of the congregation- and that would have been a display of love and forgiveness.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 12:01

onemite... I agree. Forgiveness does not equal restoration.

The Bible is clear what the qualifications for leadership in the Lord's church is. Once that has been broken the person has to step back. Depending on the sin there can be restoration, but moral sins in particular... no.

Especially child molestation or other deviant sexual sins. I personally throw adultery into that category as well.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:24

When I was sexually abused by my older brother which lasted for a few years (I lived in fear of him because he had a bad temper). No one came to my aid, not even when I told my parents. Mother was angry but she couldn't do anything and Dad didn't do nothing. Years later I forgave my brother but he has never confessed his wrong doing. When other family members speak of him, I lift him up because as far as I am concerned what was done is done even though I am left with the scars and in the throes of healing.

Should I take my brother before the courts and let the world deal with him because of his homosexual crimes against my humanity?

What kind of believer would I be? It only shows me that I hate my brother.

Even if that son who turned Dad in was a real true born again Christian, he would have questioned his decision. We don't know if he tried to reason with his Dad to make right his Daughters, we don't know if he went to them to make right with

them but they refused and wanted this thing to happen. We don't know that once Dad was taken into custody they lamented that their brother would have done such a thing. We don't know all that happened.

Molestation is a wicked thing, it murders the soul, it drowns out love and brings to the surface anger and frustration that seems to want to be with us for the rest of our lives even when we know Christ.

Years ago I've brushed with the law and police on several occasions, each time the Lord had pulled me out from being taken in. If God can do this, why can't we? Why can't we avoid the law on behalf of ourselves and our brethren as much as we possibly can?

Look at Corrie Ten Boom hiding Jews behind her hidden closet? She lied to the world, the powers that be. Should she be taken to court because she concealed Jews that were considered enemies to the state?

How far do we go with this?

Thankfully I am glad that I will never have the opportunity to confess my past wrong doings, lest my wicked act be visited with a subpoena.

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/30 13:26

KrispyKrittr on 2012/5/30 7:53:53 wrote:

"There is Biblical church discipline, but it should NEVER be carried out based on someone's "word of knowledge"."

Thus we are in agreement.

I do realize that there are many Christian Churches who have their own By Laws. Some ban the drinking of any and all alcoholic Beverages, and some ban any and all dancing, and some ban going to the movies. By Laws ought to be respected and honored.

The Apostle Paul wrote that there is nothing wrong with eating meat that was sacrificed to an Idol. But if an immature Christian conscious is troubled by your eating meat sacrificed to an idol, for his sake do not eat that meat. But if you are home and by yourself, then there is nothing wrong with eating that meat that was sacrificed to an idol, eat and enjoy, it is just meat. Our ultimate goal is to love one another, and care for each other, and to Love our God with all our Heart, might, and strength.

Show me a church that bans all sinners and I will show a Church that is empty, or breaking their own ban!

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:50

Art... the church does not exercise discipline in a totalitarian way. The goal of church discipline is to restore the one who has sinned, and church discipline should only be exercised when all other means of correction, restoration etc have been exhausted.

For example... I sinned against you in some way. We go to the same church. 1) You come to me to reproof me and I refuse to reconcile and repent. 2) You then bring a witness with you and try again. I refuse. 3) Then you are to go to the elders... and they come to me... and I refuse. 4) Then they take the matter to the church... still nothing. 5) Then I am put out.

The goal of putting one out is to see them reconciled to the Lord and to the church.

98% of issues like this should be resolved at step 1 if it is a healthy and growing church.

The one in the wrong gets FIVE chances to repent before they are put out. I call that GRACE.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:57

Approved, I am truly sorry to hear about your experience. I'm glad you found resolution in the Lord.

If I knew for sure someone was molesting children I would not hesitate to turn them over to the courts. For revenge? No. .. to protect the children who they will molest if they remain free.

If someone ever molested my children... may God have mercy on them, because I wont.

Any man who would turn his head away and allow such a thing to go on is no man of God.

Even Jesus said if someone caused a little child to sin it would be better that a millstone be tied around his neck and be t hrown into the ocean (to drown). That was for causing them sin... imagine committing sin on them!

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 13:59

Quote:
----- I sinned against you in some way. We go to the same church. 1) You come to me to reproof me and I refuse to reconcile and repen t. 2) You then bring a witness with you and try again.

I remember years ago that this happened to me once. Two brothers came to my door to clear things up and they bypas sed step 1 which I thought was pretty good. The brother that was wronged that night went out satisfied that all was well.

