

News and Current Events :: Bill Gothard Placed on Administrative Leave

Bill Gothard Placed on Administrative Leave, on: 2014/3/2 21:17

Recovering Grace, by giving voice to the allegations of sexual harassment of dozens of women, and by publishing information from the sex scandal days, has finally pressured the IBLP board to place Gothard on administrative leave while they investigate the claims against him.

“The board of directors of the Institute for Basic Life Principles has placed its longtime leader Bill Gothard, 79, on administrative leave while the board investigates claims that he years ago engaged in sexual harassment and other misconduct.”

You can read the rest of the post from World Magazine here.

http://www.worldmag.com/2014/02/bill_gothard_placed_on_administrative_leave

<http://www.recoveringgrace.org/2014/02/bill-gothard-placed-on-administrative-leave/#more>

Re: Bill Gothard Placed on Administrative Leave - posted by Beige, on: 2014/3/3 4:10

After reading the material on these web sites I can say I am deeply saddened by this entire chain of events. I believe Bill has been a man that has been used by our Lord to spread wisdom and godly teaching throughout the body of the church. It saddens me more to think of what appears to me to be a group of people out there who are salivating over the possible downfall of this man. Whom among us has not experienced the heart breaking reality of failure and sin? I will be praying for Bill -- to be restored out of this brokenness and to come into a closer walk with Christ. His alleged sins, if they actually occurred at all, were almost 40 years ago. I believe the blood of Jesus is strong enough to wash away Bill's sins as well as my own and make us as white as snow. Lord I ask you to move by your Holy Spirit and restore this man -- Let his work in your kingdom continue.

Re: , on: 2014/3/3 8:25

I strongly encourage anyone who is or was involved in ATI, IBLP or any other of Bill Gothards programs to go to recoveringgrace.org and spend a few hours reading the articles they have published recently. There's no doubt that Gothards teaching did some good but he also did great harm. These are NOT wild accusations. Recoveringgrace.org has carefully, thoroughly and responsibly documented a litany of inappropriate behavior by Bill Gothard that he engaged in for decades. The accusations don't just come from these 34 women but former board members and seminary presidents who attempted to correct problems early on but were unable to make any progress due to Gothards control and manipulation.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/3/3 11:40

I would encourage saints not to go to this website and read these articles. These things have not been proved. It is clear some young people were sent to these programs by their well meaning home-school parents but they were bitter to be put into a strong disciplined environment and speak about it in terms of a cult and robotic program etc.

Bill Gothard is a very godly men and has had tremendous influence on many. I would be very slow to bring accusation to him or promote slander. I grieved the night I read this article and did not want to post it on SI unless it was 100% verified. May we be in prayer for Bill Gothard during this time.

And yes do pray for some individuals that have been hurt by their parents and the teachings of ATI because they were rebellious and had a hard time with the program.

EDIT: Just-in I tried to privately email you but your email bounced so the email you have listed on the website is not working.

Re: , on: 2014/3/3 12:11

I will check the email, Greg. It is registered to me.

This is public domain and verified that the Board of ATI has done this and is deliberating. They need our prayers.

The board has been approached many times in the last few decades about many things regarding Mr. Gothard and finally they are doing something.

Both Mr. Gothard and the Board need our prayers.

None of us want to be an accomplice for a coverup or slander.

So far, I do not see any slander.

We should not slander recoveringgrace either as adult Christians can and should investigate and draw their own conclusions. Recoveringgrace has acted responsibly in all they have done. Do you have any evidence to the contrary?

Brother, we read articles all the time that have not been proved, however in this case many board members of ATI have complained. This is not just about young girls that have complained, but board members of ATI and this is verified and documented. They have risked their occupation and reputation to come forward and publicly expose what was done in secret.

This is a highly detailed book written by a former board member of ATI. People should always educate themselves.

http://www.amazon.com/Matter-Basic-Principles-Don-Veinot-ebook/dp/B005PR4UKY/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1393866625&sr=8-1&keywords=bill+gothard

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2014/3/3 12:45

I do not affirm or deny what has been written on the Recovering Grace website. I do sense that many of the comments written there are out of great bitterness. We have been involved with this organization for decades. I would caution everyone to look within themselves and make certain that we are not reading every juicy tidbit in a spirit of slander or gossip. If you were not involved, it is really no concern other than to pray. God desires truth in the innermost parts. I pray that truth is disclosed to that end.

Many young lives have been damaged not so much thru this program or the failings of men like Mr Gothard or Doug Phillips (earlier thread), but through satan's efforts to distort the truth of the Bible thru the humanity of these men. None of us is beyond falling. Please, saints, do not fall into the trap of gossip.....And pray for the young people - that they will be able to discern truth, and not jump off into compromise out of not wanting to be linked with this group or that group. Such things have happened in many a church as well.....a very grievous thing. The enemy will go to any length to derail God's plan. Many of us parents poured our lives into raising godly seed for God's glory...we are not perfect, and neither are our leaders perfect...

I hope my heart comes through in this post. I do not wish to engage in debate.

Re: , on: 2014/3/3 12:48

Greg, I saw your other request but the thread was locked?

I will voluntarily stop posting for now and maybe it will be permanent. I will wait upon the Lord. This is your place and I will respect your wishes. May the Lord give us grace and have mercy on us.

The Lord bless everyone, richly.

1 Thessalonians 5:5

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Re: - posted by Beige, on: 2014/3/4 7:03

Just my thoughts on this issue with Bill:

- 1) I believe this man is a man of God.
- 2) I believe he is being attacked by the enemy of our souls and the accuser of the brethren, i.e. Satan.
- 3) I do not believe the Holy Spirit is in these accusations against Mr. Gothard.
- 4) I believe the worst things that have happened here are misunderstandings and possible power struggles; however, undoubtedly those things are.
- 5) I am certain Bill lives a repentant life and since all of us err we should understand that it would disgrace God to dig under the sacrificed blood of our Lord and accuse ourselves or others.
- 6) One teaching that comes to mind which may bring light upon this issue is Derek Prince's ministry wherein he teaches on "The Enemies We Face."

God bless Bill Gothard and all of his staff -- past, present and future with wisdom, love and forgiveness. Let them all dwell together in unity, one mind, one spirit, in Christ our Lord. And, may God bless and anoint His church afresh!

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/3/4 8:45

It is a very serious thing when one allows one's affection for a person to ignore reports of evil doing.

It is a serious tragedy when a man acquires much in the way of monies, power and prestige and then he feels he can also have women. It appears when a man has money and prestige he feels invincible. He will act to manipulate people's perception of him. The longer one does this the braver and bolder he gets thinking he will not get caught. This happens all the time - one can see it operating in our own community. (I am a witness of this mindset but know it happens all the time in many places.)

Before these alleged occurrences there were doctrinal issues as well. I noticed it in his writings. I pointed it out to a pastor and he just ignored it, passed it off as irrelevant. The lesson I learned from this episode was that I cannot even trust a pastor to be always alert to aberration in doctrine.

