

## **Doctoral Thesis - Sexual Failure Among Spiritual Leaders**

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This thesis-project looks at the problem of sexual failure among spiritual leaders, with a goal of providing resources for a seminar/workshop for these professionals. It begins by considering, from an evangelical perspective, the biblical teaching on human sexuality, and marriage and the family. Consideration is also given to the biblical teaching on the morality of spiritual leaders in ancient Israel, and in the church during the apostolic age.

In an effort to understand why spiritual leaders succumb to sexual temptation, the author looks at the principal characteristics of contemporary society, the contributions of contemporary psychology, and the marriages of these spiritual leaders. Surveys by Cti/Leadership (1992), the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (1994), and by the author of pastors in the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces (1995), provide data concerning marriage and family life.

In an effort to understand why certain women become the victims of sexual misbehavior by spiritual leaders, the insights of contemporary psychology are once again brought into focus. The thesis-project concludes with an appeal for professionalism as a safe-guard to sexual failure.