I have found that most Christians (even ones that are in name only) do end up reconciled. I have found that even in the world when I have wronged the world in some way, people are willing to get things off their chest. It's humiliating for me because I was supposed to be the example Christian. ugh!

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/30 14:25

Approved,

I too came from what they call a dysfunctional home. There was physical abuse and sexual crimes committed, and uncall ed for beatings.

So what is to be done? Forgive, forget, and move on in God's presence.

We walk with our true Father and His only begotten Son, Jesus. We Bath in His blood and He cleanse our whole being.

Rejoice in your slavation and the presence of God in your very being. Soak yourself in His love for you. And forgive all w ho have sinned against you, pray for them, and dwell in the presence and love of God in your life and very being via the i ndweeling Holy Spirit.

Our body, like a rose, it withers away! But we are spirit, and in the presence of The light and The Love, For God is Light and He is Love, our spirit is healed, and we are nourished daily. Nothing can seperate us from the Love of God and the good will He has for us. And He has prepared a home for us where there will be no weeping, and the Lion will sleep with the Lamb, and our joy and fellowship will be good and be complete.

God has blessed you Approved. And may He continuously Bless you.

BTW, the Bible does not say "do not lie." IT SAYS "WE SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS." particularly meaning - in a court of Judgment, such as a real court, or in the court of public opinion, where lies (gossip) wrongly destroy the life of someone who can not defend themselves. There are times when an outright lie is a good choice, particularly if it prevent s innocent people from unjust sufferings. But in making such a decision, one ought not lie to theirself.

General Topics :: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God?

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 14:46

Quote:
----- If I knew for sure someone was molesting children I would not hesitate to turn them over to the courts. For revenge? No... to protect the children who they will molest if they remain free.

Oh I would too. It's within the Church that if I knew a brother that was doing such a thing, I would be hesitant at first of doing anything like that. I would tell the Pastor and demand that he tell the family and let the family do what "seemeth right in their own eyes".

Quote:
----- If someone ever molested my children... may God have mercy on them, because I won't.

Indeed, my Mother still has a hard time with my brother she just has no use for him and it's probably why he doesn't live around here anyway. I wish him well for he has many troubles. What I am thankful for is that the Lord found him and saved him.

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 15:10

Quote:
-----I have found that most Christians (even ones that are in name only) do end up reconciled.

Unfortunately that does not always happen. There is a couple that wronged my wife and I, and we took steps to fix the situation... but they refused and instead blamed us for all their issues.

We dropped it. The Bible says to live at peace "so long as it depends on you". (Romans 12:18)

I've had to shake the dust off my shoes on a number of occasions when people who called themselves Christians refused to reconcile when I made an effort. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 15:15

Quote:
-----Oh I would too. It's within the Church that if I knew a brother that was doing such a thing, I would be hesitant at first of doing anything like that. I would tell the Pastor and demand that he tell the family and let the family do what "seemeth right in their own eyes".

The only problem with this is that in almost every state in America you would be breaking the law. So would your pastor.

In almost every state if you suspect that child abuse is happening you have a legal obligation to make a report. If you do not you can be held legally liable. And later in life if the abused person comes forward and claims they were abused and can prove that you knew about it and did not report it to the legal authorities... a civil lawsuit can be brought against you... and we're talking MILLIONS of dollars depending on the situation.

That's what the whole Penn State thing was all about! This has been in the headlines for almost a year.

You can not simply turn it over to someone else to handle. It's illegal. And in my opinion, it's not a law that causes you to break God's Law.

God's Law, in the OT, called for child abusers/molesters to be stoned to death.

God doesn't take such things lightly.

Krispy

Re: I do not understand ??? - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/30 15:21

I wrote:

KrispyKrittr on 2012/5/30 7:53:53 wrote to me. ArtB:

"There is Biblical church discipline, but it should NEVER be carried out based on someone's "word of knowledge"."

I replied

"Thus we are in agreement."

Then you replied:

by KrispyKrittr on 2012/5/30 10:50:27

"Art... the church does not exercise discipline in a totalitarian way. The goal of church discipline is to restore the one who has sinned, and church discipline should only be exercised when all other means of correction, restoration etc have been exhausted."

Once Again, I agree with you.

In the first reply to you, I simply introduce a 2nd topic relating to By Laws. By Laws often are rules and procedures that are not explicitly in the Bible.