I think these allegations should be taken seriously and investigated. To write them off as the rants of bitter women is ignoring a possible reality. It appears people are more concerned about Bill than they are about the women - I am more concerned about the women than the perpetrator. Why? Because women want to please a man. They look to him as a protector of her, sustainer but when he violates it by going after her body, he has hurt her dreadfully. Bitter? Yes because the basic trust that God has planted within the heart of a woman had been destroyed so who is left to believe and trust? She will look at men totally differently...

If the fellow has a problem it needs to be dealt with. If these women have problems with lying they need to be dealt with (but the sheer numbers are overwhelming - one needs to consider that). Ignoring these reports as being gossip and slander will not help anyone. The charges are too serious.

In the end scripture teaches us that a "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." 1Timothy 3:7. While this is addressed towards an overseer, it applies to all Christian leaders.

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2014/3/4 9:03

thank you ginnyrose for this post. i was thinking some of these exact same thoughts. how come it is that whenever things like this come out about popular christian leaders everyone runs to want to pray for him and the women are always made out to be the bad guy. i have no idea if these charges are true but to assume that they are all brought about by rebellious women is a disservice to everyone including the man himself. if he has been guilty of this sin then he needs prayer, council, and Jesus to be set free from it. if all these women have lied about him then they too need Jesus, to repent, and we should be praying for them as well.

its never an easy thing for a woman to come forward after she has been abused/victimized in such a way. there is so much shame and guilt one carries with you long after the abuse has stopped.

thank you again for having the courage to post your thoughts,

rdg

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 9:09

Quote:
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Amen to every word of your post mama27. It is seasoned with wisdom and grace from a mother who has every good reason to comprehend its fuller meaning. Bless you for having the courage and integrity to share your own heart.

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 10:02

When something is "reported commonly" then the man of God should step up rather than not address widespread public statements from Christians (those beside him in ministry as well as those who receive his ministry). Any accusation, especially a voluminous amount of accusations from within the Church (ministry boards members, team members, young people and parents) should never be ignored. This is not without precedent.

What did Paul do with hearsay that was from more than the mouth of two witnesses?

1Cor 5:1 IT IS REPORTED COMMONLY that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

"It is reported commonly"

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 11:46

Quote:
-----1Cor 5:1 IT IS REPORTED COMMONLY that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

á½•î»î%oî, á¼•î•îµî,î±î¹ á¼•î½ á½•î¼áç-î½ î•î½îµîî±, î°î±á½î î,îçîî±î•î,î. î•î½îµîî± á¼•î½î, îçá½•î´á½² á¼•î½ î,îçáç-î, á¼•î½îµîî¹î½, á½îîîîµ î³î...î½î±áç-î°î-î,îî½î± î,îçáç î•î½î, á¼•î½îµîî¹î½"

Tischendorf, C. von, Gregory, C. R., & Abbot, E. (Eds.). (1869-1894). Novum Testamentum graece. (Vol. 2, p. 478). Lipsiae: Giesecke & Devrient.

holos (á½...î»î%oî, 3654), from holos, ~~all~~, whole, ~~is~~ is translated ~~actually~~ in 1 Cor. 5:1, RV (~~it is actually reported~~); the KJV ~~commonly~~ does not convey the meaning. In 6:7 it is translated ~~altogether~~ (KJV, ~~utterly~~); in 15:29, ~~eat all~~ as in Matt. 5:34. See ALL, ALTOGETHER.Â¶

Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vine's™ Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

It would appear that your rationale is predicated on the idea that if enough people are willing to make an accusation then it must be true. Or at least if not true then it must be seen as true and dealt with as though it were true for the sake of the alleged victims.

I noted your link to this website four weeks ago and followed it up then. I feel sure that you will be pleased to know that I didn't miss it after all. I looked through the site from the first post in 2011 right up to the last post and article. I spent five or six hours going through the site.

I noted that the site was originally set up to challenge Bill Gothard's teachings. The accusations of sexual harassment began to be added after some considerable time. Did you realise that the very worst and most serious accusation by an individual female amounts to Bill allegedly giving her a kiss on the lips as he said goodbye to her. It is all set into context of an abuse of authority. And for obvious legal reasons the actual act which ultimately defines the term abuse is set in the parlance of statutory criminal law. The term used is sexual harassment.

Another accusation has to do with the appropriateness of spending time with females alone and in that context encouraging them to confess their sexual sins. In that context you ought to read much more carefully before you join in the accusations yourself. I have to tell you that the statement of this particular sister is so flawed rationally that it couldn't stand up in a court of law in any country. It is rationally flawed and inconsistent with truthfulness in the proper sense of what truthfulness means. I don't expect you to believe me but as you are so eager to be the man of God in this matter you might want to go back and read her 'testimony' (statement) properly and you may just see what I mean. If not who cares?

There are also other accusations, mostly to do with what could reasonably be called sexual harassment.

One thing is very definite the determination of those who manage this site is to destroy a man, deal a death blow to what they believe are false teachings and to do it in public with no meaningful opportunity for the man himself to reasonably defend himself. You may have no comprehension of what truth is, but some of us have. Telling Bill that he can attend a meeting where he can meet the people he has harmed, including the females who he has abused and manipulated, is to find him guilty by majorative or commonly held reports. It is no wonder that you place so much emphasis on the term 'commonly' from your elected translation of 1 Corinthians 5:1.

Still kissing an 18 year old girl on the lips is a probable hanging offence in some States. He may even have to suffer eternal torment for it. Now that will be worth watching as we bask in the glory of our own righteousness.

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 11:48

Ahh, someone went into the Greek to nullify the plain words of Scripture.

That is reported to be a common practice, today. It actually is a common practice.

Two witnesses is plenty. 30 is more than enough. I have been following this for 10 years so though it is not a surprise to me, I understand why it is a surprise to others.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/3/4 11:54

As part of our community rules we have:

7. SLANDERING OTHERS - We have a zero tolerance on slander, evil-speaking and speaking against a person's character without warrant. 'Slander no one.' / 'to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.' NASB (Titus 3:2). This is a very important biblical principle and we ask that you would especially respect the biblical method of approaching a brother privately (Matthew 18:15). Also there are hundreds of websites in the internet that exclusively post wrong teachings, errors and question the character of Christians, we do not want SermonIndex to be seen as such a ministry and ask that all forum members do not participate in posting in what is wrong. We believe simply that truth dispels errors and to focus on the truth will shine a light into all the darkness.

Please do read more here: https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=44556&forum=13

Towards Bill Gothard, and news about his falling, I at first was very grieved and reluctant to post the news item. I do not

agree with all the teachings of his ministry but did have respect for some things. I have heard recently from one elder brother that these allegations (some of them) could very well possibly be true and there is a seriousness here. I would personally rather post the end result from the ministry and godly men who are weighing this situation. That is the one reason why I was reluctant and still am to a small measure to cast a stone and say that Bill Gothard IS guilty.

we posted this above statement in this thread: https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=51725&forum=35

May we look to ourselves more than judging others. Have I watched women in a wrong way? Am I enjoying emotional conversations with women? Do I enjoy looking at pretty women?

