

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 2 Start

Contents

1

Reflections and Resources (6)

#	Page	Topic
1)	2	Sense of entitlement
2)	8	Generation Snowflake
3)	9	Warning against sloth
4)	15	Christendom to post-Christendom
5)	17	Where have the men gone?
6)	20	Under the skin or not
7)	20	Power groups
8)	20	Type A Personalities
9)	21	Obdurate
10)	21	When insight does not work
11)	22	Member turns hostile in the church office
12)	23	The road or the ditch
13)	23	Anonymous letters
14)	24	Incivility
15)	27	Energizers and drainers
16)	29	Beware of the angry outbursts
17)	29	Beware of the bully
18)	32	Jezebel
19)	35	Unintended consequences
20)	35	Matriarch diatribes: Fight or flight?
21)	36	Catty
22)	38	Thelma and Louise
23)	38	Hovering presence
24)	38	Resentment towards pastor's compensation
25)	40	"If momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy"
26)	40	Crocodile tears
27)	41	Insistent on things done her way
28)	41	Power more decentralized
29)	43	Nurse Ratched
30)	43	Over-functioning mothers as evidenced by under-functioning sons
31)	45	When a staff member undermines
32)	45	Retired office staff
33)	45	Squawking of a wet hen
34)	45	Bitter old lady syndrome
35)	46	Decorating the Christmas tree
36)	46	Roast preachers
37)	47	Survive the nitpicker
38)	47	Older sibling syndrome
39)	48	Entitled Demander
40)	49	Gotcha or gotcha?
41)	49	Crabby
42)	49	Cranky
43)	50	Check in <i>or</i> check up
44)	51	Checked out
45)	51	Us-them
46)	52	On side-stepping a charging ram
47)	53	Stay above the fray
48)	53	Guess who is sitting in the front of the church
49)	54	Pray for the best and prepare for the worst
50)	54	What kind of campfire?
51)	56	Thrown into the fire
52)	56	Demine landmines
53)	57	One should not make idle offers one cannot follow through on
54)	58	Beware of the dog that...
55)	61	Service Provider
56)	61	To thank or not to thank
57)	61	Sneer
58)	62	Monkeys
59)	63	Watch out for the enforcer(s)

Reflections and Resources

1) Sense of entitlement

The Request of the Mother of James and John

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. ²¹And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' ²²But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' ²³He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

24 When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 20:20-28

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matthew+20:20-28>

Images for Request of the Mother of James and John

Images for their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶It will not be so among you

Mark Allan Powell speaking at **Rethinking Stewardship: Our Culture, Our Theology, Our Practices** at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN in 7/19-21/2010 spoke of how he believes Christians who practice gratitude and generosity are some of the happiest people.

Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life by Mark Allan Powell (Author)

We all know that everything we have is a gift from God. But sometimes it's hard to know just how to give *back* to God. How much is enough? What does the Bible really say? What should giving look like in our everyday lives? Filled with good news for followers of Jesus, Mark Allan Powell's *Giving to God* shows Christians the way to a better life and a better relationship with their money — and with God. Powell presents stewardship as an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. Faithful use of our time, talents, and money starts with a deep, satisfying relationship with the God to whom we belong. We can then learn, says Powell, to give gladly and generously out of our heartfelt connection with God. Informative, concise, and eminently practical (including discussion questions), *Giving to God* gives us resources for best using the treasures, material and otherwise, that God has given us.



<https://www.amazon.com/Giving-God-Bibles-Living-Generous-ebook/dp/B001DO02SW>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/566201.Giving_to_God

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/giving-to-god-mark-allan-powell/1114739952>

<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/2926/giving-to-god.aspx>

<https://www.logos.com/product/49781/giving-to-god-the-bibles-good-news-about-living-a-generous-life>

<https://bakerbookhouse.com/products/giving-to-god-the-bible-s-good-news-about-living-a-generous-life-9780802829269>

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/giving-to-god-the-bibles-good-news-about-living-a-generous-life_mark-allan-powell/321307/#isbn=0802829260&idq=5443705

https://books.google.com/books/about/Giving_to_God.html?id=dm0_4u3lPrkC

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802829260>

http://www.elca-co-resurrection.org/lcr_Stewardship_Sermon_quotes_from_Mark_Allan_Powell.pdf

http://day1.org/4426-chris_yaw_interviews_mark_allan_powell_stewardship_advice_that_makes_sense

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4169>

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=3993>

https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?stew_redirect=resource&post=4210

www.swpasynod.org/literature.../4_Ways_the_Bible_Speaks_About_Money_-_Powell [DOC]4 Ways the Bible Speaks About Money - Powell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QODZGBaPL6I> From Jesus to Us (Chapter 3, Introducing the New Testament) - YouTube

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2155>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2155> Preaching Moment 276: Mark Allan Powell - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slvDWtPzKP0> 2015 Stewardship Symposium Theme: Faithful Living and Joyful Giving

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFUAABlqEZY> Principles for Giving (Mark Allan Powell) - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnVbjP62VDc> The Poor in James (Mark Allan Powell) - YouTube

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Biblical_Stewardship_Our_Duty_and_Delight.pdf

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/powell-giving-to-god.html>

<http://www.tlsohio.edu/faculty/20-faculty/faculty-profiles/41-powell>
<http://fortresspress.com/author/mark-allan-powell>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/mark-allan-powell/>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/mark-allan-powell>
<https://www.harpercollins.com/author/cr-104887/mark-allan-powell/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Allan_Powell
https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mark_Allan_Powell
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-powell>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/supplement_6.aspx
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/mark-allan-powell/221150/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Allan-Powell/e/B001IU2SLK>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5888.Mark_Allan_Powell
 Images for mark allan powell
 Images for Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life by Mark Allan Powell (Author)

He asserted that a **sense of entitlement** represents the biggest threat to robbing people of this happiness.

Resources

Anger in the Age of Entitlement | Psychology Today

Cleaning up emotional pollution

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement>

Images for Anger in the Age of Entitlement | Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement/201902/anger-in-the-age-entitlement>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement/200804/anger-in-the-age-entitlement-or-breathing-deeply-in>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement?page=1>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement?page=4>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/sq/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement?page=5>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement?page=6>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ie/blog/anger-in-the-age-entitlement?page=11>

Clergy Killers: Guidance for Pastors and Congregations under Attack - Google Books

A general **sense of entitlement** is growing in the church, as well as in society. Church members feel entitled to comfort and privilege. If a pastor does not please them, they feel free to criticize and punish. The business mentality that pervades the church says if the CEO (pastor) does not produce, he should be fired. Page 20

https://books.google.com/books/about/Clergy_Killers.html?id=gYAFWibp_RwC

<http://thesesheepbite.com/biting-sheep/clergy-killers-the-article-before-the-book/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Clergy-Killers-Guidance-Pastors-Congregations/dp/B015X4ITCS>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25255349-clergy-killers>

<https://www.christianbook.com/clergy-killers-guidance-pastors-congregations-attack/g-rediger/9780664257538/pd/57534>

<http://www.ministerofhealth.org/clergy-killers/>

<https://blog.restoringkingdombuilders.org/2013/02/01/profile-of-a-clergy-killer/>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/257002.G_Lloyd_Rediger

Images for G. Lloyd Rediger (author)

Images for Clergy Killers: Guidance for Pastors and Congregations under Attack by G. Lloyd Rediger

Chapter 9 ...And Then You Die

The gravity of **entitlement** sucks all attention inward, toward ourselves, causing us to feel as though we are at the center of all the problems of the universe, that we are the one suffering all of the injustices, that we are the one who deserves greatness above all others. Page 206

The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life by Mark Manson (Author)

In this generation-defining self-help guide, a superstar blogger cuts through the crap to show us how to stop trying to be "positive" all the time so that we can truly become better, happier people.

For decades, we've been told that positive thinking is the key to a happy, rich life. "F**k positivity," Mark Manson says. "Let's be honest, shit is f**ked and we have to live with it." In his wildly popular Internet blog, Manson doesn't sugarcoat or equivocate. He tells it like it is—a dose of raw, refreshing, honest truth that is sorely lacking today. *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k* is his antidote to the coddling, let's-all-feel-good mindset that has infected modern society and spoiled a generation, rewarding them with gold medals just for showing up.

Manson makes the argument, backed both by academic research and well-timed poop jokes, that improving our lives hinges not on our ability to turn lemons into lemonade, but on learning to stomach lemons better. Human beings are flawed and limited—"not everybody can be extraordinary, there are winners and losers in society, and some of it is not fair or your fault."

Manson advises us to get to know our limitations and accept them. Once we embrace our fears, faults, and uncertainties, once we stop running and avoiding and start confronting painful truths, we can begin to find the courage, perseverance, honesty, responsibility, curiosity, and forgiveness we seek.

There are only so many things we can give a f**k about so we need to figure out which ones really matter, Manson makes clear. While money is nice, caring about what you do with your life is better, because true wealth is about experience. A much-needed grab-you-by-the-shoulders-and-look-you-in-the-eye moment of real-talk, filled with entertaining stories and profane, ruthless humor, *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k* is a refreshing slap for a generation to help them lead contented, grounded lives.

<https://www.amazon.com/Subtle-Art-Not-Giving-Counterintuitive/dp/0062457713>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28257707-the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck-mark-manson/1123517507>
<https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062457714/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck/>
<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck/mark-manson/9780062457714>
<https://markmanson.net/not-giving-a-fuck>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/tree-franklyn/the-subtle-art-of-not-giv_b_12012008.html
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/one-true-thing/201612/new-book-the-subtle-art-not-giving-fck>
<https://www.creativitypost.com/article/the-subtle-art-of-living-a-good-life-a-conversation-with-jonathan-fields-an>
<https://www.politics-prose.com/book/9780062457714>
<https://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/subtle-art-not-giving-fck>
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/bookselling/article/74369-the-steady-rise-of-not-giving-a-f-ck.html>
<https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/self-help-books>
<https://www.everythingzoomer.com/arts-entertainment/books/2020/01/10/health-and-wellness-books-of-the-last-decade/> #6
<https://www.morningbrew.com/daily/stories/2019/10/30/interview-everything-fcked-author-mark-manson>
<https://www.dymocks.com.au/book/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-f-ck-by-mark-manson-9781925483598/#.WzQVFNJKiUk>
<https://fourminutebooks.com/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-fck-summary/>
https://www.quora.com/What-do-you-think-about-the-book-The-Subtle-Art-of-Not-Giving-a-F*ck-by-Mark-Manson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1lbgLghRA4> Fireside Chat (Full Length) | Mark Manson | Inside Out Convention 2016
Images for mark manson inside out convention
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCp5mu9P13Q> Mark Manson: Here's How to Stop Caring About Things That Don't Matter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUmpVTHMY0g> Mark Manson | Stop trying to be Happy - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-9R0yzGM1M> Mark Manson (author of The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck) on Defining Success with Mentorbox
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0fQjQZjCHQ> Mark Manson author of The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck on Mentorbox
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCp5mu9P13Q> Mark Manson: Here's How to Stop Caring About Things That Don't Matter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrVvwnh9eKA> The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k - Summary and Application [Part 1/2]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTWXKU3CZSM> Subtle Art of Not Giving a Fuck by Mark Manson - Book Review
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJJSR63Yz9Q> The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life - Mark Manson
<https://www.facebook.com/iomovement.org/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Subtle_Art_of_Not_Giving_a_F*ck
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Manson
https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mark_Manson
<https://jamesclear.com/book-summaries/the-subtle-art-of-not-giving-a-fck>
<https://www.facebook.com/Markmansonnet/>
<https://twitter.com/iammarkmanson?lang=en>
<https://markmanson.net/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Manson/e/B00BIJOMOC>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8529755.Mark_Manson
Images for Mark Manson (Author)
Images for A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life by Mark Manson (Author)

Entitlement and the Local Church - ThomRainer.com

How do we know when entitlement becomes pervasive in our churches? We can be sure it's present when we hear comments similar to these:

https://thomrainer.com/2012/07/entitlement_and_the_local_church/
Images for Entitlement and the Local Church - ThomRainer
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/02/entitlement-mentality-crept-churches/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/03/six-warning-signs-church-problem-entitlement-mentality/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2013/01/the-main-reason-people-leave-a-church/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/06/six-attitudes-kill-evangelism-church/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/03/urgent-church-nine-changes-must-make-die/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2016/07/five-things-pray-will-not-senior-adult-church/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2014/01/eleven-reasons-pastors-are-trusted-less-today/>
Images for 11 reasons pastors are trusted less today
<https://thomrainer.com/2015/02/fifteen-reasons-churches-less-evangelistic-today/>
https://thomrainer.com/2012/05/the_inwardly_obsessed_church_10_warning_signs/
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/09/seven-deadly-statements-church-members/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2018/10/one-destructive-statements-church-member-can-make/>

#1
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<https://www.visionroom.com/closing-the-back-door-of-your-church-moving-from-entitlement-to-servanthood/>
<https://religionnews.com/2013/05/31/rethinking-church-membership-an-interview-with-thom-rainer/>
<http://www.calvarymemorial.com/article/i-am-a-church-member-by-thom-rainer/>
<https://marksilk.religionnews.com/2013/05/31/rethinking-church-membership-an-interview-with-thom-rainer/>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16072393-i-am-a-church-member>
Images for thom rainer (author)

