



DO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PROTECT PEDOPHILES?

When officials representing Jehovah's Witnesses respond to this question publicly and within their own religion, they typically offer nothing more than misinformation and even outright lies. Most members of the religion are completely ignorant as to the problem of pedophilia among their ranks.

A PEDOPHILE PARADISE?

Can Jehovah's Witnesses collectively be called a "pedophile paradise"? To answer that question, consider the following:

- ✓ If a confessed or convicted pedophile moves into a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, the members are not informed by any leaders within the church.
- ✓ If a pedophile molests a child within the congregation, parents are strictly forbidden from telling other members.
- ✓ The church does not discipline any accused pedophile unless he or she confesses, or the accuser can produce two eyewitnesses to their abuse.
- ✓ Accused and even confessed molestation is not reported to authorities unless absolutely required by law, and then this reporting is done anonymously.
- ✓ Known pedophiles may serve in positions of authority over others, including children, without other congregation members being informed of this person's past actions.

After much effort to change Watchtower policy from within, I found I could no longer follow their advice to 'wait on the Lord,' as I do not believe the Lord wants or would allow even one child to be hurt, much less the many children that have suffered and been molested as a result of this deeply flawed Watchtower policy.

The only way for Jehovah's Witnesses to do the right thing when it comes to protecting children is through public outcry, which may force the leaders of the organization to reconsider their practices and policies. Your efforts in this regard are a gift to all children of Jehovah's Witnesses, as they desperately need your protection. I encourage one and all to write, call, email and through the media, let the Watchtower Organization know that their policy must change and that these innocent children must be protected!

"I believe they do."

My name is William H. Bowen, and after living as one of Jehovah's Witness for over 43 years and serving in several different managerial, teaching and administrative positions within the organization, I discovered a very serious problem that was putting innocent children at risk. After my own personal efforts from within failed to address this problem adequately, I had to make an ethical and moral decision as to whether or not I could allow it to continue to be hidden by a Watchtower agenda.

This problem can be identified as the protection of pedophiles within the Jehovah's Witnesses religion.

In 2002 I resigned as presiding overseer of my congregation as a way of protest, to hopefully force action from those responsible for addressing this problem and for protecting children.

THREATENING THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Far too many victims of pedophilia within the religion of Jehovah's Witnesses do not speak out and do not report the molestation because of sanctions imposed upon them by the church. Those who talk about the abuse to other congregation members may be accused of slander and of revealing confidential talk, and they may face public discipline and/or excommunication from the church. This in turn involves total and complete shunning from all other members, including family.

SILENCE ONLY HELPS THE ABUSER!

Victims of pedophilia often do not tell anyone about sexual abuse because they are too young to put what has happened into words, they have been threatened or bribed by their abuser, are confused or afraid that no one will believe them or will blame them for the abuse, they feel embarrassed or ashamed, or worry about getting into trouble.

Silence only protects the predator and allows the abuse to continue. Today there are many resources for families and victims to get the help they need, and many ways that others can speak out and help abuse survivors. To learn more about those who have been victims of pedophilia within the religion of Jehovah's Witnesses, including their true stories and accounts, and to learn how you can help, visit us at www.silentlambs.org.

IT IS TIME TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN! IT IS TIME TO HELP THE SILENT LAMBS!

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