

## Resources that will help in the healing process:

### **Church Wounds**

*Francis Anfuso, David Loveless*

### **Healing Spiritual Abuse**

*Ken Blue*

### **Damaged Disciples: Casualties of Authoritarian Churches and the Shepherding Movement**

*Ron Burks, Vicki Burks*

### **Churches That Abuse**

*Ronald M. Enroth*

### **Recovering from Churches That Abuse**

*Ronald M. Enroth*

### **The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse**

*David Johnson, Jeff VanVonderen*

NOTES:



March 25, 27-28, 2010  
**MESSAGE NOTES**  
***Church Wounds***

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### **The Wounded Church: Elitism and Abuse** *Bob Hasty*


- 31% of respondents who took our **Church Wounds Survey** said they had experienced "Abuse of Authority" (#4 out of 26 options)
- 20% of respondents who took our **Church Wounds Survey** said they had experienced "Elitism"

#### *1Corinthians 1: 10-17*

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul;" another, "I follow Apollos;" another, "I follow Cephas, still another, "I follow Christ."

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The Apostle Paul exalted Jesus while condemning spiritual elitism.

 **spir·i·tu·al e·lit·ism** (*noun*): belief in the concept of superiority; the belief that some people or things are inherently superior to others and deserve preeminence, preferential treatment, or higher rewards because of their superiority

Paul repeats this in 1 Corinthians chapter 3 and calls the Church immature and worldly.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

Without devotion to Jesus, we open the door to comparison, jealousy, and dis-unity.

If we find ourselves quoting our favorite leader more than Jesus and His word, we may be immature or carnal. (We honor and respect different leaders and ministries. We don't worship them.)

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Jesus deals with elitism and downsizes the disciples' egotistical attitude and an exaggerated sense of self-importance.

Luke 9:46-48

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside Him. Then He said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in My Name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Luke 9:49-50

"Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you.

Authentic faith embraces Jesus while appreciating God's desire to use all people for His kingdom purposes.

| Jesus Leadership              | Unhealthy Leadership              |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Leads with love and sacrifice | Rules with fear and intimidation  |
| Humble                        | Proud                             |
| Inclusive                     | Exclusive                         |
| Non-controlling/free will     | Controlling                       |
| Serves with humility          | Takes and exploits                |
| Invites dialog                | Questioning authority not allowed |

John 10:10-11

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."