May God preserve us from accusing others but ourselves being in transgression. May we pray for brothers who have seemingly failed.

I highly recommend this free booklet: Contentiously Contending: A Word to Today's Apologetics Emphasis by Anton Bosch

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/392961>

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 12:07

Greg, would you be clear? Are you accusing recoveringgrace.org of slandering? I have not read where anyone on SI is slandering. To accuse someone of slander is to slander them. Can you identify who you are accusing of slander or are you just warning everyone to be careful?

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/3/4 12:19

I don't know who this man is, so there is no way I can judge him. Nor am I interested in knowing the truth about these allegations.

But some of the comments here make me worried, it appears that people are biased to a person because of the success of ministry. Saying that these are sins covered by blood of Jesus, only shows the lack of seriousness to sin. Such terrible sexual misconduct are not performed overnight due to sudden temptation, it should be a result of long standing entertainment of sexual sin, unwilling to repent. Secondly this is not an ordinary church brother, he is involved in a ministry run by public money. A person with such serious sin whether repented or not cannot continue in a ministry. It is a serious thing to lead a ministry in God's name.

The reason I am stressing on this is there is a danger of us believing in wolf in sheepskin if we are blinded by fruit of a ministry rather than seeing the fruits in personal life.

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 12:23

Sree,

The issue was reported by a Christian magazine used widely by homeschoolers and Christians in general. It is a magazine about Christian worldview and world events which included events within Christendom.

The conversations here are not about him, as they have turned to what the Church should do in these situations according to the Scriptures. The ATI board is handling the matter and everyone should wait for their response.

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 13:00

Quote:

-----Ah, someone went into the Greek to nullify the plain words of Scripture. just-in

The plain words of scripture are written in Greek in this instance of 1 Corinthians chapter five!

Can I just say that I have no knowledge of Bill or his ministry or his teachings or his anything. It wouldn't matter to me what he had done for the Lord as far as using my mind is concerned to understand the truthfulness of something. The only reason I looked into this issue is because you made it so with your signature link to the web site which is condemning him. When I started to read those statements or testimonies of alleged abuse and compared that with the actual narrative of the website I found an alarming disparity. I kept it to myself then and have only commented now because once again you have raised the issue. You have encouraged people to go to this site and you have self evidently done so because you believe both the narrative and the testimony is true.

Now you are saying that all of this has somehow an official stamp of concern. So you say wait and see. There has been no waiting and seeing by anyone. The site condemned Bill online in public without reservation months ago. I made a copy of the site in its previous state to record the facts as they were. The new sight is a more sophisticated version in which the details are becoming more and more carefully worded as things gather momentum. Either way it is all going to come to a head very quickly and I rather doubt that Mr Gothard will be spared as the crowd is already baying for his neck. It is only a simple matter of translating things into a form of words which informs statutory responsibility in the issue of duty of care and employment, and any authority, other than criminal, will be obliged to press for his removal or else the ministry itself will collapse under the weight of a risk of future prosecution should anyone else come forwards with a more serious charge that clearly falls into the frame of reference of genuine abuse of a minor.

This is not truth and it is not true justice. Whatever it is, it will not matter to anyone who cannot see beyond the end of their noses.

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 13:11

I don't agree at all with how you are characterizing the content or the Believers on the website. I will not get into a tit for tat with you. There are many, many websites that speak of such evidence. I will not list them, but they are many more than what exists for Doug Phillips (Vision Forum) and the content is not new. It goes back many years. It is a well-known tactic to twist the words of the defendants and this situation is no different. That is all I will say.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/4 14:12

Just a quick comment:.

I attended Gothard seminars years ago, and truthfully, I cannot be thankful enough for how God used his ministry to break bondages in my own life and open my eyes to aspects of relationship that no one ever talked about before. Nothing that is currently being claimed about Gothard need nullify my gratitude to God. Yet my gratitude need not give me cause to deny the possibility of fallibility - even serious offense.

I continue to praise God for how he has used others in my life, including Gothard "and a host of others" some who have fallen, others who have not. King David is a one example.

Forgiveness is not about denying wrong, but about acknowledging it, and surrendering our right to retaliation. That includes tarring and feathering, or delighting in seeing this happen. May those involved handle this crisis with a spirit of humility and brokenness and serious soberness. It is the path to the cross.

It is always upsetting to see a hero fall, but that is a painful reality that we must learn to live with. Maturity frees us from our tendency to either deify or villinize others - both being a denial of reality.

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2014/3/4 16:15

I have yet to read the thread on gossip and slander, but all this debating as to this man's innocence or guilt just sickens me. If anyone is connected with this ministry and "knows" things, it is different. But to be discussing it ad nauseum as a "news item" is not what I think Christians ought to be doing.

I saw a comment somewhere that it was from an article in World magazine which is a magazine accepted among homeschoolers. That is true. We have subscribed to the magazine. But I honestly cancelled my subscription over what seemed inappropriate "dirt" that was in print over another sex scandal - I am thinking it was the Bill Clinton incident, though I don't know if the magazine has been in print that long. It is just not necessary... I am not advocating hiding sin under the carpet. I just think as believers we ought not to be feasting on more than just a simple reporting of the incident. More than that, especially if it doesn't concern you, is not Christlike.

I am closer to this situation than some on this forum, and there are things I could report. But why?? Why would I do that? To make myself appear to be "in the know"? Again, I am not advocating hiding sin....but just let's examine our motives here....

We ought to be so very grieved at such an incident, whether it is TRUE OR FALSE because it tarnishes the name of Christ....I don't sense that some are as concerned at the reputation of Christ, as much as casting stones....

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/3/4 16:41

Quote:

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Sister, fully agreed. Thank you for sharing your heart. We ought to be very grieved and prayerful for true brethren when they have fallen into the enemies traps.

"reputation of Christ".

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2014/3/4 16:49

And you, Greg Gordon, owner of Sermon Index, and I, mama27, homeschooling mother of 7, are just as easily able to fall into the enemy's trap....indeed, the higher the profile or what is at stake, I believe the more one is a target of the enemy....let us not think we are immune for one second!

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 17:10

mama27,

Who in the world is "feasting over this"? Everyone is grieved at how it has been handled and for all the people involved, including Bill and especially for the Lord Jesus.

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2014/3/4 17:24

If I am over-reacting, I'm sorry, please forgive me....

Re: , on: 2014/3/4 17:34

Absolutely, mama27, of course.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/3/4 18:53

Quote:

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Sister,

I do not think you are over-reacting at all. I fully agree that we need to get the right perspective on these things of how the Lord is thinking right now. These type of sad stories put a great fear of the Lord in me. Thank you for your humility in not wanting to hurt anyone in your comments for myself personally I was encouraged by what you wrote and feel you were doing the job of a moderator to put the conversation in the right tone and direction of how we should be thinking.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/4 22:15

I see value in checking this out. On reading the links, I would say that this is far more than just the fall of one leader. It's about a sick system, a damaging way of functioning, seen all too often in religious environments. The teaching promotes an unquestioning submission to authority with a tendency to scapegoat the victims. I never caught that years ago. It seemed right. And to be fair, there was indeed good being taught. But the good also masked the troubling aspects.

