



Godly Response to Abuse  
in the Christian Environment

Safeguarding Training - Part 3

## Understanding Offenders and Their Tactics

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## Basic Offender Dynamics



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"Most offenders will deliberately establish themselves as the kind of person who wouldn't do that kind of thing."

- Dr. Anna Salter



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"They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

Matthew 7:15



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Abuse is calculated and driven by entitlement and arrogance.

Psalm 10



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"The grooming process is typically aimed at the intended child victims and those who are responsible for their wellbeing as well as the community that they operate in. Grooming is a constellation of otherwise innocent appearing behavior that is intended to give them ongoing access to children for sexual purposes, as well as, preventing discovery by others."

- Jim Clemente, FBI



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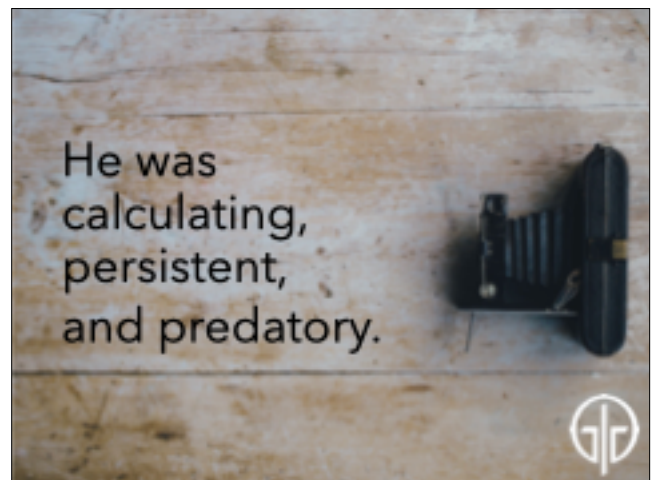
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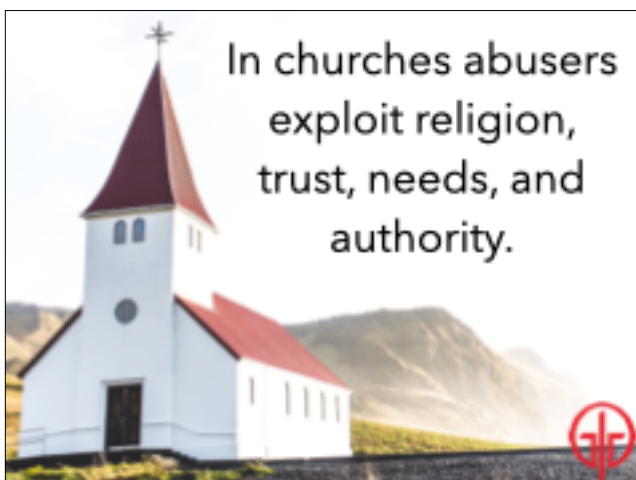
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### Abusers Adapt their Tactics

- Isolation (including isolated communication like texting)
- Special gifts or focused attention
- Touch (e.g. progression or in isolation)
- Sexual language, jokes, stories
- Photographs
- Secrecy (gifts, alcohol, money)
- Manipulation and deception - Gavin De Becker (Protecting the Gift)

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### Common Offender Distortions

- Pretense: education, hygiene, medical treatment, helping
- Deceptions: misunderstanding, mistake, accident, false allegation
- Excuses: marriage or alcohol/ medication, stress, child

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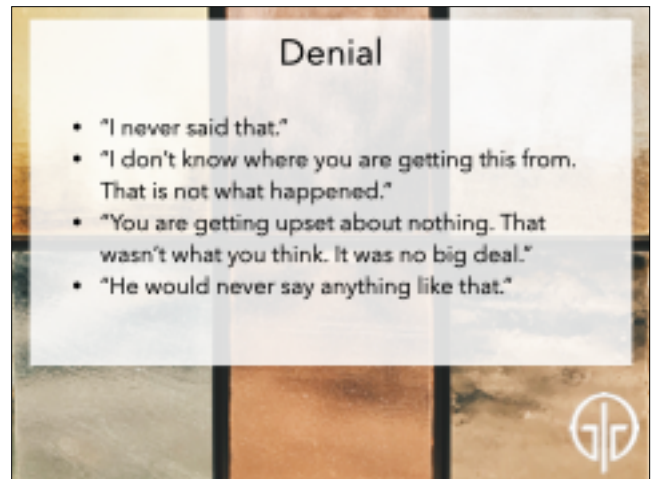
### Church System