I attended a Baptist Church where the By Laws prohibited members from drinking any Alcoholic beverages. These By Laws go back to the time of Prohibition, and were in Compliance with the then US Law. In the 1980's, it became obvious that many members casually drank alcoholic beverages, usually during meals, and usually wine. They were not drunks, they were Godly people. So the Church voted to revise their By Laws from banning drinking of Alcoholic Beverages to simply banning drinking alcoholic Beverages at all Church Functions.

The later ban was for those who may come to our Church and who may be struggling with Alcoholic addiction, or a family member being so addicted. IMO, a wise decision all around.

I personally like drinking a glass of wine with my meals.

No, not breakfast. :)

Re: , on: 2012/5/30 15:49

I was not disagreeing with you, Art... just adding further clarification for the sake of other readers on here who sometime s dont grasp what I'm trying to say (not always their fault!)

Krispy

Re: - posted by ArtB (), on: 2012/5/30 16:13

by KrispyKrittr on 2012/5/30 12:49:19

"I was not disagreeing with you, Art... just adding further clarification for the sake of other readers on here who sometime s dont grasp what I'm trying to say (not always their fault!)"

Sorry, I was a bit confused. It is not your fault, it is mine. I have a mental disability. I'm not the man I use to be.

I thank you for the clarification.

"Am I Paranoid? ----- Why do you ask?"

Edited because I have too much time on my hands.

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/5/30 18:11

Quote:
-----Years later I forgave my brother but he has never confessed his wrong doing. When other family member speak of ill of him, I lift hi m up because as far as I am concerned what was done is done even though I am left with the scars and in the throes of healing.

Hi Approved,

I share the same story as you, except the guy responsible for my molestation died of aids. I hold no bitterness over the i ssue, not the least.

Quote:
-----Should I take my brother before the courts and let the world deal with him because of his homosexual crimes against my humanity?
What kind of believer would I be? It only shows me that I hate my brother.

What you have done here is taken the path of least resistance and now you are trying to justify it in your own mind, I don 't fault you for it.

What would you do if you ever found out that your brother has done the same thing to 15 other kids (because frankly yo u don't really know)? Would you be in here explaining how 'righteous' your decision was?

I've seen countless cases on TV where victim #1 did not report the person and they are tearfully apologizing to victim #1 5 and their families.

This man's sons did the right thing. Now for the rest of this man's life people will know that they should not leave innoce nt children with him or let him supervise kids in any way. A truly repentant man would understand this.

Quote:
-----Look at Corrie Ten Boom hiding Jews behind her hidden closet? She lied to the world, the powers that be. Should she be taken to c ourt because she concealed Jews that were considered enemies to the state?

General Topics :: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God?

Most folks can see that protecting innocent life (like Corrie Ten Boom did) is different than shielding unrepentant pedophiles. There is nothing righteous about shielding a pedophile, nothing, they are free to continue their wickedness but now protected by silence.

Quote:

-----How far do we go with this?

As I explained earlier, SECULAR counselors are required to report molestation to police as a stipulation of keeping their license, are Godly counselors held to a lower standard or does Romans 13 not apply to us?

Quote:

-----Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

What I see you doing here is projecting the way that you handled your incident on these men. Since you believe that the way you handled it to be right, by default the way these men handled it is wrong in your mind, and you are actually defending your own inaction by condemning these men unjustly. Should you defend these men and the way that they handled the situation, you would be condemning yourself.

Again, I understand the situation from a personal perspective since I am (and will always be) in the same position as yourself. My point is simply why not give these men the benefit of the doubt, as I am with you?

One last thing, the way that your parents handled this was wrong, I hope that you not just know this in your head, but in your heart as well.

I pray that the Lord will give you peace, I really do :-)

Re: Can a child molester enter the kingdom of God, on: 2012/5/31 3:09

Quote:

-----In Christ, the same dreadful nature is fled from by fleeing to the cross with a groan of deliverance. Every man who takes the name of Christ should understand this if he has a need to understand it. Some understand it because they themselves; including this man, have been abused and are as this world understands it, a victim. But to see this and not the more dreadful reality that it is Satan who is pleased with these things, then even the victims become the abusers. My own daughter is my own testimony in this regard as are the children of many who have been abused. This is God's doing for which we are immeasurably grateful. (amrkelly)

It has been drawn to my attention that I was confessing to a previous sin in this statement. It has also been drawn to my attention that by saying "I realise that I am walking into fire in saying this" confirms this. So I will take this opportunity to speak plainly.