Entitlement Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/entitlement>
Images for entitlement quotes
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/entitlement>
<https://www.enkiquotes.com/quotes-about-entitlement.html>
www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/sense-of-entitlement.html
www.picturequotes.com/entitlement-quotes
<https://www.inspiringquotes.us/topic/5812-entitlement>
www.great-quotes.com/quotes/movie/A+Sense+of+Entitlement
Images for quotes/Sense+of+Entitlement

Entitlement quotes, Sense of entitlement, Quotable - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/54465476717739434/>
Images for sense of entitlement on pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/littleninjasltd/sense-of-entitlement/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/littleninjasltd/sense-of-entitlement/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/beaniekh/entitlement/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/brettp5/entitlement/>

Entitlement - Wikipedia

An inflated sense of what is sometimes called *psychological entitlement*^[8] - unrealistic, exaggerated, or rigidly held - is especially prominent among narcissists. According to the DSM-5, individuals with narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) are likely to have a "sense of entitlement to special treatment and to obedience from others", typically without commensurate qualities or accomplishments:^{[9][10]} Similarly, according to Vaknin, the narcissistic personality attempts to protect the vulnerable self by building layers of grandiosity and a huge sense of entitlement.^[11]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entitlement>

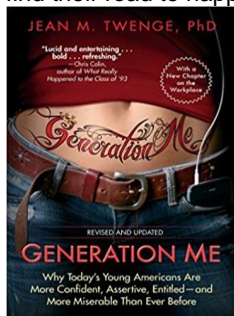
Images for Entitlement

Generation Me - Revised and Updated: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled-and More Miserable than Ever Before [Jean M. Twenge]

In this provocative and newly revised book, headline-making psychologist Dr. Jean Twenge explores why the young people she calls "Generation Me" are tolerant, confident, open-minded, and ambitious but also disengaged, narcissistic, distrustful, and anxious.

Born in the '80s, and '90s and called "The Entitlement Generation" or Millennials, they are reshaping schools, colleges, and businesses all over the country. The children of the Baby Boomers are not only feeling the effects of the recession and the changing job market—they are affecting change the world over. Now, in this new edition of *Generation Me*, Dr. Twenge incorporates the latest research, data, and statistics, as well as new stories and cultural references, to show how "Gen Me-ers" have shifted the American character, redefining what it means to be an individual in today's society.

Dr. Twenge uses data from 11 million respondents to reveal shocking truths about this generation, including dramatic differences in attitudes toward work and religious practice, and controversial predictions about what the future holds for them and society as a whole. Her often humorous, eyebrow-raising stories about real people vividly bring to life the hopes, disappointments, and challenges of *Generation Me*. Engaging, controversial, prescriptive, and funny, *Generation Me* gives Boomers and GenX'ers new and fascinating insights into their offspring, and helps those in their teens, twenties, and thirties find their road to happiness.



<http://www.amazon.com/Generation-Americans-Confident-Assertive-Entitled/dp/1476755566>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/300231.Jean_M_Twenge
<http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Generation-Me-Revised-and-Updated/Jean-M-Twenge/9781476755564>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/9781476755564-Generation-Me-Revised-and-Updated>
<https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/generation-me-revised-and-updated-1476755566>
<https://www.scribd.com/book/225091623/Generation-Me-Revised-and-Updated-Why-Today-s-Young-Americans-Are-More-Confident-Assertive-Entitled-and-More-Miserable-Than-Ever-Before>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1416575995>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Generation_Me.html?id=tV4M1hpG-3wC&hl=en
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1476755566>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Generation_Me.html?id=tV4M1hpG-3wC
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Narcissism_Epidemic.html?id=m3YndShMSUUC
<http://www.jeantwenge.com/html/Books.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Me_generation
<http://podbay.fm/show/122415315/e/1377252000?autostart=1>
<http://academicminute.org/2014/12/jean-m-twenge-sdsu-a-corrosion-of-trust/>
<http://truck-mirror.eu/?c=4&p=12333>
<http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2011/02/28/generation-workplace/?intcmp=related>
<http://www.narcissismpidemic.com/>
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/experts/jean-m-twenge-phd>
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/06/science/seeing-narcissists-everywhere.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0
<https://www.theatlantic.com/author/jean-twenge/>
http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2013/08/08/jean_m_twenge_and_narcissism_are_millennials_more_self_absorbed_than_others.html
<https://www.slideshare.net/vaident7/audiobook-generation-me-revised-and-updated-why-todays-young-americans-are-more-confident-assertive-entitled-and-more-miserable-than-ever-before-by-jean-m-twenge>
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?286496-1/narcissism-epidemic>
<http://www.nbcnews.com/video/tucker/17386769> Generation Me - Video on NBCNews.com
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD9x3OwgKes> "Look at Me!" Narcissism or Self-Esteem? - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZUg2m-Q79g> Dr. Jean Twenge (full interview) – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq-hvAoktns> The narcissism epidemic with Jean Twenge at Happiness & Its Causes 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWuLjiUHBkw> Teen's Over Confidence – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig46QPX_6gM Jean Twenge on "The Rise of Self and the Decline of Intellectual and Civic Interest" – YouTube
<https://www.npr.org/books/authors/138345238/jean-m-twenge>
<https://www.npr.org/books/titles/138345231/generation-me-why-todays-young-americans-are-more-confident-assertive-entitled-a>
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/mar/02/narcissism-epidemic-self-obsession-attention-seeking-oversharing>
<https://www.npr.org/books/titles/138345231/generation-me-why-todays-young-americans-are-more-confident-assertive-entitled-a>
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<https://timesofsandiego.com/tech/2014/10/01/americans-depressed-1980s-sdsu-study-finds/>
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<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2167696812466548>
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<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/jean-m-twenge>
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<http://www.generationme.org/about-author.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/Jean-M.-Twenge/e/B001JSBP6U>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/300231.Jean_M_Twenge
[Images for Jean M. Twenge, author](#)
[Images for Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled-and More Miserable than Ever Before \[Jean M. Twenge\]](#)

The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement: Jean M. Twenge and W. Keith Campbell

Narcissism—an inflated view of the self—is everywhere. Public figures say it's what makes them stray from their wives. Parents teach it by dressing children in T-shirts that say "Princess." Teenagers and young adults hone it on Facebook, and celebrity newsmakers have elevated it to an art form. And it's what's making people depressed, lonely, and buried under piles of debt.

Jean Twenge's influential first book, *Generation Me*, spurred a national debate with its depiction of the challenges twenty- and thirty-somethings face in today's world—and the fallout these issues create for educators and employers. Now, Dr. Twenge turns her focus to the pernicious spread of narcissism in today's culture, which has repercussions for every age group and class. Dr. Twenge joins forces with W. Keith Campbell, Ph.D., a nationally recognized expert on narcissism, to

explore this new plague in *The Narcissism Epidemic*, their eye-opening exposition of the alarming rise of narcissism and its catastrophic effects at every level of society. Even the world economy has been damaged by risky, unrealistic overconfidence. Drawing on their own extensive research as well as decades of other experts' studies, Drs. Twenge and Campbell show us how to identify narcissism, minimize the forces that sustain and transmit it, and treat it or manage it where we find it. Filled with arresting, alarming, and even amusing stories of vanity gone off the tracks (would you like to hire your own personal paparazzi?), *The Narcissism Epidemic* is at once a riveting window into the consequences of narcissism, a prescription to combat the widespread problems it causes, and a probing analysis of the culture at large.

<https://www.amazon.com/Narcissism-Epidemic-Living-Age-Entitlement/dp/1416575995>

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<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/19942/the-narcissism-epidemic>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-narcissism-epidemic>

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<https://www.c-span.org/video/?286496-1/the-narcissism-epidemic>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq-hvAoktns> The narcissism epidemic with Jean Twenge at Happiness & Its Causes 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m54WFINT9Yo> The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement: PH J M

Twenge, W K Campbell - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv2LkAWc7Tk> W. Keith Campbell: The Narcissism Epidemic – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arJLy3hX1E8> The psychology of narcissism - W. Keith Campbell – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsUAEFJsOdA> What we can learn from narcissists | Keith Campbell | TEDxUGA

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-psychology-of-narcissism-w-keith-campbell#review>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD9x3OwqKes> "Look at Me!" Narcissism or Self-Esteem? – YouTube

<http://wkeithcampbell.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._Keith_Campbell

<http://psychology.uga.edu/directory/people/w-keith-campbell>

<https://theconversation.com/profiles/w-keith-campbell-305597>

<https://twitter.com/wkeithcampbell?lang=en>

<https://www.amazon.com/W.-Keith-Campbell/e/B001K8QGAO>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/692469.W_Keith_Campbell

Images for W. Keith Campbell

Images for The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement: Jean M. Twenge and W. Keith Campbell

The Last Lecture Quotes by Randy Pausch - Goodreads

"It's been well-documented that there is a growing **sense of entitlement** among young people. I have certainly seen that in my classrooms.

So many graduating seniors have this notion that they should get hired because of their creative brilliance. Too many are unhappy with the idea of starting at the bottom.

My advice has always been: 'You ought to be thrilled you got a job in the mailroom. And when you get there, here's what you do: Be really great at sorting mail.'

No one wants to hear someone say: 'I'm not good at sorting mail because the job is beneath me.' No job should be beneath us. And if you can't (or won't) sort mail, where is the proof that you can do anything?"

— Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3364076-the-last-lecture>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40611510-the-last-lecture>

<https://www.goodreads.com/videos/1011-randy-pausch-last-lecture-achieving-your-childhood-dreams>

Images for Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture* growing sense of entitlement

I encountered this sense of entitlement at one congregation I served with an average worship attendance 300+. It seemed most problematic among those who expected upward mobility but experienced downward mobility.

Are Millennials the Screwed Generation? - Newsweek

Today's youth, both here and abroad, have been screwed by their parents' fiscal profligacy and economic mismanagement. Neil Howe, a leading generational theorist, cites the "greed, shortsightedness, and blind partisanship" of the boomers, of whom he is one, for having "brought the global economy to its knees."

<http://www.newsweek.com/are-millennials-screwed-generation-65523>

Images for Are Millennials the Screwed Generation? - Newsweek

<https://www.npr.org/2012/09/03/160396937/are-todays-millennials-the-screwed-generation>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/victorlipman/2012/07/26/has-a-privileged-generation-become-the-screwed-generation/#1652e2e22309>
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<http://www.newser.com/story/252917/millennials-in-worse-straits-than-you-probably-realize.html>
<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-economy-is-crushing-the-american-dream-for-young-americans-2011-9>

My hypothesis is expressed in the following formula:

Entitlement + Decline = Volatility

The challenge of the local congregation reflects the challenge in the larger society.

A congregation retained the Church Doctor as a consultant to make recommendations on the various areas of life and mission in the congregation before I came. These recommendations informed my interim ministry in that congregation. Following are the recommendations he made for spiritual health:

I recommend members of the congregation pray about the attitude they project.

A demand for privileges without responsibilities is an **entitlement** mentality that is unfair, improper, and undermining to the health, vitality, and spiritual direction of this church. I recommend this type of approach be checked and that people within the congregation be challenged not to tolerate this type of mentality.

I recommend you develop strategies to focus of the fruits of the spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

I recommend you develop strategies to encourage a respectful followership toward those who have been called to lead you in this congregation.

2) Generation Snowflake

I was driving my car after midnight on 1/21/2017 listening to the latest national and international news from British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) **BBC Radio 4 FM - Schedules, Saturday 21 January 2017**, on Wisconsin Public Radio when Rachel Burden used the term "Generation Snowflake" to refer to those young adults who were over-protected by their parents growing up and considered to be something special. The presenting situation was the violent protests following the presidential inauguration in the United States.

Resources

Generation Cry Baby: Why Millennials Are A F*cking JOKE | YourTango

These kids are being raised on so much organic, **special snowflake** bullsh*t they'll probably have a psychological breakdown the second someone tells them they're not as perfect as they think they are.

<https://www.yourtango.com/2015284190/generation-cry-baby-why-millennials-are-fcking-joke>

Images for generation cry baby rachel foote

Images for special snowflake

<http://redalertpolitics.com/2015/12/04/millennial-generation-cry-baby-fking-joke/>

Images for millennial-generation-cry-baby

<https://www.elitedaily.com/life/cry-baby-millennial-blame/1314760>

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<http://thecircular.org/are-millennials-a-bunch-of-cry-babies/>

Generation Snowflake memes • Bruce On Politics - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/294141419397261397/>

Images for Generation Snowflake - Pinterest

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<https://www.pinterest.com/thepsychonaut11/generation-snowflake/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jogindersinghfo/leftard-losersor-laughing-at-generation-snowflake-/>

Generation Snowflake - Wikipedia

Generation Snowflake, or Snowflake Generation, is a **neologistic** term used to characterize the young adults of the 2010s as being more prone to taking offence and less resilient than previous **generations**, or as being too emotionally vulnerable to cope with views that challenge their own. The term is considered derogatory.^{[1][2]} It is one of several informal examples of usage of the word **snowflake** to refer to people.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation_Snowflake

Images for generation snowflake

The Snowflake Generation: A Decline of Youthful Resilience

Dr. Elmore discusses the rise of the snowflake generation and examines the steps parents can take to better prepare young adults for future ...

