

Dear Friends:

In 2013, the United States is experiencing an epidemic of child sexual abuse. This is what happens when we have a culture driven by pornographic imagery in entertainment, advertising, education, internet, and the fact that parents often allow their child to go out in various stages of immodesty. However, child sexual abuse is never right for any reason by which it may be caused. By sexual child abuse it is meant of adults, 18 or older, involved with anyone under 18 for the purpose of sexual gratification or sexual thrill. This cultural plague has infected all of society in our public schools, social and recreational institutions, and many homes.

Tragically, the religious world has not escaped these attacks on our young people. Churches, Christian schools, and other religious youth programs have experienced case after case of people abusing their position of religious trust to sexually manipulate young people. It is therefore the responsibility of the religious leader of any institution to aggressively confront this vile criminal affront.

At this point, Central Baptist Church is not experiencing a problem with this in any of our related ministries. Ocala Christian Academy, Children's churches, bus ministry, Master Clubs, Living Proof, Children's Choir, etc., all are ministries under Central Baptist Church. Ocala Christian Academy is a Monday - Friday ministry 180 days each year. As Pastor I consider all these ministries as my responsibility since they are all ministries of Central Baptist Church. Those who work full time in these ministries are members of the church. All the children in these ministries are under our care while on the campus of Central Baptist Church. Therefore as pastor, along with the support of the Board of Deacons, the following guidelines are being established should we ever encounter this problem on our campus in the future.

All fifty states have developed guidelines for reporting abuse and suspected abuse. They have also made it mandatory upon religious workers to report such abuse. This is a good and proper step on the part of civil government. Child sexual abuse is a crime and needs to be punished to the fullest extent by the state. As Christians, we must be responsible before God, as well as the government, and our fellow man, to fight this scourge. Therefore, regardless of any ministry of Central Baptist Church, regardless of any position one may hold, regardless of who they are related to or how popular they may be, and regardless of how much good they may have done in the past, any abuser should be, and will be, turned in to the proper authorities. Anyone who would violate a religious trust in order to engage a child in sexual activity deserves harsher punishment than those in the general population. We want parents to be able to trust religious workers.

Central Baptist Church is a New Testament Independent Baptist Church. We do not consider any church which condones, covers up, tolerates, or fails to report child sexual abuse is a true New Testament local church in the Biblical sense. Just as improper doctrine invalidates a church from being recognized as a Biblical Baptist local church, so to does a deficient moral and legal standard concerning child sexual abuse. All employees, volunteers, who minister within Central Baptist Church and its related ministries are required to read this statement. May the record so state: We oppose all forms of moral impurity and the pornography that fuels so much ungodly living.

In Christ

Dr. Andy Bloom,
Pastor of Central Baptist Church Philippians 4:8