I admit, years ago I could see some damaging effects of Gothardism in marriages and families. But I believed this was because the followers adhered to the absolute letter of the law as interpreted by Gothard, rather than try to grasp the biblical principles in themselves. I admit, I was more critical than understanding.

I'd say that we cannot blame one person, and yet we can't regard anyone as merely a victim. I don't think that's the aim here. I see this thread as an invitation to empathize with the pain of those who were damaged, shamed, turned off of God, and robbed of the experience of grace. And we see that there's many who unwittingly enabled this. Let's admit, the teaching is especially appealing to those who like to maintain a controlling kind of authoritarianism, believing this to be godly authority. And there are also many (like wives) who put humans as their head, above Christ who also unwittingly perpetuated the teaching of failing to grasp their own calling and destiny.

At the end of the day we are drawn Christ-ward humbly admitting how easy it is to get caught up in ungodly systems of functioning believing it to be quite right.

Diane

Thank you Just-in for posting this, and thank you Greg, for giving us the space here to process this - in all our imperfections.

Re: , on: 2014/3/5 1:16

I had to say I wondered how long it would take to come to this point you make Diane.

Quote:
-----And there are also many (like wives) who put humans as their head, above Christ â€" who also unwittingly perpetuated the teaching
â€" failing to grasp their own calling and destiny.

You are absolutely right about one thing. It is much more about the issue of feminism and removing the male from the head of the woman than it has to do with Bill's years long issues over 'dating' numerous young women.

I knew where Just-In was coming from the moment he made this site his signature four weeks ago. That was in response to another discussion on the very same subject as well.

You're all mad as hatters. Still in the end you are reaping what you have sown as a nation and that is a fact.

Re: - posted by Beige, on: 2014/3/5 6:17

Well I pray God will bless us all with wisdom! Sree, if you are referring to my statement about Bill's sins and my own sin being covered by the blood of Christ as being a lack of seriousness to sin -- I believe I may have not done my best in trying to communicate the reason I made that statement: Rather it is because of the seriousness of ALL sin and the power of God to convict us of it that brings us to repentance -- It is only after acknowledging the seriousness of our sin that we come to repentance -- then the blood of Jesus does indeed cover us -- It covers our sins and blots them out. And God does this for each and every person who truly repents. That is what the scriptures teach and this is how God has worked in my life -- And do I still believe Bill Gothard is a man of God and that he has a repentant heart? Absolutely! And where is the horrible sin this accused man is supposed to have committed? Was it because he kissed a woman when he was a young single man? Other than that he is accused of defrauding of which he made apologies -- Bill's own definition of that word is raising desires in anyone that can not be righteously fulfilled. So he may have apologized for allowing a child to stare too long at candy that was forbidden by his mother -- Anyway, to leap from an apology to the serious charges of criminal acts of sexual harassment is reaching, way reaching and appears to be malicious. And yes, I attended five of IBLP seminars and am very thankful to God for giving me that opportunity. Now that having been said -- I am going to be in earnest prayer for this man in this trying time and if it is found that he has committed any serious crime, I will be praying for his redemption and restoration. I for one can not see how it would please God for his church to turn her back on this man -- especially in light of the unrepentant sins of the people of this nation whom we still pray for and ask God for His redeeming grace to bring into true repentance... Thank you. I will not address this thread again.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/5 8:06

Quote:
-----Well I pray God will bless us all with wisdom!

Great prayer! My questions would be:

What kind of wisdom are we in need of?

What need arises from this moral crisis in the Christian community?

That, to me, would be a profitable discussion.

Diane

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2014/3/5 9:01

after much prayer and really reading what frank posted in the other thread i think it better that leave this thread. i change d this post because what i had written before was not edifying to the body and i did not want to cause anyone to stumble . i will be in prayer for all concerned parties and Gods heart and will prevail in this.

rdg

Re: , on: 2014/3/5 11:17

One thing I would like to be able to understand which is in a sense removed from any moral issues has to do with the teachings of Bill Gothard.

I understand the issue of overstating the role of authority in the family and from that extrapolating a legalistic position in which children and other family members can be dealt with in a less than gentle way. That aspect of the effect of Bill's teachings appears to be fairly easily understood. I think that also explains the response of some who emphasise equality between family members, especially husbands and wives.

The thing which is eluding me at the moment has to do with a special emphasis which the Recovering Grace website is placing on what they see to be a significant problem with the teaching on the tripartite view of man. Spirit, Soul and Body . Does anyone know why this teaching is problematic?

I also have read through the transcript of a conference call made with regard to Bill, in 1983 as well as transcript notes going back to 1971 and I can see no reference to this teaching or why it is problematic.

The reason I am asking is that I have been researching a number of other instances of very high profile brothers from a number of countries going back to the 1950's where this teaching has been raised as a fundamental doctrinal foundation upon which individual men are said to present a genuine behavioural and theological attitude which ends up being destructive. This includes top down authoritative structures, modelled on the patriarchal family model, an ability to disregard serious moral issues, independent and elitist decision making which ultimately harms others as well as other points.

Does anyone know why believing in Spirit, Soul and Body can be claimed to justify this effect? How does that distinction give rise to patriarchal and by de facto adoption, also effect and influence the churches as well?

What happened in the USA in the mid 70's or thereabouts which led to this very strong response to reject the principle of headship in the home, and the church in the sense of embracing political feminist views? How does Spirit, Soul and Body teachings link in with that embrace?

This is not my imagination at work. In researching a particular brother over the last few months I have found a surprising link back to the USA and especially theological colleges in the USA and adoption of this same criticism of this teaching in the natal country of origin.

Also I don't want to participate in a political gender discussion, whether sociologically informed or psychologically informed. From the perspective of the world such things are easily understood and justified without regard to consequences.

I see that one of the biggest concerns expressed over Bill Gothard was originally his lack of qualification to be a seminary teacher. To that criticism he went and got himself a PhD in 2005. This expression was made by theological professors as evidenced by their participation in historical attempts to remove Bill which go right back to 1971. It so happens that I have found evidence that this same process was started with other well known pastors and teachers around that same time in the USA, and all the accusations can be found in their case as well. Yet the one thing which seems to elude me is why this teaching of Spirit, Soul and Body keeps getting cited as a fundamental and important ingredient in explaining their overarching personal and spiritual lives of these men who are being dealt with in this way.

If no one can answer my question or else it seems to the moderators that it is an inappropriate question to ask please feel completely free to just ignore it. I could say that consistently over the past two years I have seen that some members almost always present a political position (as I understand it) when speaking about the problems of sin in the church, and especially sexual sin by pastors and elders. They have specifically opposed this teaching of Spirit, Soul and Body as well.

ell. What is the connection?

