



*An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL*

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

### **Learning From the Heartache**

Dear Pastor,

Like us, no doubt your heart is heavy and your shoulders droop when you get news of the moral failure of someone in ministry. Recently an acquaintance, formerly in ministry, was imprisoned for sexual assault of a minor. Even more recently an evangelical pastor in our state has been accused and charged with a similar crime. The families and ministries need our prayers, to be sure.

There are things we can and must learn from these incidences. One is the harsh reality that if we fail to guard our hearts, there is no telling what despicable sin we are capable of. King David's failure is recorded for our learning and admonition, but far too often, leaders have ignored the warning. Families and ministries suffer the devastating destructiveness of sin.



On a more positive note, we can learn that it is possible to protect both ourselves and our ministries. Ask yourself: If we experienced this kind of moral failure in our ministry, what would we wish we had done to prevent it? If you haven't already, we encourage you to take steps now to implement policies and practices that create accountability and that will contribute to an environment where the possibility of moral failure is significantly reduced.

To that end, we commend to you [Policies and Procedures for Sexual Integrity](#) from Proven Ministries. Much that is valuable is included in this document, but perhaps the most helpful is the section on policies and procedures from 7 different ministries. If you don't have policies and procedures in place, this will be a good place to get direction. If you have policies and procedures in place, you may wish to review them for completeness and adequacy. Policies and procedures for sexual integrity communicate to those in your ministry that you are serious about this issue, and it also communicates to a watching world that you take this issue seriously.

The world continues to push the boundaries of moral constraint. At the same time, it is quick to mock ministers and ministries for failing in this area, and understandably so. We are sure you, like us, want to do whatever we can to protect ourselves and our ministries from this kind of failure. We certainly owe at least that much to our Savior, and to the sheep of His pasture.

In Christ,



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P.S: If you as a pastor are struggling in the area of sexual integrity, you might consider getting help from Proven Ministries. Click [HERE](#) for confidential accountability and support.

P.P.S: Please pray this week for Representatives Kalan Haywood (Milwaukee) and Shannon Zimmerman (River Falls) and Senator Jesse James (Altoona).

P.P.P.S: [Here is a really good article by Andrew T. Walker](#), observing that Christianity has what our broken culture needs. It is worth a few minutes of your time to read.