<https://growingleaders.com/blog/how-to-build-snowmen-from-a-snowflake-generation/>

Images for Snowflake Generation: A Decline of Youthful Resilience

<https://growingleaders.com/tim-elmore/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Tim-Elmore/e/B003Z4FUJ4>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/experts/dr-tim-elmore-0>

https://premierespeakers.com/tim_elmore/bio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvrUnZF5Xog> Growing Leaders in Today's Society – YouTube

3) Warning against sloth

Sloth is considered one of the seven deadly sins in Christian tradition.

Sloth (deadly sin) - Wikipedia

Sloth is one of the **seven capital sins** in Catholic teachings. It is the most difficult sin to define and credit as sin, since it refers to a jumble of notions, dating from antiquity and including mental, spiritual, pathological, and physical states.^[1] One definition is a habitual disinclination to exertion, or **laziness**.^[2]

Views concerning the virtue of work to support society and further God's plan suggest that through inactivity, one invites sin. "For Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do. Satan is the God of sin, the underworld and all things evil." ("Against Idleness and Mischief" by Isaac Watts).



Acedia in *The Seven Deadly Sins and the Four Last Things*, by Hieronymus Bosch.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sloth_\(deadly_sin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sloth_(deadly_sin))

Images for Sloth (deadly sin)

The Bible warns against sloth.

What Does the Bible Say About Slothfulness? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/slothfulness>

Images for bible and slothfulness

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Slothfulness>

<https://av1611.com/kjbp/kjv-dictionary/sloth.html>

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<https://manhoodjourney.org/the-deadly-sin-of-sloth/>

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<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/what-is-the-sin-of-sloth-and-why-is-it-worse-than-laziness.html>

<http://www.velocity.net/~edju70/2deadly.htm> Part 2: The Sin Of SLOTHFULNESS - Velocity.Net

Images for Sin Of SLOTHFULNESS

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/lazy-busy> Lazy Busy | Desiring God Unmasking the Deadly Sin of Sloth

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<https://www.generations.org/devotionals/418> The Root of Slothfulness | Generations

Images for Root of Slothfulness

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/sermons-about-slothfulness>

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http://www.absolutebiblestudy.com/Adversary/The_Implications_of_SLOTHFULNESS.htm

<https://www.washnword.com/slothfulness.html>

<https://renner.org/dont-allow-laziness-and-slothfulness/>

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<https://www.intouch.org/Listen/All-Channels/featured/the-landmine-of-slothfulness-part-1>

<https://www.templerestored.org/articles/the-cancer-of-slothfulness>

Will the sin of sloth be the undoing of this country's culture?

Resources

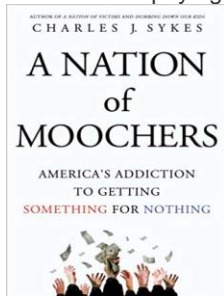
A Nation of Moochers: America's Addiction to Getting Something for Nothing by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

Have we reached a tipping point where more Americans depend on the efforts of others than on their own? Are we becoming a nation of moochers?

In *A Nation of Moochers*, Charles J. Sykes argues that we are already very close to that point, if we have not already crossed the line: from the corporate bailouts on Wall Street, to enormous pension, healthcare, and other entitlement costs, to questionable tax exemptions for businesses and individuals, to the alarming increases in personal default and dependency, the new moocher culture cuts across lines of class, race, and private and public sectors.

A Nation of Moochers explores the shift in the American character as well as the economy. Much of the anger of the current political climate stems from the realization by millions of Americans that they are being forced to pay for the greed-driven problems of other people and corporations; increasingly, those who plan and behave sensibly are being asked to bail out the profligate. Sykes' argument is not against compassion or legitimate charity, but distinguishes between definable needs and the moocher culture, in which self-reliance and personal responsibility have given way to mass grasping after entitlements, tax breaks, benefits, bailouts, and other forms of feeding at the public trough.

Persuasively argued and wryly entertaining, *A Nation of Moochers* is a rallying cry for Americans who are tired of playing by the rules and paying for those who don't.



<https://www.amazon.com/Nation-Moochers-Americas-Addiction-Something/dp/1250022320>

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<http://time.com/4963229/charles-j-sykes-where-the-right-went-wrong/>

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<https://www.wpr.org/people/charlie-sykes>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=squ8YKqL6M8> John Stossel - A Nation Of Moochers - YouTube

<https://www.facebook.com/A-Nation-of-Moochers-227501297266205/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SykesCharlie/>

<https://www.hoover.org/profiles/charles-j-sykes>

<https://www.macmillanspeakers.com/charlessykes>

<https://twitter.com/sykescharlie?lang=en>

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Images for A Nation of Moochers: America's Addiction to Getting Something for Nothing by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

A Nation of Victims: The Decay of the American Character by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

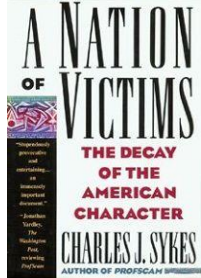
One of the most talked-about books in years, *A Nation of Victims* established Charles Sykes as a persuasive, witty, and controversial commentator on American life and society. The plaint of the victim-- *It's not my fault*-- has become the loudest and most influential voice in America, an instrument of personal and lasting political change.

* Fired for consistently showing up late for work, a former school district employee sues, claiming he is a victim of "chronic lateness syndrome."

* Videotaped puffing on a pipe filled with crack cocaine, Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry claims he is a victim of racism.

* In 1960, fewer than 100,000 lawsuits were filed in federal courts; in 1990, more than 250,000 were filed.

In this incisive, pugnacious, frequently hilarious book, Charles Sykes examines the erosion of our society and offers hope in the prospect of a culture of renewed character.



<https://www.amazon.com/Nation-Victims-Decay-American-Character/dp/0312098820>

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<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/charles-j-sykes/a-nation-of-victims/>

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<http://www.thebiganswer.info/books/A-Nation-of-Victims.php>

Images for A Nation of Victims: The Decay of the American Character by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

Dumbing Down Our Kids: Why American Children Feel Good About Themselves But Can't Read, Write, or Add by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

Dumbing Down Our Kids is a searing indictment of America's secondary schools—one that every parent and teacher should read.

Dumbing Down Our Kids offers a full-scale investigation of the new educational fad, sometimes called "Outcome Based Education" —the latest in a long series of "reforms" that has eroded our schools.

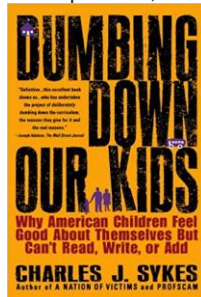
-Why our kids rank to, or at the bottom of international tests in math and science

-Why "self-esteem" has supplanted grades and genuine achievements

-How the educational establishment lowers standards and quality in our schools—while continuing to raise their budgets and our school taxes

-The dumbing down of the curriculum so everyone can pass—but no one excel

-How parents, students, and teachers can evaluate schools and restore quality learning



<https://www.amazon.com/Dumbing-Down-Our-Kids-Themselves/dp/0312148232>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6994.Dumbing_Down_Our_Kids

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/dumbing-down-our-kids-why-american-children-feel-good-about-themselves-but-cant-read-write-or-add-charles-j-sykes/1000354447>

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<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/11-rules-teenagers-from-bill-gates-francois-rosen>

Images for Dumbing Down Our Kids: Why American Children Feel Good About Themselves But Can't Read, Write, or Add by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

50 Rules Kids Won't Learn in School: Real-World Antidotes to Feel-Good Education by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

Charles J. Sykes offers fifty life lessons not included in the self-esteem-laden, reality-light curriculum of most schools. Here are truths about what kids will encounter in the world post-schooling, and ideas for how parents can reclaim lost ground---not with pep talks and touchy-feely negotiations, but with honesty and respect. Sykes's rules are frank, funny, and tough minded, including:

#1 Life is not fair. Get used to it.

#7 If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure, so he tends to be a bit edgier. When you screw up, he's not going to ask you how you FEEL about it.

#15 Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it "opportunity."

#42 Change the oil.

#43 Don't let the success of others depress you.

#48 Tell yourself the story of your life. Have a point.

Each rule is explored with wise, pithy examples that parents, grandparents, and teachers can use to help children help themselves succeed---in school and out of it.

A few rules kids won't learn in school:

#9 Your school may have done away with winners and losers. Life hasn't.

#14 Looking like a slut does not empower you.

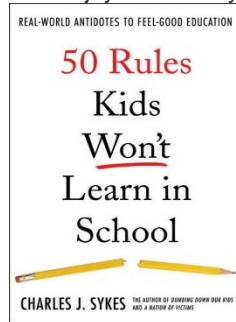
#29 Learn to deal with hypocrisy.

#32 Television is not real life.

#38 Look people in the eye when you meet them.

#47 You are not perfect, and you don't have to be.

#50 Enjoy this while you can



<https://www.amazon.com/Rules-Kids-Wont-Learn-School/dp/031236038X>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/760677.50_Rules_Kids_Won_t_Learn_in_School

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/50-rules-kids-wont-learn-in-school-real-world-antidotes-to-feel-good-education-charles-j-sykes/308966/#isbn=031236038X&idig=4185070>

<https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780312360382>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1466831278>

https://books.google.com/books/about/50_Rules_Kids_Won_t_Learn_in_School.html?id=K82HNUQ9vAwC

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-312-36038-2> Nonfiction Book Review

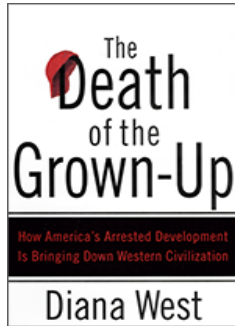
<http://www.writersreps.com/50-Rules-Kids-Wont-Learn-in-School>

Images for 50 Rules Kids Won't Learn in School: Real-World Antidotes to Feel-Good Education by Charles J. Sykes (Author)

The Death of the Grown-Up: How America's Arrested Development Is Bringing Down Western Civilization by Diana West (Author)

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE GROWN-UPS GONE?" That is the provocative question Washington Times syndicated columnist Diana West asks as she looks at America today. Sadly, here's what she finds: It's difficult to tell the grown-ups from the children in a landscape littered with Baby Britneys, Moms Who Mosh, and Dads too "young" to call themselves "mister." Surveying this sorry scene, West makes a much larger statement about our place in the world: "No wonder we can't stop Islamic terrorism. We haven't put away our toys!" As far as West is concerned, grown-ups are extinct. The disease that killed them emerged in the fifties, was incubated in the sixties, and became an epidemic in the seventies, leaving behind a nation of eternal adolescents who can't say "no," a politically correct population that doesn't know right from wrong. The result of such indecisiveness is, ultimately, the end of Western civilization as we know it. This is because the inability to take on the grown-up role of gatekeeper influences more than whether a sixteen-year-old should attend a Marilyn Manson concert. It also fosters the dithering cultural relativism that arose from the "culture wars" in the eighties and which now undermines our efforts in the "real"

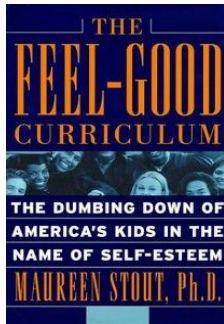
culture war of the 21st century—the war on terror. With insightful wit, Diana West takes readers on an odyssey through culture and politics, from the rise of rock 'n' roll to the rise of multiculturalism, from the loss of identity to the discovery of "diversity," from the emasculation of the heroic ideal to the "PC"-ing of "Mary Poppins," all the while building a compelling case against the childishness that is subverting the struggle against jihadist Islam in a mixed-up, post-9/11 world. With a new foreword for the paperback edition, "The Death of the Grown-up," is a bracing read from one of the most original voices on the American cultural scene.



<https://www.amazon.com/Death-Grown-Up-Americas-Development-Civilization/dp/0312340494>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/764876.The_Death_of_the_Grown_Up
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjGQM-wwDwc> Diana West - The Death of the Grown-Up - YouTube
 Images for Diana West - The Death of the Grown-Up - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMqnKr7vQts> Diana West, author of "The Death of the Grown-Up" - YouTube
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?202581-1/the-death-grown-up> The Death of the Grown-Up - C-Span
www.dailymotion.com/video/x44sp7 "DEATH OF THE GROWN UP" - DIANA WEST - PT1 - Video Dailymotion
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<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-312-34048-3> Nonfiction Book Review
<https://www.claremont.org/crb/article/growing-up-american/>
<https://www.challies.com/book-reviews/the-death-of-the-grown-up/>
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<http://dianawest.net/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_West
<https://www.amazon.com/Diana-West/e/B001JRU95Y>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6572970.Diana_West
 Images for The Death of the Grown-Up: How America's Arrested Development Is Bringing Down Western Civilization by Diana West (Author)

The Feel-Good Curriculum: The Dumbing Down Of America's Kids In The Name of Self-esteem by Maureen Stout Ph.D. (Author)

The so-called self-esteem movement—a progressive, child-centered, discovery model of schooling—has transformed schools into therapeutic clinics and teachers into counselors, creating a generation of entitled, righteous, underachieving children. An insider's account of the pernicious aspects of this seemingly well-meaning movement, *The Feel-Good Curriculum* provides devastating evidence that our belief in the power and importance of self-esteem in education is misplaced and without basis. Avoiding political posturing and political correctness, *The Feel-Good Curriculum* identifies the four specific effects of self-esteem's stranglehold on our schools—narcissism, emotivism, separatism, and cynicism. It prescribes antidotes to them—empathy, rationality and morality, connectedness, and skepticism—and offers a hopeful view of educational philosophy for the next millennium. Professor Stout urges us to replace our coddling, indulgent approach to building self-esteem in children with a sense of authentic self-confidence developed from intellectual, physical, and moral effort and achievement.