Re: , on: 2014/3/5 12:54

Teachings of any man should be examined in the light of scripture without touching the man (teacher) or fear of reprisal from others. I don't think I have seen any of Gothard's teachings examined on SI, which is a curious thing to me.

However, the SI forum members have been diligent to examine the teachings of many others.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/5 12:59

Amrkelky,

You've raise many valid points. I wish I could sit down with you and share about these things. Here's a few cursory comments:

Quote:

----- I understand the issue of overstating the role of authority in the family and from that extrapolating a legalistic position in which children and other family members can be dealt with in a less than gentle way. That aspect of the effect of Bill's teachings appears to be fairly easily understood. I think that also explains the response of some who emphasise equality between family members, especially husbands and wives.

I would say that the issue is not about "overstating" the role of authority, but of misusing a position of power. I see many responding to abuse of power by calling for "equality", and in one sense I agree if it's about human value. After all, no people group can claim to have more value, no matter how much power they wield (see Matt. 18:1-2). But if this is over equality in power and privilege well, in real life, that's fictitious. There will always be those who wield more power and have the advantages to do so. Historically, males have had a lot more power advantages than women, and I believe that scripture simply acknowledges that as it does the practice of slavery in the Roman world or of dictatorship (Caesar). It's not about power in itself, but how to live our lot in life. In Christ we can live Godly lives wherever we find ourselves on the power grid. In Christ a slave is a free man; and the powerless have mighty power from above, etc.

Quote:

----- Does anyone know why believing in Spirit, Soul and Body can be claimed to justify this effect? How does that distinction give rise to patriarchal and by de facto adoption, also effect and influence the churches as well?

Here's my take on this:

Tripartism is not biblical! It's a worldly mindset of compartmentalizing our being. The biblical people did not do that. The "soul" was not considered an entity in itself, or lesser than the "spirit". Whenever you have a faulty pre-supposition, then faulty teachings are bound to flow out of this.

Maybe someone else will take this from here as it applies to "Gothardism" and other teachings. It's worth exploring!

Diane

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/3/5 14:34

rdg,

You are absolutely right. So many times the women are given the shaft and the men are left with a mere slap on the wrist.

And...and...sometimes the woman gets pregnant and then the preacher will pressure her to abort and who will carry the burden of that guilt?? She will. If she carries the child to term the child will always serve as a reminder to her of her sin, or his if she was raped. And him?

In our church alliance when a pastor gets involved in immorality, his pastoral credentials are immediately revoked and he comes under the authority of others for redeeming. I also think he has disqualified himself forever from any leadership position. Stern? Not really. After all, once a person starts acting out his immoral fantasies you know they have ongoing for some time - it is not an incident where "Oops! I made a mistake" happened.

Bill, David and any other leaders are made with flesh and blood and if they sin God will not look the other way and let them off scot free just because they have been effective leaders - they will have to give account just like the least person among us. I used to say if preachers are super holy then I should have inherited some of that because my grandpa was a wonderful preacher. But I am here to tell you he needed a Savior just like anyone else. And so did his children and all his descendants.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/5 14:53

Quote:

----- I also think he has disqualified himself forever from any leadership position. Stern?

Could this at times be an "over-caution" influenced by the ones who were not authentic? Perhaps this is the very person who can help another to victory with a truly empathetic heart. The church is left deprived of a potential benefit; and the "sinner" is condemned to his past. Is that biblical?

Maybe church should run more like AA and you wouldn't have this problem.

Diane

Re: , on: 2014/3/5 15:23

It seems very unlikely that anyone would disagree that we ought to test what we have heard. Pretty well everyone who teaches would agree with that surely? Otherwise they are simply running the risk of being completely ignored. I know that this is not the same as realising that many people may not test what they hear, especially if they are following a man. It was rather to say that those like Bill who have given their whole lives to their calling hold a sincere belief in what they teach and to that end support what they believe Scripturally. No one is perfect. I don't suppose anyone would really dare to claim they are. Again they would be ignored pretty soon if they did.

I have no intention of getting into Bill's teaching ministry and what he taught. My guess is that I would most likely agree with most all of it. But I don't really know that for certain. I do know that the more perfectly someone presents Scripture and their beliefs around the Scriptures, the less likely those who read their teachings are to rely on the Holy Spirit to teach them directly. Perhaps the Holy Spirit simply confirms for most people what others have wrestled over in a godly desire to serve God.

Perhaps Diane will allow me to quote her from March 2006 in a discussion on how to exercise wisdom in choosing one's marriage partner.

Quote:
-----I have the solution: The PARENTS should pick the spouses. After all, the parents have tons more maturity and insight than their offspring. Now, the next challenge is: How do we implement this? The closest I have heard of this in the Christian community is Bill Gothard. He did not believe in dating, and he believed that the parents should be consented and be considered the authorities in these matters. I think he has some valid, excellent teachings about marriage.

The only thing about Gothard, is that apparently wherever his seminars have been, there is a higher incidence of divorce. Perhaps that is the danger of presenting very high standards that just can't be met in real life. The pressure rises and snap!

That quote perfectly corresponds to what I posted when I said in my last post:

Quote:
-----I understand the issue of overstating the role of authority in the family and from that extrapolating a legalistic position in which children and other family members can be dealt with in a less than gentle way. That aspect of the effect of Bill's teachings appears to be fairly easily understood. I think that also explains the response of some who emphasise equality between family members, especially husbands and wives.

There is no way I am going to speak against what I would regard to be basic truths concerning authority, submission and obedience in these things. Regardless as to the consequences I don't think error can be avoided completely. Not the teacher, nor those who hear him.

My reason for making my last seemingly emollient post was not in any way whatsoever intended to get into debating Bill's ministry or teaching. It was believe it or not exactly what I said. I never cease to be surprised that when I am reasonable in my posts I am always taken to mean the very opposite to what I actually mean. It is no wonder I have to confine myself to straight speaking.

Which brings me to your point about separation of the teacher from the teaching. It cannot be done. I don't believe that it can be justified Scripturally. Bill isn't going to escape the consequences of teaching a straight line either. This isn't simply a matter of being more strictly judged hereafter by the Lord, it will also mean being judged here and now more strictly as well.

I believe that it is in this context that Bill and others like him, who have taken a biblical stance on the true meaning of family life as God Himself has presented it to us, are soft targets when it comes to things going wrong. What I cannot accept is that presenting true Godly and Biblical values of itself is where the fault lays. To me overemphasis is often a too narrow focus if we go too far in pressing even that which is true.

The fact that we can make our own mistakes and sin ourselves simply means that we will actually be hated by some of those we have taught. I know plenty of kids who have hated (emotional) their parents for a season. If the parents then stumble themselves the kids will fall even harder on them and they may even fall away for a short or long season of time. What are we going to do when this happens? Throw away the truth? Or will we keep on with the truth with tears and ask our children to forgive us because we have stumbled! If we do stumble and become angry with our kids what then? They simply feel justified. If we have really loved them from the beginning it ought not to last for long. But there are no guarantees as everyone who has grown up children knows.

