



Serenity

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The Church Should do Something!

We all say it! We all believe it!

But what are we talking about? Are we talking about the Corporate Church and its management?

Let me tell you all, if this is what we think then we are all abrogating our responsibilities.

When we talk about spiritual, sexual, emotional, physical and verbal abuse, or any other kind of abuse, we all refer to the church as having a responsibility. But my friends, we are the church. The church is the people and it is the people who allow and enable these things to happen. When we are afraid to have the issues talked about in church, we enable

the issues to continue.

When we know abuse is happening, but don't want to rock the boat, we are as guilty as if we were doing the abuse.

We must accept that sin is as alive in our church communities as it is in the secular world. In some cases it's worse. So is the conference president to blame? How about the SPD president? Sorry to rock your boats folks but these people can't live in your homes with you. They can't be in your work place with you. Ultimately, you are responsible and we will all be held accountable one day.

When we at Mission Serenity point a finger at the church, we are not pointing at the hierarchy

of the church. We are pointing at you and me. The main responsibility of our leadership is to recognise the programs that support the members to deal with these issues and then support those programs into action in the church.

Please don't ever read any criticism we have about the church as being

levelled at the corporate organisation. If we have an issue in that regard we will make that very clear. The church is the body of Christ and it should be illuminated with the grace of the cross. Anything else is hypocrisy and we will all be held to account one day.

All it takes for evil to thrive is for men of good will and conscience to do nothing, and there is way too much of that going on today. What do you think?

God never wastes a hurt.
Graham.

The Essence Of Grace

Should you be held accountable for things of the past if they have been repented of? Well in the legal sense, yes you can. You can face the music should charges be laid. But what if your past poor behaviour was never subject to the law of the land and only subject to the court of public opinion?





How does grace apply in this case? Hmm.

Christ died on the cross to give me a second chance. He paid the price for my sins and He paid in blood. As Christians, we are called on to be the instruments of God's grace here on earth. The Bible is specific when it talks about dealing with the sins of others. Never more so than the scene at the stoning of the prostitute. Jesus drew that powerful line in the dust with those haunting words, "Let he who is not guilty cast the first stone".

Grace is a lost word from a foreign language to some Christians. Gossip and innuendo profit under the guise of doing the Christian thing. No credit given for redemption and none for repentance, just punishment dished out by folk who blissfully imagine what heaven will be like; happy in the knowledge that their best efforts were for good and not for assassination. We forget that grace applies to thieves and murderers as much to "upstanding", self-righteous Christians.

Consider the adulterous, murdering, lying, cheat who wrote the Psalms, king David, "a man after [God's] own heart."

Many say that the meaning of grace, like all the other wonders of Heaven, will all be made plain one day.

These words are often said as if those who gossip will actually be there to hear it. How little we understand and value grace and how perilous is our lack of understanding. Before you take the speck from your brother's eye, take the plank from your own. Judge not lest you yourself be judged. Need I say anymore?

The best description I have ever heard of gossip was this: Go to the top of a high-rise building on a windy day. Tear open a feather pillow and cast the contents to the wind. A week later take the pillow case and go out to collect every feather blown the week before. Impossible you say? That's gossip.

If Christ died to give all a second chance then what makes you so special as to deny a brother that same chance? It's not like you had to die on the cross or anything is it?

Friends, the last week has been the greatest lesson in hypocrisy I have ever lived through. It saddens me to see grace so cheaply withheld and so vigorously denied to those who need it most – *all of us!*

God never wastes a hurt. Graham.

Thanks for Your Support

As the financial year drew to a close, we were delighted with the very

generous support we have received. Please know that every dollar contributes to changing countless lives as we grow into God's purpose for His ministry. As a result of this valuable support we will now be moving to replicate and distribute our much needed video resources. We plan to launch and release these in September at the South Queensland Camp Meeting at Dakabin. We hope to meet many of you there. Thank you and God bless you all.

Church In The Fields Starts Recovery Road

During June we visited the *Church In The Fields* at Macquarie Fields in Sydney's South west. We were overwhelmed by the support we received as we presented *Radical Shift* over the weekend. The response to our visit was heart warming and the leadership team have taken *Recovery Road* under their wing. We will be supporting this church as a recovery church and making them our representatives in the Sydney area. Our dream is to support them as they train leaders from other churches in the region. May God bless them in this ministry and we praise Pastor Warwick Sawyer for his healing heart and passion for seeking the lost. Please pray for this group as they take *Recovery Road* to a region in great need.

Thank You Avondale Memorial Plus One Church

Prior to filming our *Recovery Road* TV series at 3ABN studios in June, we presented *Radical Shift* to this very welcoming and enthusiastic church. Around 50 people answered the call after the sermon.

Graham gave his testimony to the youth group of some 40 people at the youth worship group. We were very impressed with the calibre of the youth at Memorial and built some amazing friendships. We are praying that they will also start a *Recovery Road* group up there very soon. 140 people attended Michelle's courageous testimony on the Sabbath afternoon and lives were very much changed.

God never wastes a hurt. Graham.

It's In The Can

Our long awaited *Recovery Road* TV series is now in the editing and post production phase. We were directed beautifully through the arduous task of shooting five episodes a day by the professional and Spirit-led crew at 3ABN studios in Morisset.

Thank you to John and Rosemary for your faith in us and to James for his articulate attention to detail. Michelle and I were guided lovingly through the process by our host, Danielle Synot. Her relaxed approach was very calming and will ensure a warm and healing result.

We start looking for this to hit the airwaves later in the year. We will advise when we know.

Upcoming Events

Graham is guest speaker at the ATSIM men's camp at *Camp Obadiah* in northern NSW on 4-6 September.

Mission Serenity is running *Recovery Road* over five days at the South Queensland Camp Meeting from 18 to 26 September.