<https://www.amazon.com/Feel-Good-Curriculum-Dumbing-Americas-Self-esteem/dp/0738204358>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/128165.The_Feel_Good_Curriculum

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-7382-0257-0> Nonfiction Book Review

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<https://archive.org/details/feelgoodcurricul00stou>

<https://www.amazon.com/Maureen-Stout/e/B001H6MHPM>

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Images for The Feel-Good Curriculum: The Dumbing Down Of America's Kids In The Name of Self-esteem by Maureen Stout Ph.D. (Author)

One father refused to make excuses for his son and compelled him to accept the consequences of his action.

Keyshawn Johnson lays down the law on his son – ProFootballTalk

When he was playing in the NFL, Keyshawn Johnson was never bashful about speaking his mind. That's continued in his role as a father, with tough words for his own son as he takes an involuntary break from college football.

Freshman wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson Jr. is taking a leave of absence from Nebraska, after being caught with marijuana in his dorm room in June. He's now back home in California and may take classes at a junior college this fall.

The elder Johnson said his son needed to "mature" before he went back to Nebraska to continue his career.

Johnson has a close relationship with Cornhuskers coach Mike Riley, who was his offensive coordinator at Southern Cal. And Riley has confirmed the leave of absence for the younger Johnson, who was one of his most celebrated recruits.

"One thing you will not do as my son is you will not embarrass Nebraska, you will not embarrass Mike Riley **and you will not embarrass this family**," the elder Johnson said, via Sam McKewon of the *Omaha World-Herald*. "If you mature and you're ready to resume your football career and academic goals, then Nebraska will be ready to embrace you."

The former Jets, Buccaneers, Cowboys, and Panthers wideout said he consulted with Riley and the school's athletic department. Conspicuously absent from the discussions was Johnson Jr. "I never asked him," Johnson Sr. said. "At the end of the day, I don't think that decision was in his hands. He squandered that decision. He still wants to play football, and he still wants to play for Nebraska. But if you don't do the things you're supposed to do, under the guidelines of me, it's not going to happen. . . .

"You've watched — on Instagram, on Facebook, on Twitter — everything's a big party. You just want to get to college to party, but you don't understand: You're playing college football. It's a business. And it's a serious business. If you want to become successful — make it to the NFL — you've got to embrace it. You've got to own it. You don't make it to the next level by cruising. There's no cruise control."

"There's no 'Mike Riley is good friends with Keyshawn, so his son's automatically going to play.' That's not the game.

That's not why he went to Nebraska. He went there to work his tail off. To have an opportunity to be successful. But when you don't do that — and you squander that — what are you going to do?"

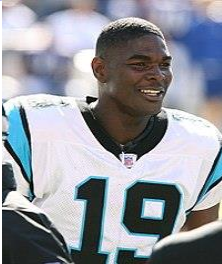
<https://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/07/06/keyshawn-johnson-lays-down-the-law-on-his-son/>

<http://nebraska-cornhuskers.collegefootballfansite.com/news-607574/keyshawn-johnson-lays-down-the-law-on-his-son/>

<http://www.espn.com/video/clip?id=19767588> Johnson explains why he pulled son from Nebraska - ESPN Video

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/ncaaf/bigten/2017/06/21/keyshawn-johnson-chastises-son-keyshawn-johnson-jr-marijuana-possession-citation/416078001/>

Images for keyshawn johnson lays down the law on his son



Johnson with the Carolina Panthers in 2006

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keyshawn_Johnson

Images for keyshawn johnson wide receiver

The ant may be one of the smallest of creatures, but one of the most industrious.

The Folly of Indolence

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard!
Consider her ways and be wise,
⁷ Which, having no ^[a]captain,
Overseer or ruler,
⁸ Provides her ^[b]supplies in the summer,
And gathers her food in the harvest.
⁹ How long will you ^[c]slumber, O sluggard?
When will you rise from your sleep?
¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep—
¹¹ So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:6-11, Proverbs 11:23-31 NKJV - The Folly of Indolence

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+6%3A6-11&version=NKJV>

Images for Folly of Indolence

Images for Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,

4) Christendom to post-Christendom

When I started seminary in 1975, I was only a decade removed from the “The numerical height of mainline Protestantism (which) occurred in the year 1965.”

Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965.¹ That was the year that the largest percentages of American people affiliated with and attended church. More Americans were going to church than at any other time in U.S. history.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Esteem-Ministry-Membership-Church/dp/0881773727> Page 10

<https://alban.org/archive/the-church-in-exile-being-a-missionary-to-the-dominant-culture/>

Mainline decline - The Lutheran Magazine

Mainline denominations grew through the 1940s and 1950s, but about 1965 they began to lose members.

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?id=5806&key=33709634>

Images for decline mainline denominations

http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E_Apr_16_CC_HiRes.pdf • The peak year for ELCA (and predecessor church bodies) membership and financial support was 1965.

President John F. Kennedy in his **Inaugural address, 20 January 1961** uttered his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”

President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address - YouTube

President John F. Kennedy delivers one of the most memorable lines of any inaugural address: "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Watch his full remarks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnEbFJY4MZk>

Images for President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address - YouTube

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?5796-1/president-kennedy-1961-inauguration>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inauguration_of_John_F._Kennedy

Images for jfk inaugural address

Then, “the ‘60s happened” with the insistence on free expression, on the one hand, and the Vietnam War, assassinations, and civil unrest, on the other hand.

Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors edited by Norman B. Bendroth

Shifting Sources of Authority

Historians observe that the **1960s and 1970s were years of unprecedented tumult** that shook us to our roots.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

Page 9

https://books.google.com/books/about/Transitional_Ministry_Today.html?id=Oy7VBQAAQBAJ

Images for 1960s and 1970s were years of unprecedented tumult

Transitional ministry can be tremendously helpful for congregations in times of change, and yet, to be successful today **transitional ministers and churches need to take into account the major changes in the religious landscape**. From the decline of mainline churches to the rise of those who don't identify with any religious tradition, the religious scene has changed dramatically since transitional ministry began three decades ago, and to remain vital today, the practice of

transitional ministry must change as well.

This book provides transitional ministers and congregations with essential information on re-thinking transitional ministry in ways that take the current religious climate into account. Ten experienced authors—including seasoned practitioners of transitional ministry and those who oversee transitional ministry denomination-wide—propose new ways to approach transitional ministry today. Chapters address practical theology, leadership, specialized interim situations, renewal during interim time, alternative models of transitional ministry, and more. Essays address a range of diverse churches in size, racial/ethnic background, and location.

Transitional Ministry Today highlights how creative and cutting-edge ministry can be done during the “in-between-time” through creative thinking and practice in the face of new realities.

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23811442-transitional-ministry-today>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566997515/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies-for-Churches-and-Pastors>

Images for major changes in the religious landscape

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

<https://thecrg.org/resources/transitional-ministry-today-successful-strategies-for-churches-and-pastors>

<https://louisville-institute.org/interviews/norman-bendroth/>

Images for *Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors* edited by Norman B. Bendroth

I recall hearing seminary professors using terms like “hyper individualism” to describe the increasingly secular context. In 2015 when this post was written – 40 years after the start of my seminary education and 50 years after “the numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States” – the future is now. As so may writers and speakers have detailed, the Christian faith has gone from part of the dominant culture known as Christendom

Christendom - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Christendom or the Christian world,^[1] in the widest sense, means [Christianity](#) as a territorial [phenomenon](#). That means: those countries where most people are [Christians](#) and because of that are part of Christendom.

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christendom>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christendom>

Images for Christendom

Constantine the Great and Christianity - Wikipedia

During the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (AD 306–337), Christianity began to transition to the dominant religion of the Roman Empire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_the_Great_and_Christianity

Images for constantine the great and christianity

to Postchristianity

Postchristianity - Wikipedia

Postchristianity^[1] is the loss of the primacy of the Christian worldview in political affairs, especially in the [Global North](#) where [Christianity](#) had previously flourished, in favor of alternative worldviews such as [secularism](#) or [nationalism](#).^[2] It includes personal [world views](#), [ideologies](#), [religious movements](#) or [societies](#) that are no longer rooted in the language and assumptions of Christianity, at least explicitly, although they had previously been in an environment of ubiquitous Christianity (i.e. [Christendom](#)).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postchristianity>

Images for Post Christianity

or the church in exile.

The Church in Exile: Living in Hope After Christendom by Lee Beach (Author), Walter Brueggemann (Foreword)

The people of God throughout history have been a people of exile and diaspora. Whether under the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks or Romans, the people chosen by God have had to learn how to be a holy people in alien lands and under foreign rule. For much of its history, however, the Christian church lived with the sense of being at home in the world, with considerable influence and power. That age of Christendom is now over, and as Lee Beach demonstrates, this is something for which the church should be grateful. The “peace” of Christendom was a false one, and there is no comfortable normalcy to which we can or should return. Drawing on a close engagement with Old Testament and New Testament texts, *The Church in Exile* offers a biblical and practical theology for the church in a post-Christian age. Beach helps the people of God today to develop a hopeful and prophetic imagination, a theology responsive to its context, and an exilic identity marked by faithfulness to God’s mission in the world.

<https://www.amazon.com/Church-Exile-Living-After-Christendom/dp/0830840664>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22144334-the-church-in-exile>

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<https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/news/dr-lee-beach-writes-cover-story-faithtoday-church-exile>
<https://vimeo.com/182178579> Exploring the Church in Exile _Lee Beach on Vimeo
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<https://flourishsandiego.org/exile-changes-everything-part-one/>
<https://flourishsandiego.org/exile-changes-everything-part-two/>
<https://freshhope.org.au/blog/2017/06/08/a-church-in-exile/>
<https://missionexus.org/the-church-in-exile-living-in-hope-after-christendom/>
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https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48472.Walter_Brueggemann
 Images for Walter Brueggemann
 Images for The Church in Exile: Living in Hope After Christendom by Lee Beach (Author), Walter Brueggemann (Foreword)

But when I read writers and hear speakers decry previous generations for not preparing students for this cultural shift and when I am tempted to engage in self-flagellation about the decline of attendance at services of worship amidst all the talk of making the church more relevant to people's needs, I remind myself that the dominant culture is becoming increasingly indifferent and even downright hostile to the gospel. A growing number express no need or desire for the church or its message.

5) Where have the men gone?

When I was attending Sunday School at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City, Iowa during the 1960s, I recall Myron Rod teaching 7th grade, Vernon Ullestad 8th grade, my father Harold L. Bolstad 9th grade, and Pastor C. A. Gisselquist 10th-12th grades. I held these men in high regard.

Harold L. Bolstad April 25, 1927 — July 3, 2014 - The Ames Tribune

Harold L. Bolstad, 87, of Story City, died on Thursday, July 3, 2014, at Bethany Manor in Story City. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City. Burial will follow in Story City Cemetery. Visitation will be after 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the church.

Harold was born April 25, 1927, near Homestead, Mont., to Kinley and Nora (Nelson) Bolstad. He married Pearl N. Norager on Sept. 10, 1952. She passed away Sept. 11, 1996. Harold was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict and worked for HCS Builders as a finish carpenter. He was a very active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Story City Kiwanis Club. He enjoyed gardening and volunteering at Habitat for Humanity.

Harold is survived by four sons, the **Rev. Lowell Bolstad of Rice Lake, Wis.**, Sheldon (Terry) Bolstad, of Minneapolis, Neil (Linda) Bolstad, of Cedar Rapids, and Arlan Bolstad, of Ames; two granddaughters; two great-granddaughters; and one sister Marion Erdahl, of Sioux Falls, S.D.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Pearl; and three brothers, Donald, Jim and Kermit.

www.amestrib.com/article/20140705/OBITUARIES/307059973

Rev. Clement Algernon Gisselquist (1918-1979) - IAGenWeb

Funeral services for the Rev. C.A. Gisselquist, 60, were held Monday, June 11 at 1:30 p.m. from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City. Bishop Durwood Buckheim and the Revs. Alvin Rogness and Al Berg officiated.

Preceding the church service, a Family Prayer Service led by Pastor Oliver Johnson, was held in the Chapel. Alter prayer and scripture reading was by pastor Rudolph Anderson. Robert Hanson was soloist, and Mrs. Harold Olson was at the organ.