Recognizing Common Tactics - DARVO  
Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender

- Dr. Jennifer Freyd

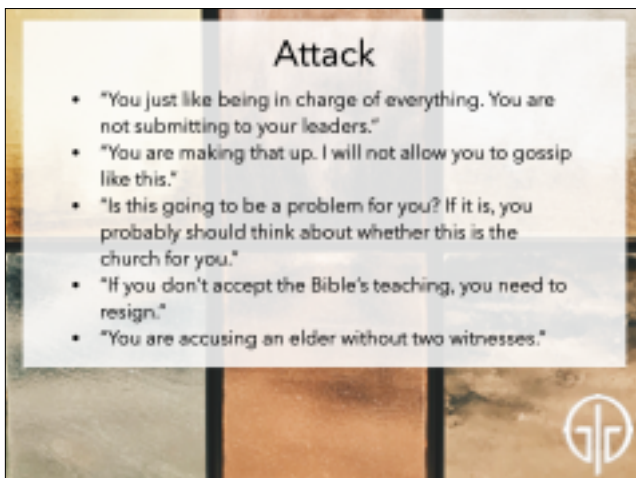
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### Denial

- "I never said that."
- "I don't know where you are getting this from. That is not what happened."
- "You are getting upset about nothing. That wasn't what you think. It was no big deal."
- "He would never say anything like that."

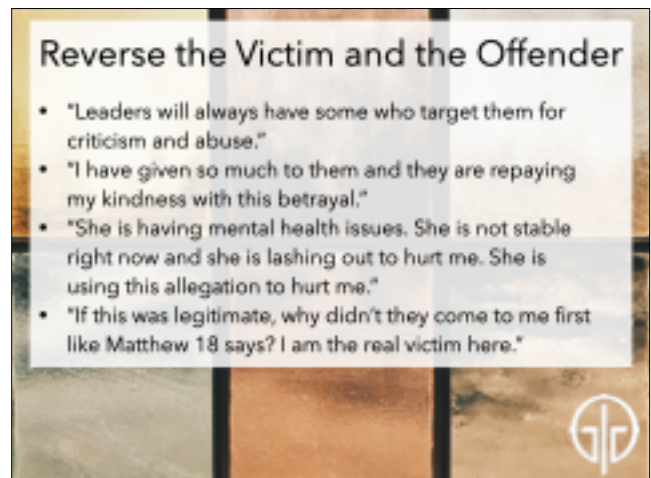
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### Attack

- "You just like being in charge of everything. You are not submitting to your leaders."
- "You are making that up. I will not allow you to gossip like this."
- "Is this going to be a problem for you? If it is, you probably should think about whether this is the church for you."
- "If you don't accept the Bible's teaching, you need to resign."
- "You are accusing an elder without two witnesses."

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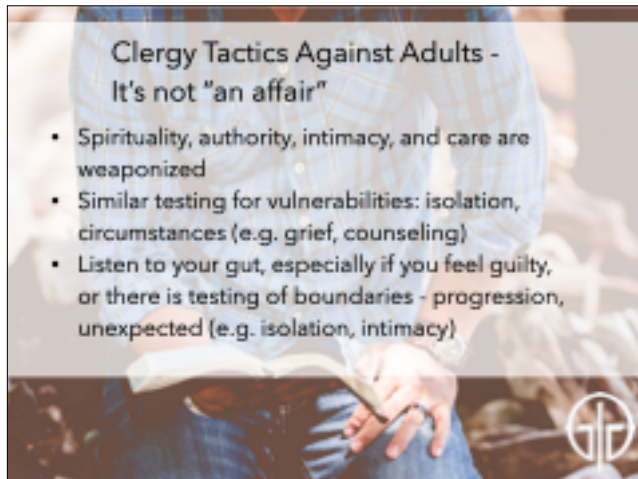