The walking into fire was a reference to how men are thought of by many sisters who take a psychological as well as a sociological, and therefore a natural view of how to think of men who commit this sin; which was the centrality of this post. No one who only sees the little children is going to be able to take any other position. Speaking to that emotional understanding is like walking into fire. Being hated for sharing God's own attitude of forgiveness on this difficult and deeply emotional problem for men and women is like walking into fire.

Although I was sexually abused when in care as a child, disbelieved and stumbled in life, I have not fallen into this sin

Myself. My Daughter Sarah is my testimony of this. Last year she married aged 20 years she was spotless in mind and body. As was her husband. I thank God for this because having studied this subject professionally and personally I know very well how many children who are abused become abusers. Especially men. The fact that God has kept me from this sin is something for which I am immeasurably grateful. As is my daughter who understands the subject well enough. She is a professional child carer herself.

Now I can say it plainly.

Any man who has fallen into this sin as a professing christian, should have only one expectation if he has not truly repented of it; rejection from the Kingdom of Heaven, as well; the fearful wrath of God.

Any man who has fallen into this sin as a confessing christian, and has repented of it should be exposed to his family and church so that he can be kept from further sin. What the governments of the world do is of no consequence to God. It was Christ Who died for sin. Such a man should know that even though he is forgiven by God, he will walk about the Kingdom of Heaven naked. And when others in the Kingdom ask him why he is naked "He will be ashamed". Further any such man should realise that he has shipwrecked his calling and should shut his mouth, cease to teach and cease from eldership if he is a teacher or elder. Let him bear the continual shame of acknowledging God's mercy in granting him repentance having put Christ to an open shame and having rejected the only sacrifice for sin.

If anyone has the courage to look into this they can e-mail my daughter sarah.toto@hotmail.com.

Andrew M R Kelly

Edited for spelling

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/5/31 11:45

Quote:

----- if you had a gut feeling about the guy why didnt you do something about it? There are ways of checking your gut feeling ...

This is a valid point – and, I think, moves us towards the heart of the matter. If there is no means of “checking your gut feeling..” then there is no means of preventing episodes or of exposing the problem. Children tend to be more intuitive than adults, because adults have learned to shut down their internal sensors till they no longer have “gut feelings” or no longer consider such feelings to be legitimate.

If children are continuously shamed for having negative feelings (or any feelings), then they learn to suppress their “gut feelings” till they become unavailable. Also, without good modeling by adults kids don’t develop the language needed to express these feelings. They don’t learn to trust their gut feelings. Their insecurity makes them easy targets for perpetrators.

Emotional immaturity is a breeding ground for abusive perpetration – for those who become victims as well as the victimizers. The little girl (or boy) may refuse to get on the school bus because the offender is on it, but then gets disciplined for being disobedient. (I’ve seen this). Or a woman reports her husband to the eldership, and she is reprimanded for being unsubmitive and unforgiving. (I know such a case). Then when she finally leaves her husband, she is considered a reprobate.

Perhaps an abused girl goes on to be a prostitute. Or perhaps a troubled boy is struggling with extreme fear/anger sense of helplessness or whatever may predispose him to seek out and exploit weaker subjects rather than enjoy a mature marriage relationship. So the problem begins festering long before it gets full blown and addictive. It is shaped and reinforced in an environment with weakness and sickness in the relationships – family /church/society.

This sin condition seems to flourish easily in a religious environment that operates in hypocrisy. Here finely-polished pretense has greater authenticity than truthfulness in all its ugly and “unspiritual” expressions.

It doesn't help when the Christian community uses terminologies that hinder this path to truthfulness. How does one come to value negative "gut feelings" when you are taught that feelings are unreliable – or perhaps "soulish" – unspiritual, or considered "carnal".

Now you can see why I do not like certain words, and why I would suggest using more specific terms that can be more useful. The word "soulish" (a human invention) could easily suggest that any natural feelings from deep within are to be suppressed – considered unspiritual.

The word "carnal" biblically refers to the flesh – which, in itself is not evil. Yet "carnal" is now essentially a word for a vague, general idea of sin. Consider the problem when flesh (or sex) is viewed as evil. In so much of church history sexual activity has been overly demeaned. And then years later it all comes to the surface through the publicizing of sexual abuse.

The field of "psychology" may be considered evil and worldly, but let's not throw out the baby with the bathwater – lest we create our own psychology – bad psychology at that – our own way of understanding which merely blocks the path to God's wonderful redemptive healing through Christ. Jesus did not die for our plastic superficial selves or for only a teeny portion of our being. He died for who we truly are – fallen human beings separated from the Father by sin, with a bent from birth onward to fix our troubles apart from God. Jesus died that we may be united with him in wholeness – in his resurrected life.

