

# Topic Blog Post

August 26, 2011

By Rev. Edward G. Palmer

Re: Topix Forum about the theft of Solid Rock Church by William Neal Matthews

God directs us to make "public" the sins of those in the leadership of the Church only AFTER private efforts towards dealing with the sin are rejected. That is why the [www.james417.org](http://www.james417.org) site exists. By going public, the sheep can THEN become informed of the evil present within their church and/or assembly. The Assembly of God message I often heard preached was to simply to "let God take care of it." Ergo, "keep your mouth shut!" and I might add "don't you know this [preacher] is a man of God?" Really?

It might sound good on the surface for people of faith to keep their mouth shut, but everyone must realize that God uses everyone to edify the body [church] at one time or the other. Hiding the truth about sin on the level we have witnessed does not edify the body. It does, in fact, defile the body of Christ. The only person that benefits when a believer "conceals" the sin he or she has knowledge about concerning those in authority is the person in authority. It becomes the ultimate spiritual power play. Getting people to ignore God's righteousness in favor of feeling good about their hiding evil?

That is what allows priests to keep molesting other children and ministers to keep abusing other families. People's pride about going public and the teaching to "let God take care of it" contributes to evil prospering within the Church.

YES, King David was forgiven. BUT, God also took his first born son in retribution. There was a high price to pay for such evil and indeed David was forgiven.

So, the issue is not about being forgiven by God. It certainly is also not about being forgiven by others. We, as believers, have a duty to forgive, BUT, to forgive like God does! AND, that means only after repentance has taken place. Until then, and after making your voice publicly heard, YOU CAN also actually "let God take care of it." If anyone hides sin, they are letting "Satan have his way." They are not with the God of Truth on such activity.

I'll stick by my prior statement that neither Jim nor Bill belong in any position of authority within the Church. If they have demonstrated anything, they have demonstrated they were not called to be a pastor. However, that does not mean they cannot be an effective witness for God. It also certainly does not mean that the people's whose lives have been wrecked can easily move on in life.

I believe that the Elk River Assembly of God was destined to become a powerful place of worship for God. However, Satan filled it with "licensed ministers" instead of those called to be Pastors. Real Pastors have a heart for the sheep that exceed their own person desires.

I wonder. Would ALL of this evil in the Church been manifested IF those in the know had confronted the pastor immediately, then the board, and then went public? I went public on the Church theft in 1998 and it still has been overlooked by all of the authorities meaning Bill has gotten away with a huge crime in Minnesota. However, it is not over for Dr. Bill Matthews. Only God knows what is coming next.

Having said that, I know that others knew of the evil within the Church literally years before I did. Don't we have a duty to our brothers and sisters in Christ to NOT let them get taken advantage of? Doesn't this duty extend beyond familial relationships? Yes, it does.

Thank you Mindy, Emily and Andy. All three of you have demonstrated something powerful to the body of believers and to

those who read this blog. You've demonstrated that God comes first. EVEN before your earthly dad.

It is my prayer that everyone who reads this blog will get that message. God's comes first, even before family.

All of you who were affected by either Jim or Bill are in my prayers. You can move on. You can understand that God is still there. Draw near to HIM and HE will draw near to you. Place HIM first and seek HIS righteousness!

Blessings,

Rev. Edward G. Palmer