### Reverse the Victim and the Offender

- "Leaders will always have some who target them for criticism and abuse."
- "I have given so much to them and they are repaying my kindness with this betrayal."
- "She is having mental health issues. She is not stable right now and she is lashing out to hurt me. She is using this allegation to hurt me."
- "If this was legitimate, why didn't they come to me first like Matthew 18 says? I am the real victim here."

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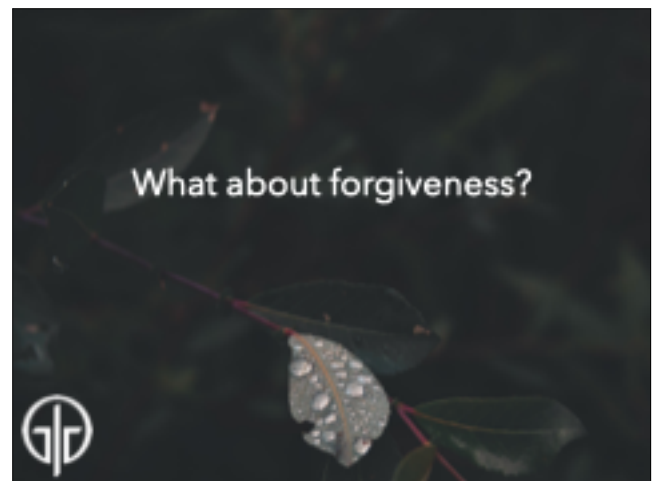
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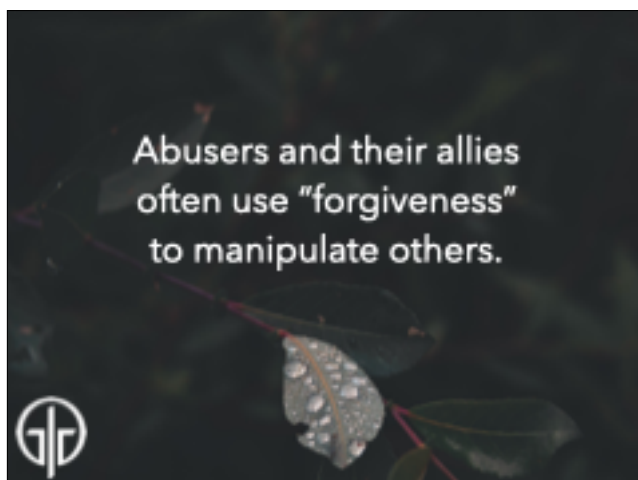
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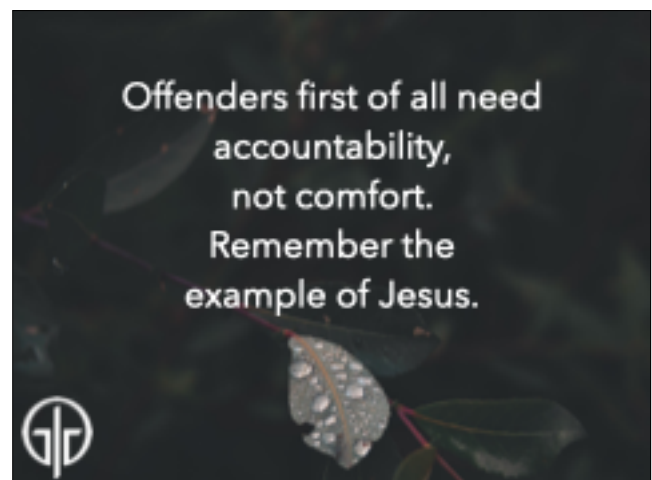
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