The Committal Service in the Story City Municipal Cemetery was conducted by pastors Rev. Rolfe S. Johnstad and Donald L. Berg. Casket bearers were Deacons of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Rev. Clement A. Gisselquist was born November 22, 1918 at Elmore, Minnesota, to Rev. John and Ida Gisselquist. His early years were spent at Centerville, S.D. where he attended both grade school and high school. He attended the Lutheran Bible School in Fergus Falls, Minn. for one year prior to receiving his higher education at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn., where he graduated in 1941 and 1944.

On June 9, 1944 he was united in marriage to Borghild Stenoien of Mayville, North Dakota. To this union were born three sons and two daughters, Rebecca (Mrs. Ronald Lien), James, Martha (Mrs. Conrad Peterson), John, Joel and Miriam. There are five grandchildren: Jana, Joshua, Eric, Krysta, and Karyn.

Pastor Gisselquist was ordained June 4, 1944. He served pastorates at Bottineau, North Dakota (1944-47), Jasper, Minnesota (1947-53), Sioux City, Iowa (1958-68), and Story City, Iowa (1968-79).

He often spoke of his ministry in terms of being a servant of the congregation and in this spirit he lived and worked among us. He had wide interests as evidenced by hobbies, books, music, travels, contacts and his children's activities, and involvement in community and church activities beyond the congregation.

For fifteen years he was chairman of the board of the World Mission Prayer League. These interests helped him stay in touch with people and the world in which he bore his witness to the Gospel.

He often spoke of his love and high regard for the people of Immanuel congregation. Though his service was shortened by his death, it was where he wanted to end his ministry. He died at his home on June 6, 1979.

<http://iagenweb.org/boards/story/obituaries/index.cgi?read=451239>

Now, Sunday School in many congregations ends at 5th or 6th grade, if not before, and most of the teachers are women. In most congregations in Northwest Wisconsin, there is no Sunday School on the Sundays either side of Thanksgiving because of deer hunting. Sundays after Thanksgiving are spent getting ready for the program on the Sunday before Christmas. Many students do not bother showing up after Christmas. Where have the men gone?

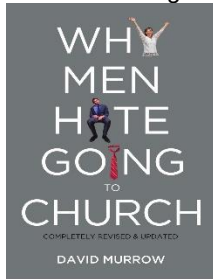
Why Men Hate Going to Church by David Murrow (Author)

Christianity is the only world religion with a chronic shortage of men. David Murrow identifies the barriers to male participation and explains why it's so hard to motivate the men who do go to church. Then, he takes you inside several fast-growing congregations that are winning the hearts of men and boys.

"Church is boring." "It's irrelevant." "It's full of hypocrites."

You've heard the excuses —now learn the real reasons men and boys are fleeing churches of every kind, all over the world. Christianity is the only world religion with a chronic shortage of men. David Murrow identifies the barriers to male participation and explains why it's so hard to motivate the men who do go to church. Then, he takes you inside several fast-growing congregations that are winning the hearts of men and boys.

The first release of *Why Men Hate Going to Church* sold more than 125,000 copies and was published in multiple languages. This edition is completely revised, reorganized, and rewritten, with more than 70 percent new content. *Why Men Hate Going to Church* does not call men back to church—it calls the church back to men.



<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Men-Hate-Going-Church/dp/078523215X>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/291418.Why_Men_Hate_Going_to_Church

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<http://churchformen.com/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2012/summer/goingtochurch.html>

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<https://www.9marks.org/review/why-men-hate-going-church-david-murrow/>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-10/why-do-men-stay-away>

<http://www1.cbn.com/churchandministry/why-men-hate-church>

<https://www.newmangelization.com/uncategorized/discussion-with-david-murrow-why-men-hate-going-to-church/>

<https://baptistnews.com/article/why-men-hate-going-to-church/#.WzTp8dJKiUk>

<https://www.deeperwatersapologetics.com/?p=10947> Book Plunge: Why Men Hate Going To Church - Deeper Waters

<https://www.essence.com/2010/09/07/do-men-hate-church-going-to-church>

<https://faithalone.org/journal-articles/book-reviews/why-men-hate-going-to-church/>

<http://magazine.biola.edu/article/06-spring/interview-with-david-murrow/>

<https://www.facebook.com/david.murrow>

<https://twitter.com/murrow5?lang=en>

<https://www.amazon.com/David-Murrow/e/B001IR1FHG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/168618.David_Murrow

Images for david murrow (author)

Images for Why Men Hate Going to Church by David Murrow (Author)

This question is being asked in society at large.

Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys by Kay S. Hymowitz (Author)

Women complain there are no good men left—that men are immature, unreliable, and adrift. No wonder. Masculine role models have become increasingly juvenile and inarticulate: think of stars like Adam Sandler and Will Ferrell, or the dudes of the popular Judd Apatow movies. There are no rules for dating and mating. Guys are unsure how to treat a woman. Most importantly, dating in the pre-adult years is no longer a means to an end—marriage—as it was in the past. Many

young men today suspect they are no longer essential to family life, and without the old scripts to follow, they find themselves stuck between adolescence and “real” adulthood. In *Manning Up*, Kay Hymowitz sets these problems in a socioeconomic context: today’s knowledge economy is female friendly, and many of the highest profile areas of that economy—communications, design, the arts, and health care—are dominated by women. Men are increasingly left on the outskirts of this new, service economy, and take much longer to find a financial foothold. With no biological clock telling them it’s time to grow up, without the financial resources to settle down, and with the accepted age of marriage rising into the late 30s or even 40s, men are holding onto adolescence at the very time that women are achieving professional success and looking to find a mate to share it with. A provocative account of the modern sexual economy, Hymowitz deftly charts a gender mismatch that threatens the future of the American family and makes no one happy in the long run.



<https://www.amazon.com/Manning-Up-Rise-Women-Turned/dp/0465028365>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9993519-manning-up>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/manning-up-kay-s-hymowitz/1102976968>

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/manning-up-how-the-rise-of-women-has-turned-men-into-boys_kay-s-hymowitz/349443/#isbn=0465018424&idq=4494028

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/mar/27/manning-up-kay-hymowitz-review>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jennagoudreau/2011/03/03/rise-of-women-turned-men-into-boys-manning-up-kay-hymowitz/#2c18c21976b9>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-465-01842-0> Nonfiction Book Review

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704409004576146321725889448> Where Have The Good Men Gone? - WSJ

<https://www.npr.org/2011/02/28/134134731/As-America-Changes-Manhood-Does-Too>

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/kay-s-hymowitz/manning/>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2011/03/dude-be-man-interview/>

<https://goodmenproject.com/families/manning-up-womens-rise-mens-demise/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xu90LCed9M> Kay Hymowitz: "Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys" - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtxTi37HtIA> Kay Hymowitz Talks about Manning Up - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnJ_IBL1M7U Manning Up - How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys-YouTube

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay_Hymowitz

<https://twitter.com/kayhymowitz?lang=en>

<https://www.manhattan-institute.org/expert/kay-s-hymowitz>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kay-S.-Hymowitz/e/B001JRV31S>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/407078.Kay_S_Hymowitz

Images for Kay S. Hymowitz (Author)

Images for Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys by Kay S. Hymowitz (Author)

What does it mean to be a man of God?

[What Does the Bible Say About Being A Man Of God? - OpenBible.info](https://www.openbible.info/topics/being_a_man_of_god)

https://www.openbible.info/topics/being_a_man_of_god

https://www.openbible.info/topics/being_a_man

Images for bible and man of God

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Being-A-Man-Of-God/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/godly-man.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/being-a-man.html>

https://blogs.bible.org/engage/sandra_glahn/act_like_men_what_does_paul_mean/

<http://www.watermark.org/blog/how-to-be-a-godly-man>

<https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/what-is-image-of-god/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-men/>

<http://realmenconnect.com/prayer-requests/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Being-A-Man-Of-God>

Images for Being-A-Man-Of-God

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/IVP-NT/1Tim/Timothy-Man-God>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/nine-attributes-of-a-real-man>

<http://www.manturity.com/2015/02/17/20-scripture-verses-that-define-mature-manhood/>

Images for scripture-verses-that-define-mature-manhood
<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/scripture-on-a-godly-man-for-fathers-day/>
<https://www.benandme.com/2014/10/10-bible-verses-for-the-man-you-are-raising.html>
<https://www.allaboutgod.com/role-of-husband-in-the-bible.htm>
<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/the-true-steps-to-becoming-a-godly-man.html>
Images for true-steps-to-becoming-a-godly-man

6) Under the skin or not

Certain people have a way of “getting under the skin” of others. The choice is whether to allow that to happen.

Resources

Get under skin - Idioms by The Free Dictionary

1. To become a source of irritation. *I just can't stand Dean's voice, so everything he says gets under my skin.*

<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/get+under+skin>

Images for under skin - Idioms

Joe Scarborough explains how to get under Donald Trump's skin – The Washington Post

Joe Scarborough knows how to push Donald Trump's buttons. Now, he's sharing the secret.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/06/09/joe-scarborough-explains-how-to-get-under-donald-trumps-skin/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5734e77567d2

Images for joe scarborough under donald trump's skin

What is the best way to not let people get under my skin? - Quora

5 Answers

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-best-way-to-not-let-people-get-under-my-skin>

Images for What is the best way to not let people get under my skin? - Quora

<https://blogs.psychcentral.com/nlp/2016/08/allowing-people-to-get-under-your-skin/>

<https://medium.com/@LalainaRackson/how-to-not-let-people-get-under-your-skin-5cebe3d98488>

https://www.reddit.com/r/AskMen/comments/3gty1l/how_do_you_not_let_people_get_under_your_skin/

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-truisms-wellness/201611/the-5-types-people-you-need-get-out-your-life>

7) Power groups

Each Sunday during the service of worship, I could look up into the balcony and see the choir. Together and individually they exercised power in the congregation both formally and informally.

Resources

Dealing with Power Groups in the Church - Thom Rainer

On the podcast we discuss power groups—both positive and negative groups.

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/06/dealing-with-power-groups-in-the-church-rainer-on-leadership-135/>

Images for Dealing with Power Groups in the Church - Thom Rainer

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/09/seven-ways-to-respond-to-power-groups-in-the-church/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/09/eight-types-of-power-groups-in-churches/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/02/six-main-traits-preacher-eater-churches/>

#2

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/03/nine-traits-mean-churches/>

#3

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/03/nine-traits-church-bullies/>

#3

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/11/five-dangers-church-cartel/>

#1

Images for thom rainer (author)

The Power Structure within a Church Can Steamroll the Minister

My research into church life paid particular attention to issues of power, influence and control. It became clear that every congregation has two levels of power at work: formal and informal.

<http://www.mtmfoundation.org/2012/08/the-power-structure-within-a-church-can-steamroll-the-minister/>

Images for The Power Structure within a Church Can Steamroll the Minister

<https://www.amazon.com/Pass-Power-Please-Robert-Perry/dp/1257124641>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1257124641>

8) Type A Personalities

Once, when carrying on a telephone conversation with a former pastor, the former pastor chuckled and asked, “How are you getting along with all those Type A personalities?” He was right. The congregation possessed its share of such personalities.

One man – retired from manufacturing and from the military reserves proposed at a congregation listening session that the Congregation Council hold the pastor accountable for making so many home visits a week and that a report of such be posted on a bulletin board for all to see. He also upbraided the church organist for concluding her prelude 2 minutes before the scheduled start time of the service of worship. In addition, he once brought a ruler into the church office marked in 2 places where he believed it was right to staple the newsletter. He asked the custodian who was operating the DVD for a men's bible study to adjust the bass and treble so that he could hear better.

One woman in the congregation retired from home economics education chastened a staff member for not wearing a name tag in what she considered to be the right location.
Another man retired working as an engineer on the railroad freely admitted to being a strictly linear thinker and insisted that meetings begin and end of time.
The list could go on and on.

Resources

How to Handle a Type A Personality | Our Everyday Life

Understanding what drives the Type A personality is key to dealing with it.

<https://oureverydaylife.com/handle-type-personality-16322.html>

Images for How to Handle a Type A Personality | Our Everyday Life

<http://living.thebump.com/handle-type-personality-14531.html>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Deal-with-%22Type-A%22-Personalities>

<https://psychologenie.com/how-to-deal-with-type-personality>

<https://www.slice.ca/money/photos/how-to-deal-with-type-a-co-workers/>

<http://work.chron.com/deal-type-boss-7127.html>

<https://www.universalclass.com/articles/business/difficult-workplace-personalities-and-how-to-deal-with-them.htm> #4

Working With a Type A Personality | Psychology Today

Type A personalities operate at a maximum speed and aspire to achieve large [goals](#); as a result, they display the following traits and behaviors:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/digital-leaders/201201/working-type-personality>

Images for Working With a Type A Personality | Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/tests/personality/type-personality-test>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201603/the-amazing-facts-behind-the-type-personality>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201710/can-you-ever-have-good-relationship-type-person>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/not-born-yesterday/201310/type-personality>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/personality>

9) Obdurate

Since I do not normally consume commercial television, one of the ways I catch up is on Gas Station TV. This television came on the screen while I was filling 91 octane gasoline in my 2015 Ford Fiesta at the Kwik Trip convenience store in Abbotsford, WI on 5/2/2017.