In a society such as the USA and the UK this could even mean our children beginning to feel justified in holding us to account in ways which are unfathomable to most of the world, including many European countries as well.

With Bill the attacks started in 1971. That is a long time to bear with others who are offended because other members of our family are imperfect. I can't say much more than that. I am still trying to understand how the one teaching of Spirit, Soul and Body could possibly have any bearing on these things. No doubt the Lord will show me if I need to know.

As for separating the teacher from the teaching, it cannot be done. I know everyone wants it to be true and some even go to great lengths to insist on it. In the end if you teach it and you are sincere then you must also believe it. If you believe it you will live it. If you live it you will also set the very example in visibility of that which you have taught. If others hear it and see your example they will either walk faithfully or they will stumble. Either way it will be to your account.

I don't know what you mean about fear of reprisals from others, but it sounds like you don't want to be taken to task your

self. Anytime you want to take me to task please do it. I really will not be offended no matter how straight you are with me. But if I do start to poke the nest with a stick it is because I am trying to dislodge the serpents.

Re: , on: 2014/3/5 15:55

Actually, amr, I believe some men's teachings are probably not to be discussed on SI, but I could be wrong and easily test that by discussing some of IBLP's teachings. However, there is so much material online regarding Gothardism, that I really don't have the inclination or the time to go over ground that has already been thoroughly worked. The senior folks here at SI who are intimately aware of Gothardism owe it to the Body of Christ to have exposed the severe errors in Gothardism and how they could affect an individual, families and the Body of Christ at large (and have). You are very new to it and reading from your posts, you are not even scratching the surface. Most of what you say, you are saying from a very uninformed position, diminishing the side of those who have been taken advantage of and strengthening (enabling) the other side, by your uninformed statements.

It is much more than the teaching of Spirit, Soul and Body. Please do some research first.

The reason I say examine the teaching without touching the teacher, is because I am keenly aware from observation that whenever someone on SI examines the teaching of a "beloved teacher", SI senior staff accuse you of slandering the teacher. If I am wrong, then I would invite SI to invite anyone (doesn't have to be me) to start a thread to examine IBLP Teachings.

I find that stance, incredulous and unproductive and a disservice to the Body of Christ and thinking, discerning individuals.

That is all I have time for now. Not being terse, just have an appointment to go to.

Blessings to you.

Re: , on: 2014/3/5 17:00

Brother I am doing my research and I know what others have said very well indeed. What I do not know is what Bill actually said. That is because I haven't had any reason to know. My own family have all been home schooled and unfortunately for us it was all grounded in North American culture. For a British man that was a real sacrifice I can tell you! My son James, bless him, still knows more about the USA than he knows about Britain. We pray for him daily.

On a more serious note I feel sure that the reason Greg doesn't want this to turn into a testing everything forum is because that in itself wouldn't really satisfy any genuine spiritual purpose. Mama27 made the point that having a need to know is most likely the only true basis for knowing. Otherwise we would be all at sea with criticism.

As a trustee of a private christian school which is the national representative for a North American home school system I struggle all the time with what I can see. Not that I have read anything which I believed was doctrinally wrong. In fact it has all been pretty sound in that sense. It is just a little smarmy and self righteous at times and fails to take account of all those imperfect kids that just don't get it for whatever reason. On the other hand I have seen some really lovely and obedient children who are in no way ignorant of reality. They just have the blessing of being able to obey their parents and teachers. Like it or not it is to their benefit. Just as my own rebelliousness as a child at school went against me.

As far as the Spirit, Soul, and Body thing is concerned I actually believe it without reservation. My thought there has nothing to do with believing that particular teaching to be false. I am not seeking to assert anything false at all.

You are not the first to ask the same question regarding IBLP here on SI. I could show you but you wouldn't thank me for it. If I am completely open I too have scratched my head at times with some articles. Not the content of that particular article necessarily, but rather the author's broader teachings or beliefs have been the issue. Today it happened yet again. I very nearly posted something else this particular author had written and then thought why? There is nothing wrong with what's posted why bother with that which is not seen. Some things are worth pursuing, but it isn't always easy to pursue somethings and it takes a good deal of wisdom and opportunity of the Lord to persist with it. But it must be in the Spirit or otherwise it will simply cause people to become critical. That is why I spend so much time making sure I don't lead a rebellion when I am pressing a point. If anyone wants to follow me they had better get ready to be thrown off the cliff. I won't tolerate it in any circumstance at all. Can you say the same brother? Are you really very certain that you know how to resist

becoming a cause of stumbling and rebellion in others? If not you have absolutely no authority to say anything at all in criticism of others.

The church or the body of Christ is not a democracy. We don't get to vote. If we cannot accept that then no doubt that will prove difficult. I have stood for men who I have no doubt represent some difficulty for me. Regardless as to how it may seem brother my personal life has been most exceptional in every sense. I have an amazing faithful and obedient wife, I have a severely disabled son who the Lord uses in his own body to teach me daily, another son who is simply just like I was at his age only without all the bad parts, and a daughter who didn't even kiss a boy until she kissed her husband. Yet I am a complete dog. I have done heroin, morphine, smack and coke, smoked more nine bars than I can remember. Slept with prostitutes, ruined innocent girls, lied, stolen, hated and railed against authorities. And all of that was before I reached 23 years old. When I really reflect on those things it always amazes me that the Lord has blessed me with such a wife and children.

I ask 'Lord why?' The Lord always tells me the same thing. 'I want you the way you are'. The Lord tied me down with chords of righteousness. Praise His name. What a God we serve! If Bill has said any good thing and I know that he has, then that good thing is worth saying. The rest is of no use unless you are prepared to really be broken for the sake of the one you are to minister too.

Re: Gothard - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/3/6 1:09

Back in the late 70's I attended what was called at the time the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts. Bill Gothard was spell binding for a full week of meetings, 25,000 people listened carefully and respectfully as the man went through the workings of relationships and the obligations of Godly living. Evening after evening he explained things in a comprehensive progression that used simple Scripture and stories that reinforced the principles of life.

At the time, I believed that his explanation of how submission to authority facilitates one's ability to function in the power of the Holy Spirit was dead on, and to this day I believe in the essentials of living under authority that I learned there.

For me, just prior to coming into this teaching I had been exposed to quite an open field of Spiritual gifts, but did not have the solid ground I needed to understand where trouble could come from. The things I learned from Bill Gothard have been a blessing in my walk in Christ ever since.

Some years after this, I was asked by a pastor friend for a reference as he made application to attend a school run by the Gothard ministry. The man was eminently qualified, but because he wore a beard he was denied. The response he received said the beard was a symbol of rebellion! I thought this to be somewhat outrageous, since I had come to believe that Mr. Gothard had a better understanding of the real sources of spiritual rebellion. Some people keep a beard because their facial skin does not tolerate shaving very well!

Alas, so many of these teachers go off into tangents that they alone think are important. Some even launch into full-on sins with a million excuses for it. As for Bill Gothard, I have no knowledge of his situation. My dog isn't in this fight.

