

Effectively Dealing with Former Sex Offenders within the Congregation

Open discussion of the situation in light of scripture is paramount.

If members of the congregation become aware that a Former Offender is among them, they may have questions about dealing with that person.

Each former offender should be dealt with individually. You will find that many former offenders have not had sexual contact with children in their crimes. Ask the right questions when dealing with a former offender.

If the offender did have contact with children in the crime committed, this *does not automatically mean* this person is more dangerous than any other member of the congregation. **Fear and misinformation** should be dealt with swiftly by the introduction of FACTS. (See the box on the back of this brochure.)

The **former offender** should know what his/her responsibilities are. Set limits that work for all.

Kindness and respect should be shown to all involved.

In the end, **God is the judge.** Let us pray that we treat his sheep, even those who have been lost for a time, with the love, dignity, and respect that they are due.

Some Important FACTS to Know

Re-offense rate averages: for auto theft 78.8%, possession or sale of stolen property 77.4%, larceny 74.6%, burglary 74%, robbery 70.2%, sex offenses 3.5%.

Support systems help to reduce recidivism. Anything that keeps sex offenders away from these support systems and accountability networks would be harmful.

Thus Religion is of utmost importance!

Pedophilia is the sexual desire for a prepubescent child, and is rare (less than 1%) among offenders.

One-third to one-half of all child molestation is committed by children themselves. The United States Department of Justice finds the age with the greatest number of offenders is 14.6 years old. Eighty percent of youths report having had sex by the age of 16.

Invite a Representative of SOSEN to speak at your Church or Organization.

In many areas, SOSEN has qualified speakers who are willing to speak at public gatherings in order to present FACTS regarding former offenders. If you are interested in having a SOSEN representative speak at an event, or to see if there is a representative in your area, visit our website for event pricing.

SOSEN.org

MODERN DAY LEPERS

Constructive Ways
to
Deal with Fear, Hate,
and other
Sex Offender Issues,
from a
Christian Point of View

*Presented by
SOSEN.org*

Sex Offender

The word alone is repulsive to people. It causes many people to fear and others to hate. Vigilantism is an everyday worry for many former offenders and their families. Housing and jobs are another concern. Behind this fear and hate are people who are spreading outdated statistics regarding former offenders. These statistics are used to pass more and more laws that have been proven counter-productive to public safety and to former offenders and their families.

If you are a Christian, have you ever wondered, what does God think about sex offenders? Are they beyond forgiveness? And what responsibility do all Christians have towards these perceived as the lowliest of our times?

This brochure will provide a Bible-based answer to that question.

Sex Offenders in Bible Times

Does the Bible really offer advice as to how Churches and Christians in general are to treat Former Sex Offenders?

Yes it does. There are many examples within the scriptures that pertain to sex offenders and gross sinners in general.

Let's Look at one Bible Account

1 Cor 5:1 “Actually fornication is reported among **you**, and such fornication as is not even among the nations, that a wife of a certain [man] has of [his] father.’

The man mentioned above had sexual relations with his mother or mother-in-law. (Incest)

What was the outcome of this **Sex Offense**? Was the man **branded** for life? Was he banished, never to be part of the congregation or society?

No. After a time, less than three months, (this is based on the time between Paul's two visits to Corinth,) *the man was reinstated to his former place in the congregation.* It should be noted that in both instances, both for removing the wrongdoer from the congregation and for reinstating the man back into the congregation; Paul had to admonish the Corinthians to DO IT!

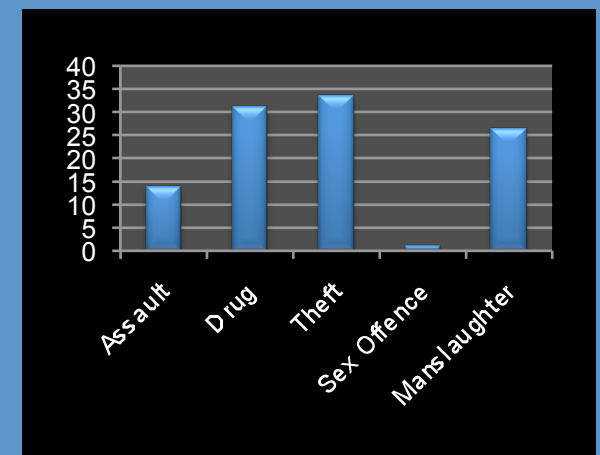
2 Cor 2:7-9 “so that, on the contrary now, **you** should kindly forgive and comfort [him], that somehow such a man may not be swallowed up by his being overly sad. Therefore I exhort **you** to confirm **your** love for him. For to this end also I write to ascertain the proof of **you**, whether **you** are obedient in all things”

What about You?

Given the outcry over sex offenders, do you find that you may need admonition to forgive and accept a repentant former offender?

If so, please consider the words of Paul as such an admonition.

If Paul's words are not enough, please examine the chart below, which shows the re-offense rates of several crimes compared to former sex offenders. The data is taken from the Department of Justice.



For more FACTS and information, we invite you to visit our web-site.