Motorists can catch the news, sports headlines and learn a new word – all while filling up

They can watch and listen to short broadcasts on screens at the pump, interspersed with ads and tidbits such as the word of the day.

https://www.postandcourier.com/automotive/motorists-can-catch-the-news-sports-headlines-and-learn-a/article_5029e480-5fb4-11e8-9395-871649ce9eb2.html

<https://qstv.com/>

<https://rebrn.com/re/this-gas-station-gives-you-a-word-of-the-day-while-you-pump-your-3255593/>

Images for gas station tv

The word for the day was obdurate,

obdurate | Definition of obdurate in English by Oxford Dictionaries

Definition of obdurate - **stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action.**

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/obdurate>

Images for Definition of obdurate - stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action

which called to mind people whom I sometimes encounter.

Obdurate Quotes - Quotes about Obdurate | YourDictionary

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/obdurate>

Images for obdurate quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/obdurate>

<http://www.picturequotes.com/obdurate-quotes>

<http://topfamousquotes.com/quotes-about-obdurate/>

10) When insight does not work

A colleague recounted taking exception to the actions of the Congregation Council and asserted, "Sometimes, you just have to say, 'No. That action is not appropriate!'"

Resources

Edwin H. Friedman Quotes (Author of A Failure of Nerve) - Goodreads

Edwin H. Friedman Quote: "The colossal misunderstanding of our time is the assumption that **insight** will work with people who are unmotivated to change."

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/12448.Edwin_H_Friedman

Images for the colossal misunderstanding of our time

Dr. Friedman has woven 24 illustrative tales that offer fresh perspectives on familiar human foibles and reflect the author's humor, pathos, and understanding. Friedman takes on resistance and other "demons" to show that **neither insight, nor encouragement, nor intimidation can in themselves motivate an unmotivated person to change.** These tales playfully demonstrate that new ideas, new questions, and imagination, more than accepted wisdom, provide each of us with the keys to overcoming stubborn emotional barriers and facilitating real change both in ourselves and others. Thought-provoking discussion questions for each fable are included. Sure to intrigue and inform, this book belongs in the resource library of public speakers, teachers, trainers, and clergy, as well as general readers.

<http://www.amazon.com/Friedmans-Fables-Edwin-H-Friedman/dp/0898624401>

Images for Edwin H. Friedman Quotes (Author of A Failure of Nerve)

Five personal resources for leadership – Perspectives on Congregational Leadership

Ruthlessness. Whether you're a fan of Machiavelli or not, the fact remains that one of the most important personal resources of any leader is ruthlessness. Being ruthless does not mean that one practices the torched earth strategy as a singular approach. Nor does it mean that one's primary stance is adversarial. But when, on occasion, it is called for, leaders must be ruthless when facing the willful toxic forces whose mindless pursuit is to destroy the system, impede progress, or attack the leader. **When there is no reasoning with the unreasonable, leaders must be the ones to restrict, contain, or cast out the toxic elements.**

<http://perspectivesig.blogspot.com/2010/02/five-personal-resources-for-leadership.html>

Images for no reasoning with the unreasonable

Images for leaders must be the ones to restrict, contain, or cast out the toxic elements

11) Member turns hostile in the church office

A widower in his late 70s showed up at the church office to upbraid the new church secretary because of a giving report in which the Women of the ELCA had credited his deceased wife's handmade doilies for \$15 for the church rummage sale. Since I worked out of the parsonage office, I was not there when it happened. He had earlier called the financial secretary in the same tone. He may have felt that his late wife was disrespected but could not seem to understand that rummage sale items do not bring the same price he evidently considered them to be worth.

doilies | everything vintage/what is it worth?

I can usually pick up a box of doilies for 1-2\$ and a tablecloth for 2-4\$.

www.everythingvintagesteff.com/tag/doilies/

Images for doilies everything vintage what is it worth

He did not own a computer to sell these items online.

Antiques and Collectibles—How to Value and Sell Your Old Things

After inheriting her grandmother's collection of antiques, Dolores has maintained an interest in the care and sale of vintage items.

<https://hobbylark.com/collecting/AntiquesandCollectiblesHowtoValueandSellYourOldThings>

Images for Antiques and Collectibles—How to Value and Sell Your Old Things

In talking this through with the two women, it came out that this same man once took exception to the order in which the acolyte lit the candles. When the church organist asked him, "What difference does it make?", he developed and held a grudge against her for years. I said to the two women, "When it appears that talking the matter through is not going to work, this man can be told that this kind of behavior is unacceptable." The church secretary replied, "Next time I see his car coming into the lot, I'm leaving out the back door."

9 Keys to Handling Hostile and Confrontational People | Psychology Today

Most of us encounter confrontational and hostile people at some points in our lives.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/communication-success/201409/how-successfully-handle-aggressive-and-controlling-people>

Images for 9 Keys to Handling Hostile and Confrontational People | Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/communication-success/201409/how-successfully-handle-aggressive-and-controlling-people>

Images for handle-aggressive-and-controlling-people

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/201205/the-high-art-handling-problem-people>

Images for handling-problem-people

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/communication-success/201601/15-control-tactics-difficult-people>

Images for control-tactics-difficult-people

I noted this behavior in my monthly report to be passed on to the new installed pastor as a forewarning.

12) The road or the ditch

There are rules of the road but not for the ditch.

Fighting in a ditch by RyanRyzzo on DeviantArt

An overeager knight pursued some men into uneven terrain and ended up in a trap. He tumbled from his horse as it died beneath him. The infantrymen proceeded to subdue the knight with extreme prejudice and annoyance.

<https://www.deviantart.com/ryanryzzo/art/Fighting-in-a-ditch-364251395>

Images for Fighting in a ditch by RyanRyzzo on DeviantArt

I prefer to stay on the road and out of the ditch.

21 Things All Great Leaders Do - CareyNieuwhof.com

15. Take The High Road

It's easy to get pulled down into the mud... arguing, jostling and getting caught up in cheap accusations that lead nowhere good.

<https://careynieuwhof.com/25-things-all-the-great-leaders-do/>

Images for 21 Things All Great Leaders Do - CareyNieuwhof.com 15. Take The High Road

<https://careynieuwhof.com/21-things-youll-never-regret-as-a-leader/>

#2

[#7](https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/carey-nieuwhof-7-things-that-get-harder-as-your-church-grows-2940)

<https://careynieuwhof.com/25-random-pieces-of-advice-for-leaders-in-their-20s-30s-or-40s/>

#18

<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-ways-for-a-church-member-to-leave-a-church-well/>

#4

<https://careynieuwhof.com/the-one-thing-that-should-characterize-every-christian-leader/>

<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/164746-carey-nieuwhof-4-secrets-leading-change-without-crushing-people.html/2>

Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

13) Anonymous letters

Through the years, I have received the occasional anonymous letter. What to do with these?

Resources

Cleaning Up Bad Communication Habits - Alban Institute

Anonymous communication is damaging to everyone in the congregation because feelings are often expressed but cannot be resolved. Wounds are named but cannot be healed. Criticism is offered without the chance to explore the possibility of healing. To stop anonymous feedback, clergy and lay leaders need to agree that it is counterproductive. You can't apologize to anonymous. Anonymous will remain angry or sad until he or she comes forward with the truth. Anonymous others cannot and should not be considered when making leadership decisions or resolving conflicts.

<https://alban.org/archive/cleaning-up-bad-communication-habits/>

Images for Cleaning Up Bad Communication Habits - Alban Institute - Anonymous communication

<https://alban.org/category/conflict/>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993463/Healthy-Disclosure-Solving-Communication-Quandaries-in-Congregations>

Dealing with Anonymous Criticism, Concerns, or Opinions

In order for the congregation, pastor, and the congregation council to be able to deal directly and effectively with criticism, concerns, or opinions in the congregation, the following guidelines are adopted:

<http://interiministry.org/resources/dealing-with-anonymous-criticism-concerns-or-opinions/>

Images for interiministry/dealing-with-anonymous-criticism-concerns-or-opinions

How to Cope with Receiving Anonymous Letters: 10 Steps

If you receive an anonymous letter, there are steps you can take to cope.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Cope-with-Receiving-Anonymous-Letters>

Images for How to Cope with Receiving Anonymous Letters: 10 Steps

What Pastors Should Do With Anonymous Letters - ChurchLeaders

Have you ever received one of those anonymous letters that come with no return address? You know the ones we are told to not to read, to disregard and discard into File 13?

<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/166083-dean-deguara-should-do-with-anonymous-letters.html>

Images for What Pastors Should Do With Anonymous Letters - ChurchLeaders

<http://www.deandeguara.com/2013/01/28/how-to-approach-your-pastor-about-your-concerns/>

<http://www.deandeguara.com/tag/false-teaching/>

What to Do with an Anonymous Letter - ThomRainer.com

1. Throw it away.
2. Disregard the message.
3. Pray for the author.

4. Pray that God will take your focus off of it.
5. Move on.

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/09/what-to-do-with-an-anonymous-letter/>

Images for What to Do with an Anonymous Letter - ThomRainer.com

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/12/when-a-pastor-receives-an-anonymous-letter/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/08/five-different-ways-leaders-respond-to-anonymous-critical-letters/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/12/one-sentence-pastors-church-staff-hate-hear/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

14) Incivility

The following is an excerpt of a monthly interim report to the synod office:

2. Transition from previous pastoral relationships: Even though the former pastors are no longer actively present, some of the people aligned themselves with certain pastors, and those loyalties continue to be acted out in indirect ways. One man – who until recently served as chair of the Board of Life and Growth (and his wife who is secretary of Finance and Stewardship – she volunteered to be the chair, and it was almost agreed upon until one of the members suggested that perhaps someone else be asked to balance things out) had tried singlehandedly to reverse a council decision. He confronted me on more than one occasion, brought it up at council repeatedly, tried to get the Board of Life and Growth on his side, then tried to triangle the president, then came back to me, and when I did not agree, threatened to call the synod office.

Finally, I told him that part of the bigger picture was my coming to understand the view among some in the congregation and in the community that a small group had decided to take matters into their own hands and that the church was known as Our *(prominent member's)* Lutheran in the community. That, if the church was going to regain a good reputation there needed to be some shifts in power. He replied, "Oh, you mean the *(prominent families)*?" He proceeded to tell me how this group decided that Pastor *(name)* had to go because of 3 other pastors. First, he said the group was interested in Pastor *(name)*. Pastor *(name)* is supposed to have told them, "You wouldn't be able to afford me." So, they decided they could not afford 2 pastors if someone like Pastor *(name)* needed more. Then Pastor *(name)* told this man that "the only way he would come is if the church got rid of the other pastor." Then this man told me that Pastor *(name)* did not tell the new associate pastor how to get out to a member's home. So, this group felt they needed to oust Pastor *(name)*.

As for the other half of the couple, the woman who serves as secretary of the Board of Finance and Stewardship together with 2 other women from prominent families went to the new church secretary who came on board 2 weeks before I started. Even as they used allegations of misuse of expense (mileage) accounts to oust Pastor *(name)*, they turned the watchdog role over to the church secretary. It came to a head at the end of May when the church secretary challenged my mileage account on half of the listings. The June council meeting was to be a review of the church secretary's position, but she did not show up. I brought up this watchdog role that this group had expected the church secretary to fulfill and told the council that this places the church secretary in a double bind and creates an adversarial relationship between pastor and secretary. I told them that this is an untenable situation for a pastor and would not recommend a new pastor stepping into a situation like this. The president and the new chair of the Board of Finance and Stewardship agreed and have been instrumental in creating the sense that the church needs to move beyond the watchdogs and the old power brokers. The chair of the Board of Life and Growth sent a letter of resignation to the president. In other words, the boundaries were set. He was given every opportunity to get on board. He made his own decision to resign. Life goes on.

3. Identified concerns, needs: In working with people in preparation for a Blessing of a Civil Marriage and for a funeral, one woman in each situation spoke with almost disdain of the services of worship and stated that they were only interested in their family's interests. It was the most blatant disrespect that I have experience in all my years of wedding and funeral preparation. It speaks, among other things, of the gradual erosion of the respect for the office of pastoral ministry.

Also, I heard that people treated the associate pastor disrespectfully by coming to the office and yelling at the pastor. Now, I am not surprised. I thought things would be easing up come summer, but it turned out to be a stressful month. I am seeking to stay the course to help restore respect for the pastoral office.

In reflecting on this report and recalling other incidents since then, I am seeing an increase in incivility in the church and society.