All I know is that sound teaching will bring a good result in the ears and hearts of those who seek to know God, regardless of where the teacher goes afterward. The story of faith healer A. A. Allen was that following his meetings where apparently many were healed and brought to Christ, he would retire to his hotel room and drink himself into oblivion.

I do not know the terrible temptation these people must go through, but I am aware of Paul's careful words in 1 Corinthians 9:27 "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

Life can get messy, and it is the delight of The Adversary to catch the big fish and slaughter them in full view of vulnerable disciples.

People need to read their own bibles, seek their own relationship with Christ, learn to hear God for themselves as they absorb the truth of scripture into their own Godly character. They will be then much less likely to stumble along side their beloved teachers.

Re: - posted by Beige, on: 2014/3/6 4:17

Diane --

Thank you for your question. My prayer for wisdom for all of us was more intended as a greeting and came from a sincere heart's desire to see blessings fall from God to each person in this online community. I had no "manipulating" motive involved and had no intention of implying failure in regard to anything by that greeting. I can not speak to what "type" (if there are types of wisdom) of wisdom anyone else may need, as I believe that "wisdom" is personally revealed to each of us by God as He directs us in our walk with Him. I know that when I pray for wisdom for myself I often begin to see how foolish I have been!

What need arises? Well perhaps we believers can do what cows do: They eat the hay and leave the straw. If folks do not like the teachings of IBLP I do not think they have to be a part of that ministry. But if God blesses someone through IBLP (and many have seen their entire families blessed by it) then I for one will praise our King for that. All in all if I compare the fruit of IBLP's teachings to that of some of the pure evil humanism's teaching or some of the occult and cult teaching which have been recently revived in this country -- Well, I am sure you know of which I would proclaim as having value! I would much rather have Bill Gothard teach my children than the local heroin dealer! And, I am sure that many of the people who ask for prayer everyday for their drug addicted children would love to be able to turn back time and give their children just one chance to have been rooted and grounded in just one IBLP seminar!

Now I digress and express another need near the end of this post: Many people dislike IBLP's teaching on authority. I can address this by an example of a family's life experience whom I watched as it unfolded. I was attending a church wherein most of the church leadership had been to the seminars offered by Mr. Gothard. A young woman attended the same church and had been a believer for about five years. Her husband was not a believer. Neither of them had attended one of the seminars. The woman had a very difficult time respecting her husband and could not submit to him. He never came to church during that time. Then something happened -- for some reason she changed her attitude -- was it God that changed her? Her whole being changed in her attitude toward her husband. She no longer projected herself as the "I am in the know and you are outside" toward her husband and actually began to submit to him. This caused him to stop rejecting the gospel because of his attitude toward her which was: "if I accept Christ I will have to submit to her!" To make a long story short he is now a leading deacon in that church and his lovely wife adores him as the spiritual leader of their home. He began to fear God when he realized that she was going to submit to him and that he, himself would be responsible for her, and that God would hold him responsible for all that he did that affected his family. This seems to be a common fear and a common weakness among men who have had their wives accept Christ before they do. Men seem to inherently know even before they are saved that they will be accountable for their families and they also have a fear of being "required" to submit to their wives. This "fear" grows and is greatly complicated if the wife as in this case projects herself as in some kind of authority over her husband. This family has now become pillars in that church and are blessed by God -- they have learned to submit to each other and to the Lord Jesus. This fruit came about I believe as a direct result of the leadership of the church having been exposed to the IBLP seminars.

I told that story to say this: In the early years of the seminars many people wanted to buy the videos for private use. The institute did not sell them because they believed that the entire seminar needed to be taken in its full context to fully grasp the principles being taught. They did not want a smidgen here and a smidgen there being taken out of context -- the seminars are not sexist and not against women as some allege -- rather they are full of praises for women and the powerful opportunities all women have in the service of our King -- and they teach husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church -- and we all know he died for the church. So the other need !! If anyone has not yet attended a full seminar from IBLP -- I highly recommend that you do so and the sooner the better!

I apologize for posting to this thread after having said I would not do so again. I felt compelled and honor bound to answer your sincere questions.

Re: , on: 2014/3/6 6:06

Quote:
-----Some years after this, I was asked by a pastor friend for a reference as he made application to attend a school run by the Gothard ministry. The man was eminently qualified, but because he wore a beard he was denied. The response he received said the beard was a symbol of rebellion! I thought this to be somewhat outrageous, since I had come to believe that Mr. Gothard had a better understanding of the real sources of spiritual rebellion. Some people keep a beard because their facial skin does not tolerate shaving very well!! sidewalk

I found this comment of yours very insightful. At first I did a second take at the idea of a beard being a symbol of rebellion. Then immediately I realized in context of US culture in the 1970's wearing beards and being young was definitely associated with the hippie culture. The same was true in the UK. Long hair had a more pertinent effect. Long hair and a beard would get you strung up in some States. Bill's ministry began in the context of a concern for young people at a time when

When the US had a drugs problem which most people, including US citizens don't realise was destroying thousands of lives across cities in the US. Isn't this where David Wilkerson steps onto the stage? No beards amongst those he ministered to I grant you, but the spinoff from the hippie culture and the introduction of an open use of recreational drugs into society cannot have been unimportant.

I agree that wearing a beard is of no consequence, but as with most things in context, those who are setting an example may well feel it is appropriate to act in a way that counters the cultural influences on the youth they care about. Who knows! It is just one more of those many things that will be used to 'prove' legalism and a lack of discernment. All I can say is that my sons have beards as I do myself, most of the people I know don't have beards. You may laugh at this but when I was a young believer I thought having a beard was a sign of maturity. If I had been in Bill's shoes everyone would have been required to wear a beard including the sisters! Now that would have been weird!

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/6 7:15

Quote:

----- I thought having a beard was a sign of maturity.

This reminds me of the Amish who require married men to wear beards. Failing to do so would be considered rebellion and worldliness.

I would say that the deeper sin is pre-mature judging - attributing MOTIVES to people based on outer appearance. Strange, isn't it: what's judged as maturity to one is considered immaturity to another. And so God's people are divided from one another. You judge the other to be sub-spiritual, and then you can justify your cold love to him, your slander, unmercifulness, distancing, dehumanizing, and ultimately - torture, murder and mass annihilation - all for "the sake" of God. You think you are striving to keep the church free from impurity... Let's not take this lightly!!! It's a sad trait in the historical church. CAN IT NOT BE A TEMPTATION IN EACH OF US????

I'd say: Romans 14 is the antidote for this bent and the much needed wisdom that BEIGE prays for. I'm not sure how Gothard handles Romans 14. From my memory attending seminars, I'd say that Gothard conveyed a merciful attitude.

Diane

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/6 8:15

Quote:

----- What need arises? Well perhaps we believers can do what cows do: They eat the hay and leave the straw.

I love your response! But how does a cow learn the difference between hay and straw? And if you're not a cow (or farmer) you might not know. It might all look the same to you.