And as has been insinuated here, we are all both victims and perpetrators of sin. And regardless of our own sin history, a continuous life of repentance is the only way. That's not merely stopping certain behaviors, but turning ever more intently to our Lord for the provisions of his new life. In learning to live well in his new life, we need each other. Those with sin weaknesses need a community of mature people who are good examples and also are in the habit of holding each other accountable.

To the extent that the people of God fail to grow and mature – they are part of the problem.

Diane

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/5/31 12:15

..... and conversely:

To the extent that the people of God grow and mature in their calling, they can be part of the solution.

Re: Can a Child Molester Inherit the Kingdom of God? - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/5/31 13:14

I want to share an email that Zac Poonen wrote to his Church elders regarding a similar child molestation charge on a famous Christian worker. I have Removed the concerned person's name.

Dear brothers,

XXXX was the leader of the well-known organization ZZZZ. He had worked with them for 30 years. He was 65 years old and a grandfather. But he was recently under police investigation for an allegation that he had behaved improperly with a 10-year old girl. He was found dead 2 weeks ago. It is suspected that he had committed suicide in order to avoid the scandal from affecting his family and his grandchildren.

XXXX was associated with YYYY (who founded ZZZZ) for many years. XXXX had been imprisoned in Cuba for distributing tracts from an airplane, but he was released after some time. It now looks as if he was safer in the prison in Cuba than after he got fame in the USA!!

There are three areas where Christian leaders and preachers have always faced serious temptations - and that many are

e facing increasingly in our day:

1. Sexual sin. This seems to be plaguing Christian leaders everywhere nowadays – especially in the USA. I feel that the reason is that many of them are secretly watching internet pornography. This is usually the prelude that leads to falling into sexual sin. We must be radical in resisting this temptation totally. Always being alert and running away from it, is the only way to total freedom in this area. One step along this dark path will lead to another and after a while there will be no stopping. It will become an addiction. And then one day our shame will become public knowledge and embarrass us and our family members. There are probably thousands more of today’s Christian leaders who are impure in this area. Everyone will be exposed one day – if not now then at Christ’s judgment seat (which will be worse). Remember that XXXX was 65 years old and had been active in Christian work for 30 years! This addiction has no age-limit. But if we keep resisting it, the strength of this temptation will become weaker and weaker.
2. Fame. This is another problem that many Christian leaders are facing today. Most of them do not realize that fame can destroy them. Jesus and Paul and the true prophets were always unpopular and ridiculed by people. That was a protection for them. God said that the outer covering of the tabernacle (a picture of the church) was to be of an ugly brown ram’s skin. The beautifully embroidered golden threaded covering was to be on the inside. This is God’s way – reproach on the outside and glory on the inside. “The King’s bride is glorious INSIDE” (Psa.45:13). God puts “a canopy of reproach over all the glory within (the church)” (Isaiah 4:5). God kept CFC also under a covering of reproach and ridicule for many years – and this has protected us. A lot of that reproach is still there. But now many have begun to appreciate CFC for the blessing that we have been to them. So, we are now in far greater danger than before – and we must be alert.
3. Money. Many reports are sent out about Christian work whose only purpose is to get money. This has destroyed many Christian workers and their ministry spiritually – even though their work may have grown in size. My own policy has been that I have no right to ask anyone to support the Lord’s work with money, AS LONG AS I STILL HAVE ONE RUPEE LEFT IN MY OWN BANK ACCOUNT. Since I have always had more than one rupee in my bank account, I have never asked anyone for money – either for myself or for my ministry. God has always provided us what we needed – whatever amount He saw was fitting for our ministry. If we had received too much, we may have got involved in ministries that God never wanted us to be involved in. So financial shortage has been a protection

It is mainly because of failure in these three areas, that most preachers today lack a fresh revelation from God’s Word and also lack the anointing of the Spirit when they preach.

We are not called to judge others or to find fault with men who have fallen. But we must humbly learn from their failures and keep our faces in the dust always, for we all have the same flesh. The one who boasts inwardly that he has not fallen will be the first to fall. We must walk in the light before God’s face and also maintain a close fellowship with our fellow-elders, at all times.

May the Lord preserve us all.

Your brother,
Zac Poonen

Re: , on: 2012/6/2 18:40

This may help someone. Maybe even the man that's now in jail.
With our prayers.

<http://www.eternalweight.com/snapshots-of-the-apostasy/in-the-hands-of-spiritual-amateurs>