Resources for civility

A Call for Civility - YouTube

Join UT Knoxville at 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 15, at the University Center Plaza for a Celebration of Civility and Community at the 26th Annual International Festival.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOOBdcUmNU>

Images for Call for Civility - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLNd1AuCpBg> What is Civility? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwCF4OP3l5A> Civility At Work Training - YouTube

Civility: A Christian Response to American Politics

Workshop Leader: Jim Williams

What happened to civility in public discourse? While civility has long been a factor of Christianity and even in American politics, more recently it seems that our society and many of its leaders suffer from an appalling lack of it. When everyone is screaming at each other, it becomes difficult to conceive of a different, better way of thinking about politics and public debate. This workshop considers ways to think about political discussion between people who disagree in light of the four virtues of civility

and the principles of civility found in Christianity. The thoughts explored in this workshop are based upon The Thoughtful Christian's study sessions on Civility and M. Scott Peck's book, *A World Waiting to Be Born, Civility Rediscovered*. You will learn about resources in your respective settings to promote civil dialogue on some of the issues with which our country is divided. That dialogue can become a model for dealing with issues that divide a church in a local setting.

2018 Annual Conference | IMN - Interim Ministry Network

<https://imnedu.org/2018-annual-conference/> WORKSHOPS

Images for Civility: A Christian Response to American Politics

<https://imnedu.org/2018-annual-conference/conference-registration/workshop-descriptions/>

<https://imnedu.org/2018-annual-conference/conference-registration/workshops-thursday-june-21-2018-830-to-1000-am/>

Civility Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/civility>

Images for civility quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/civility>

<http://www.wiseoldsayings.com/civility-quotes/>

<http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/civility.html>

<https://www.passiton.com/civility>

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Books/2012/1024/Civility-15-quotes-to-remind-us-why-it-matters/What-is-lost>

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/explorations/topics/civility/quotes>

<http://thinkexist.com/quotes/with/keyword/civility/>

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/civility>

<http://legacycultures.com/favorite-quotes-root-civility-kindness/>

Images for favorite-quotes-root-civility-kindness

Civility - Wikipedia

Civility comes from the word *civilis*, which in Latin means "citizen". Civility is more than the individual's actions as a citizen.

When civility functions properly usually there are many citizens performing their civic duties by taking part in the political process (voting, governance), which is also known as civic engagement.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civility>

Images for civility

Four Steps Proven To Cultivate Workplace Civility - Forbes

Run the numbers for your organization. Are these impacts you are willing to simply absorb as a cost of doing business? Or, are you willing to take a few straightforward steps proven to diminish incivility and make your work environment purposeful, positive, and productive?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2017/04/14/four-steps-proven-to-cultivate-workplace-civility/#5b55887037cf>

Images for Four Steps Proven To Cultivate Workplace Civility - Forbes

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2018/01/11/driving-workplace-civility-through-trust-and-respect/#780752c563b9>

Images for workplace-civility-through-trust-and-respect

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rogertrapp/2017/08/22/leaders-should-heed-this-plea-for-greater-civility-at-work/#21e7b663575c>

Images for leaders-should-heed-this-plea-for-greater-civility-at-work

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2017/12/04/civility-versus-compassion-are-they-the-same-thing/#7e182bc651db>

Guidelines for Civility in The United Methodist Church

<http://www.umaffirm.org/cornet/civility.html>

Images for Guidelines for Civility in The United Methodist Church

<https://www.wichurches.org/programs-and-ministries/season-of-civility/>

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2017/09/civility-and-church-life>

Images for civility-and-church-life

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-anthony-messenger-editorial-a-call-to-civility-in-the-church/>

Images for call-to-civility-in-the-church

<http://www.civilpolitics.org/content/tim-keller-talks-about-churchs-role-promoting-civility/>

Images for churchs-role-promoting-civility

http://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote_civility-plege

<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/church-should-lead-way-on-civility-gov-haslam-says>

69 best Civility images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/TheRayCenter/civility/>

Images for civility on pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/urbanajobs/civility/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pamenz/civility/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/efelvegi/civility-matters/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/champaignpublib/civility-quotes/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/penguinbooksusa/rules-of-civility/>
Images for rules-of-civility on pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/knowingmore/civility-in-the-workplace/>
Images for civility-in-the-workplace on pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/sdkoprowski/school-civility-activities/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/medale75/civility/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/ealart/civility-project/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/jamieplaster/cyber-civility/>

What the Bible Says About Civility - Patheos

But I think it's important to balance out those examples with clear instructions in the Bible. And as we contemplate our actions, our words and our deeds, let's keep these in mind.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/davidrupert/what-the-bible-says-about-civility/>
Images for what the bible says about civility
<http://blog.adw.org/2011/01/concerns-for-civility-what-do-the-scriptures-teach-us/>
<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Audio.details/ID/409/Civility-Courtesy.htm>
<http://www.equip.org/article/reclaiming-civility-as-a-christian-virtue/>
Images for reclaiming-civility-as-a-christian-virtue
<https://thewitnessbcc.com/whatever-happened-civility/>
Images for whatever-happened-civility
<http://www.franklinunitedchurch.com/2016/01/10/culture-community-and-civility-various-scriptures/>
<https://www.thebanner.org/features/2016/06/cultivating-christian-civility>
Images for cultivating-christian-civility

Resources for incivility

Incivility - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/mshowe1/incivility/>
Images for incivility on pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/27866091429837789/?nic=1a> Workplace incivility: The silent epidemic | Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/672021575619200758/> Incivility, Bullying, and Workplace Violence | Pinterest

Incivility Quotes - Quotes about Incivility | YourDictionary

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/incivility>
Images for incivility quotes
<https://www.inspirationalstories.com/quotes/t/about-incivility/>
<http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/incivility.html>
<https://www.bartleby.com/348/734.html>

Incivility - Wikipedia

Incivility is a general term for social behaviour lacking in civility or good manners, on a scale from rudeness or lack of respect for elders, to vandalism and hooliganism, through public drunkenness and threatening behaviour.^[1] The word "incivility" is derived from the Latin *incivilis*, meaning "not of a citizen".^[2]

The distinction between plain rudeness, and perceived incivility as threat, will depend on some notion of civility as structural to society; incivility as anything more ominous than bad manners is therefore dependent on appeal to notions like its antagonism to the complex concepts of civic virtue or civil society. It has become a contemporary political issue in a number of countries.^[3]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incivility>

Images for incivility

The Church and Incivility - Biola University Center for Christian Thought

1 Peter 2:17 commands that Christians "Honor everyone." Is that the true state of the church's public engagement strategy? Christians have too often opted for a harsh approach to interacting with public communities. How can we get back to the concept of honoring everyone, regardless of their status or religious and cultural perspectives?

<https://cct.biola.edu/church-incivility-happened-honoring-everyone/>
Images for The Church and Incivility - Biola University Center for Christian Thought
<http://justiceunbound.org/journal/incivility-as-social-sin-and-the-churchs-faithful-response/>
Images for incivility-as-social-sin-and-the-church's-faithful-response
<https://churchleaders.com/news/308098-bill-hybel's-incivility-even-christian-leadership-killing-us.html>
<http://v2.garykinnaman.com/politics/the-sin-of-incivility>
Images for politics/the-sin-of-incivility
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/phil-zuckerman/adventure-in-christian-in_b_4124618.html
<https://pres-outlook.org/2016/11/incivility-becomes-norm/>
<http://montevistacoc.com/multimedia-archive/a-culture-of-incivillity-part-1/>
Images for culture-of-incivility
<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Audio.details/ID/409/Civility-Courtesy.htm>
Images for Civility-Courtesy

<http://blog.adw.org/2011/01/concerns-for-civility-what-do-the-scriptures-teach-us/>
[Images for concerns-for-civility-what-do-the-scriptures-teach-us](#)

The Price of Incivility (Harvard Business Review) Todd Mundt (Narrator), Christine Porath (Author), Christine Pearson (Author), Harvard Business School Publishing (Publisher)

Rudeness at work is rampant, and it's on the rise.

Christine Porath, an associate professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, and Christine Pearson, a professor of global leadership at Thunderbird School of Global Management, report on why rudeness at work is rampant and how it can cost companies millions each year.

<https://www.amazon.com/Price-Incivility-Harvard-Business-Review/dp/B00B13OZ4W>

<https://hbr.org/2013/01/the-price-of-incivility>

<https://hbr.org/2016/04/an-antidote-to-incivility>

<https://hbr.org/2018/01/make-civility-the-norm-on-your-team>

<http://www.christineporath.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoT-nmSdAOs> How incivility shuts down our brains at work | Christine Porath, Georgetown University - YouTube

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnbaldoni/2017/11/01/christine-porath-civility-makes-for-a-better-workplace/#4fb4095f7c12>

[Images for The Price of Incivility \(Harvard Business Review\) Todd Mundt \(Narrator\), Christine Porath \(Author\), Christine Pearson \(Author\), Harvard Business School Publishing \(Publisher\)](#)

What does incivility mean? - YouTube

A spoken definition of incivility.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wC1hvH8mCFk>

[Images for What does incivility mean? - YouTube](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFoS3Ufcs_M Incivility Is, Words by Dan Rather - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X91ZEIURMtA> Workplace Incivility: The Silent Epidemic - YouTube

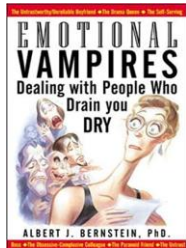
15) Energizers and drainers

Life is filled with energizers and drainers. I limit my contact with the latter and look for contact with the former.

Resources

Emotional Vampires: Dealing with People Who Drain You Dry by Albert J. Bernstein (Author)

Best-selling author Albert J. Bernstein helped thousands of people deal with the dangerously stupid at work in *Dinosaur Brains*. In *Emotional Vampires* he goes even further to protect unsuspecting mortals from more devious and harmful creatures vampires ready to bite, suck, and kill the emotional and psychological wellbeing of their victims. Like the fabled demons, these vampires come in many shapes: -The living dead who think their "talents" place them above the laws of nature -Lords of darkness with huge egos and tiny consciences -Scary monsters who use their tempers in the same way terrorists use bombs - Blood-suckers who think others were created for their convenience *Emotional Vampires* tells readers how to spot a vampire in their lives, which defense strategies to employ to prevent one from striking, and what to do if and when they find themselves under attack.



<https://www.amazon.com/Emotional-Vampires-Dealing-People-Drain/dp/0071352597>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/263144.Emotional_Vampires

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/emotional-vampires-albert-bernstein/1101369857?type=Audiobook>

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/emotional-vampires-dealing-with-people-who-drain-you-dry_albert-j-bernstein/273448/#isbn=0071381678&idq=3983

https://books.google.com/books/about/Emotional_Vampires_Dealing_with_People_W.html?id=1qF9mB7FCmsC

<https://www.librarything.com/author/bernsteinalbertj>

<http://www.albernstein.com/about.php>

<http://www.albernstein.com/books.php>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/116876.Albert_J_Bernstein

[Images for Albert J. Bernstein \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Emotional Vampires: Dealing with People Who Drain You Dry by Albert J. Bernstein \(Author\)](#)

Emotional Vampires: How To Handle Negative People Who Drain The Life from You - Forbes

If someone is continually doing something that oversteps the mark or makes you or others feel a lack of respect, you may need to be quite explicit in drawing a line in the sand about what you do *or don't* want to talk about, or what behaviors you will *or won't* accept.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/margiewarrell/2017/10/31/emotional-vampires-how-to-handle-people-who-suck-the-life-from-you-and-not-just-at-halloween/#449a268d6189>

Images for Emotional Vampires: How To Handle Negative People Who Drain The Life from You - Forbes

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/melodywilding/2018/05/07/how-successful-people-deal-with-energy-vampires/#167fda492cf3>

Images for how-successful-people-deal-with-energy-vampires

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikaandersen/2012/11/17/3-kinds-of-false-friends-you-must-fire-from-your-life/#11202bdc3307>

Images for kinds-of-false-friends-you-must-fire-from-your-life

Energizers and De-energizers - ThomRainer.com

Second, leaders should surround themselves with energizers.

https://thomrainer.com/2011/07/energizers_and_de-energizers/

Images for Energizers and De-energizers - Thom Rainer.com

<http://www.energizer.com/energizer-bunny>

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/11/seven-ways-deal-cave-dwellers-church/>

#5

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/10/eight-causes-pastoral-ministry-slump/>

#7

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/05/twelve-ways-pastors-went-from-burnout-to-vision/>

#7,9

<https://thomrainer.com/2012/06/seven-types-of-people-who-surround-leaders/>

#1

Images for thom rainer (author)

Energizers vs. Drainers | Ty Bennett | Pulse | LinkedIn

Below are two lists, the first a list of “energizers” and the second a list of “drainers”. While sometimes “drainers” cannot be avoided and are a necessary part of life, we can look for healthy ways to reduce or eliminate them. When we look for opportunities to do more on the “energizers” list, we find ourselves feeling more positive, enthusiastic and hopeful.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/energizers-vs-drainers-ty-bennett>

Images for Energizers vs. Drainers | Ty Bennett

<https://tybennett.com/energizers-vs-drainers/>

Images for energizers and drainers

<http://www.emilydownward.com/energizers-vs-drainers/>

<http://lifeslessons-lisa.blogspot.com/2010/05/energizers-and-drainers.html>

<http://www.hinzdocs.com/takestep.htm>

<https://judyransom.wordpress.com/2010/06/24/the-energizers-and-the-drainers/>

<https://barryjoyful.wordpress.com/2017/05/30/emotional-satellite-energizers-drainers/>

<https://www.slideshare.net/vickthorr/100-energizers>

How to Deal With People Who Drain You | Psychology Today

3 steps to distance yourself from people who suck up precious time and energy.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/high-octane-women/201203/how-deal-people-who-drain-you>

Images for How to Deal With People Who Drain You | Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/emotional-freedom/201510/strategies-handle-drama-queen?amp=>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/compassion-matters/201801/how-emotions-guide-our-lives>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/emotion-regulation>

Leading a Church More Complex than Leading a Business

3. The ministry attracts more than its share of kooky people. While the business world rejects the applications of those who don't fit, the church welcomes misfits. We seek and save society's outcasts. Of course, that is the way it ought to be. Still, disenfranchised people can prove **draining** and sometimes make life difficult for pastors—especially when these same people become leaders!