A personal note: I attended 2 basic seminars, one advanced seminar, and read literature. It's all beautifully, professionally done, I'd say. And there is a lot of fabulous teaching. The standards are very high, and I think that can be a temptation in itself. If you can adhere to the principles you can get proud, and if you can't adhere, or your spouse won't comply, you feel a failure, and consigned to a life of inferior spirituality. We can't just blame Gothard, any more than we can blame the Old Covenant Law. The law may be righteous and holy (Rom. 7:7) but our sinful nature is the main culprit. We can have evil desires - insidiously evil. We want knights-in-shining-armour, we want power, we relish in self-righteousness - and we like teachings to accommodate our sinful desire.

Well, Gothard's laws are pretty ideal I'd say. But then his applications become laws in themselves: Thou shalt have many children: Thou shalt homeschool: thou shalt wear a beard: thou shalt use home remedies for gall bladder stones, etc.

The authority teachings concern me most because they are fundamental to our attitude toward all the other principles. You really do have to know where a demand goes over the edge. You have to learn what of yourself is to be rendered u

unto God and what is to be rendered unto Caesar (or Gothard, or any human). Let's admit, our Caesars typically want more from us than they should have. That can be true for governments, parents, spouses, and any authority. And it turned out that Gothard wanted too much from his followers. Their loyalty (submission) crossed the fine line between hay and straw. Those who should have, did not call it as it was and so it ultimately it went public. And now we all feel the shame.

Question: What is there about us that tempts us to render too much unto our "Caesars"?

Diane

Re: , on: 2014/3/6 8:33

Quote:

-----Question: What is there about us that tempts us to render too much unto our "Caesars"?

We were created to derive our spiritual life from a source outside of ourselves. We were created to look to another for our spiritual life. That is only found in Christ.

It is easier to follow a man (walk by sight) than abide in the Lord. To truly follow the Lord and abide in Him one must have the Spirit and embrace the cross.

The cross is the key and the flesh will do anything to avoid it, even becoming quite religious, nullifying God's word, by codifying it with our own principles, rules and regulations which have an appearance of godliness but no power of His life and His love. Religious flesh has created many ways to avoid the cross.

It is very deceptive as it causes one to believe they are doing what is right and just for themselves and their family and that we are pleasing God. But we will fail to see how legalistic we are and how harsh and judgmental we are towards others. There are many individuals today that want you to conform to their idea of being a Christian.

Also, the desires and lusts of the flesh cannot be controlled by self-imposed religious rules and boundaries. There exists no true power.

<http://ronhenzel.tripod.com/GothardZone/08-BG2BG/index.html>

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/6 21:54

I read the link. Interesting critique. I would think that such concerns easily pass under the radar because it seems so right - esp in conservative Christianity - or in strict religious environments in general: Unwavering allegiance to authority figures, asceticism, holiness-type teaching, good behaviour, etc.

Sounds like the church of antiquity - Rule of St. Benedict, etc.

Diane

Re: , on: 2014/3/7 1:22

by roadsign on 2014/3/6 21:54:10

Quote:

-----I read the link. Interesting critique. I would think that such concerns easily pass under the radar because it seems so right - esp in conservative Christianity - or in strict religious environments in general: Unwavering allegiance to authority figures, asceticism, holiness-type teaching, good behaviour, etc.

Sounds like the church of antiquity - Rule of St. Benedict, etc.

I certainly can't disagree with you on that, Diane. What "seems so right", often is the fertile ground of many things of which G. Richard Fisher gives a fair critique about regarding IBLP's teachings and worrisome interpretations of scripture.

<http://www.pfo.org/bgothard.htm>

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2014/3/7 7:51

I must be away from the computer for a few days, so cannot explore this topic as thoroughly as I'd like.

I comment on the title of Just-in's last link: "Benevolent Ministry or Bondage Making". My thought: Even the OT Law became Bondage Making, but the problem was the sin nature of the people. And so, no matter how many holes we can see in "gothardism", we do well to consider our sin nature in itself - and what makes us become bondage makers - even toward ourselves. If we do that, then we can be less likely to become trapped in similar kinds of teaching (of which there is no end). Scripture addresses it a lot, but these references tend to get bypassed - and the Bible gets turned into a bondage maker.

It's worth exploring our tendency to become overly dependent on authority figures - parents, religious folk etc. We want their praises and we fear their criticisms - and when they fail to meet our ideals, give us what we crave, we turn against them, condemn them, rebel, etc. But God points his finger at our own hearts - and our idolatrous nature.

I'm glad this discussion is moving in a profitable direction. It's not merely a venue for scapegoating a man or his followers - but an opportunity for self-examination and growth into maturity.

Blessings to you all.
Diane

Re: , on: 2014/3/7 9:20

Amen, Diane. I will be away for a few days (traveling), too. It is definitely worth exploring why we have a propensity to be dependent on men.

Our problem today is not so much legalism but rather authoritarianism. Legalistic teachings seem to come through authoritarian teachers. American evangelicals seem to have an infatuation with spiritual authority.

The Bible teaches Christ alone has spiritual authority over His people, and every believer in His kingdom is a priest unto God. Nobody else has "spiritual authority" over anybody else. Christ, in shepherding His people, dispenses spiritual gifts to enable us to serve one another, never to rule over one another.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/3/7 9:46

Brethren,

I am going to ask saints to end the discussion here about Bill Gothard and his ministry. We do not believe it is flawless in doctrine but there is much more right than wrong and I personally do not agree with much of the criticism apart from the allegations of sexual mis-conduct brought out recently.

We therefore want saints to pray for Bill Gothard and this ministry. We also want to not publically discuss and tear apart his ministry or man anymore. Also for those who have to know instead of guessing whether he is guilty or not I believe you should wait to hear officially from their ministry as they have said:

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â€œThe Board of Directors of the Institute in Basic Life Principles is doing a very prayerful, thorough, and Biblical review in regards to the assertions brought by various individuals and groups. After completion of the review the Board will respond at an appropriate time, and in a Biblical manner.

â€œMr. Gothard is on administrative leave while the Board completes its review. He will not be involved in the operations of the ministry. The Board of Directors will be prayerfully appointing interim leadership.â€œ

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So this investigation is still pending by their board, they have emailed all of their families this also. I want all saints to consider here that 1000's of young people's walk with the Lord are at stake. Many have been deeply discouraged by these events and the enemy (Satan) is working greatly to un-do all the good God has done by organizations such as this and Vision Forum and others.

This free ebook speaks of the need for us to share the heart of the Lord towards those who are wrong in doctrine or life and I encourage saints who have participated in this thread to consider to read this booklet:

Contentiously Contending: A Word to Today's Apologetics Emphasis

By Anton Bosch

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/392961>

We are locking this thread and ask that other threads not be open towards Bill Gothard and His ministry in the near future. There is enough links to accusative materials for people to consider if this ministry is not valid. And we know enough of the situation to pray adequately for this ministry and Bill Gothard as a brother also.