<http://www.churchcentral.com/blog/11155/Leading-a-church-more-complex-than-leading-a-business>

Images for Leading a Church More Complex than Leading a Business

Strategies to Survive Emotional Vampires - Judith Orloff MD

These strategies will enable you to stay centered in difficult relationships.

<https://drjudithorloff.com/4-strategies-to-survive-emotional-vampires/>

Images for Strategies to Survive Emotional Vampires - Judith Orloff MD

<https://www.drnorthrup.com/best-protection-energy-vampires/>

Images for best-protection-energy-vampires

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/emotional-freedom/201101/the-5-types-emotional-vampires-in-your-life>

Images for 5-types-emotional-vampires-in-your-life

<https://lonerwolf.com/types-energy-vampire/>

<https://www.cleverism.com/how-to-escape-emotional-vampires/>

Images for how-to-escape-emotional-vampires

<https://www.wikihow.com/Deal-With-Psychic-Vampires>
<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-7212/energy-vampires-who-they-are-how-to-ditch-them.html>
<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-15528/5-types-of-energy-vampires-how-to-defend-yourself.html>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-v-taylor/emotional-vampire_b_1584808.html
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/judith-orloff-md/conscious-relationships_b_4176204.html
<https://www.bustle.com/articles/48246-how-to-save-yourself-from-emotional-vampires-because-theyre-ruining-your-life>
 Images for how-to-save-yourself-from-emotional-vampires
<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-a-psychic-vampire-attack-happens-1724677>
<https://www.inc.com/wanda-thibodeaux/emotional-vampires-want-to-drain-your-energy-heres-how-to-stop-them.html>
 Images for emotional-vampires-want-to-drain-your-energy

16) Beware of the angry outbursts

My 1st Sunday after the service of worship at a small open country congregation, the patriarch cued me in on various matters. Among other things, he told me about a woman in the congregation who took issue with him on a historical matter so that she started yelling at him and put her face close to his. She even punched him in the back when he tried to walk away. The next Sunday evening at a council meeting the president told me about this same woman who engaged in a shouting match with the previous pastor in the balcony and who frightened one older woman so that she was afraid to come to services of worship. The president also said that this aggressive woman could not remember her behavior afterwards. The president to his credit said that this behavior could not be tolerated and had told her so on one occasion at an annual meeting. See resources at 2Start7ConcernsResources 3) Anger.

17) Beware of the bully

A parish secretary offered the following insight into one of the congregations in the parish I was preparing to serve:

Then that is when (*congregation*) became divided which brings (*congregation*) to their current state now, not good. I don't want to deter you one way but you seem like a smart man from the little bit of talking and emailing you that you will find out very quickly who this one family is that is tearing the church apart. It is so sad, but no one wants to stop them from **bullying** everyone.

The synod office sees the results of bullying in congregations. The bishop met with the interim ministry gathering to address the matter.

Interim Meeting Reminder

Jan 10

Friends,

The next meeting for interim pastors will be on Tuesday, January 17th at the synod office in Chetek.

The meeting in January will follow the regular format of 9:30am coffee and fellowship with program at 10am.

Rev. Jeanne Warner and Bishop Rick will panel of discussion on the problems we have with pastors (often first call) landing in congregations and getting chewed up by the **bullies**, entrenched power brokers. We think that interims are in a position to take this on directly.

Elizabeth Bartsch

Assistant to the Bishop-Administration

Hebrews 11: 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Resources

[PDF]Bullying - ELCA Resource Repository

The Gospel calls the church to be a part of reducing physical and emotional violence.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Bullying_And_The_Church_Resource.pdf

Bullying Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/bullying>

Images for bully quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/bullying>

<https://onlinesense.org/bullying-quotes/>

<http://www.wiseoldsayings.com/anti-bullying-quotes/>

www.mightyfighter.com/bullying-quotes/

<https://quotabulary.com/slogans-quotes-against-bullying>

www.inspiremykids.com/2016/anti-bullying-quotes-kids-students/

<http://www.planetofsuccess.com/blog/2017/bullying-quotes/>

<http://www.flokka.com/bullying-quotes/>

<https://www.seventeen.com/health/q1199/inspiring-celebrity-bullying-quotes/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUzwKx9Circ> 6 Quotes About Bullying - YouTube

Images for 6 Quotes About Bullying - YouTube

Bullying Resources - Discipleship Ministries | Equipping World

Bullying goes against the teachings of Jesus Christ and the General Rules of the Methodist Church. Sadly, today, it is likely that all children experience bullying in one or more ways – as victim, as silent bystander, as victimizer, or as a disciple. This resource list and sample Anti-Bullying policy will support your congregation in supporting and guiding children.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/bullying-resources>

<http://www.fumchurst.org/donoharm/>

<https://www.churchmutual.com/5407/School-Bullying>

<http://www.ilselhurst.org/content.cfm?id=327> Immanuel Lutheran Church & School | Anti-Bullying Policy

<http://www.newgen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/NGC-CYP-Anti-bullying-Policy-Aug-2015.pdf>

<http://www.fbcshool.org/student-life/policies-and-procedures/bullying>

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/preventing-bullying-and-harassment-policy/>

<http://www.thediocese.net/resources/ministries/ministry-tools/learning-and-formation/anti-bullying-resources/>

<http://www.brethren.org/yya/nobullying.html>

<http://www.marblechurch.org/connect/antibullying>

<https://www.pinterest.com/ssworldwide/bully-prevention-ideas/>

Bullying - Wikipedia

Bullying is the use of force, threat, or coercion to abuse, **intimidate or aggressively dominate others**. The behavior is often repeated and habitual.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullying>

Images for intimidate or aggressively dominate others

Eight Warning Signs of a Bully Church Member - ThomRainer.com

Do all churches have bullies? No. By many churches have bullies. Be careful when you encounter them.

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/07/eight-warning-signs-bully-church-member/>

Images for Bully Church Member - ThomRainer.com

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/08/eight-traits-church-bullies-rainer-leadership-254/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/12/painful-reality-church-bully-cartels/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/03/nine-traits-church-bullies/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/04/nine-ways-deal-church-bullies/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/01/seven-steps-take-cartel-bullies-run-church/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/11/five-dangers-church-cartel/>

<https://thomrainer.com/category/leadership/critics-and-bullies/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/07/ten-traits-healthiest-churches-ten-years-now/> #10

<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/20704-church-bullies.html>

<https://www.namb.net/replant-blog/dealing-with-bullies/>

<https://jerrykieschnick.wordpress.com/2016/01/21/dealing-with-church-bullies/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

Girl Wars: 12 Strategies That Will End Female Bullying by Cheryl Dellasega Ph.D. (Author), Charisse Nixon Ph.D. (Author)

The only book with a program that is proven to solve the problem of female bullying, a controversial issue first exposed in the bestselling *Reviving Ophelia*.

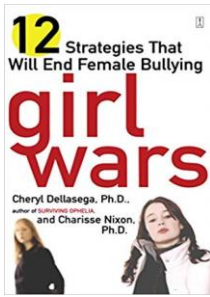
Stop the Hurting

Mary Pipher's bestselling *Reviving Ophelia* triggered widespread interest in the culture of preteen and teenage girls and the seeming epidemic of relational aggression (bullying) among them. Gossip, teasing, forming cliques, and other cruel behaviors are the basis of this bullying, which harms both victim and aggressor. Until now, no one has been able to offer practical and effective solutions that stop girls from hurting each other with words and actions. But in *Girl Wars*, two experts explain not only how to prevent such behavior but also how to intervene should it happen, as well as overcome the culture that breeds it.

Illustrated by compelling true stories from mothers and girls, the authors offer effective, easy-to-implement strategies that range from preventive to prescriptive, such as how to

- Adopt a "help, don't hurt" strategy
- Provide positive role models
- Teach communication skills online and off
- Stress assertiveness, not aggressiveness
- Learn conflict resolution skills
- Identify alternatives to bullying behavior

With their combined experience in offering and evaluating programs that combat bullying, the authors show that girls not only want to help rather than hurt each other, they can do so with guidance from concerned adults.



<https://www.amazon.com/Girl-Wars-Strategies-Female-Bullying/dp/0743249879>
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 Images for Cheryl Dellasega Ph.D. (Author)
 Images for Girl Wars by Cheryl Dellasega Ph.D. (Author), Charisse Nixon Ph.D. (Author)

How to Respond to an Adult Bully: 12 Steps (with Pictures)

If you are an adult who is being bullied, there are some tactics you can use to stop this behavior.

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https://www.brightonpost.com/bri-seeley/why-i-am-taking-a-stand-against-an-adult-bully_b_7143802.html

Overcoming the culture of nice | The Christian Century

Instead, we have a culture of nice that can allow bullies to flourish. I have watched as this culture has permitted certain people to take over a church in order to avoid conflict. Then the organization starts to placate that person, and even asks the person who stands up to the bully to sit down, in order to maintain peace. This dynamic can and does kill churches.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2015-08/overcoming-culture-nice>

Images for overcoming the culture of nice by carol howard merritt

<https://www.carolhowardmerritt.org/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Carol-Howard-Merritt/e/B001JRXF9Q>

25 best Bullying images on Pinterest

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<http://www.nealhardin.com/bible-bullying/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Bullying>

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<http://blog.bible-bible-blog/entry/7-tips-to-help-you-take-the-sting-out-of-bullying>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Bullying/>

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<https://www.christianitycove.com/bullying-bible-victim/2104/>

https://www.teachsundayschool.com/bullying.html?wptouch_preview_theme=enabled

<https://chosengenministry.org/what-does-the-bible-say-about-bullying/>

Why Women Are The Worst Kind of Bullies - Forbes

Women can be nastier bullies than men, at the workplace.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/worldviews/2012/04/30/why-women-are-the-worst-kind-of-bullies/#6bddd2dc36b7>

Images for bully - forbes

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<https://www.forbes.com/pictures/lml45jii/12-signs-you-might-be-a-bully/#202a17fd40ab>

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<https://www.forbes.com/video/5752821911001/#4a5ac9c45ec8>

18) Jezebel

Elijah flees from Jezebel

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' ³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

oremus Bible Browser : 1 Kings 19:1-12

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=1+Kings+19:1-12>

Images for Elijah flees from Jezebel

Images for Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying

When I look back, there are certain women who come to mind who acted in a hostile manner. Like Elijah, I am tempted to flee, but when I stand my ground and weather the storm, such hostility can be neutralized.

Resources

Confronting Jezebel: Discerning and Defeating the Spirit of Control by Steve Sampson (Author), Mark Chironna (Foreword)

The obsession for some people to control everything, and everyone, is as old as the biblical account of Queen Jezebel. In this eye-opening classic, newly revised and updated, Steve Sampson shows how the Jezebel spirit--a demonic spirit of control--sows discord, confusion, rebellion and even passivity.

You can protect yourself and break free from cycles of control and manipulation. With clarity and authority, Sampson exposes the signs of a Jezebel spirit, its strategies of destruction and how you can bring it under the control of the Holy Spirit.

This biblical and balanced guide is the definitive resource for anyone needing to confront and battle this insidious demonic entity.

<https://www.amazon.com/Confronting-Jezebel-Discerning-Defeating-Control/dp/0800794753>

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<http://www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/confronting-jezebel-revised-and-expanded-edition/320222>

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<https://dianarasmussen.com/2013/06/10/the-jezebel-spirit-discerning-the-spirit-of-control/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/Steve-Sampson-Ministries-1524369171153705/>

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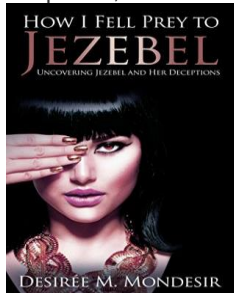
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/298624.Steve_Sampson

Images for Steve Sampson (Author)

Images for Confronting Jezebel: Discerning and Defeating the Spirit of Control by Steve Sampson (Author)

How I Fell Prey to Jezebel: Uncovering Jezebel and Her Deceptions by Desiree M. Mondesir (Author)

Have you ever wondered what exactly what the Jezebel Spirit is? How does it operate? Is it a she, a he, or an it? How I Fell Prey to Jezebel tells you just that as well as how to recognize her and deal with her. Most teachings just scratch the surface of the iceberg, but this book delves deep, deep into this spirit's roots. If you want your spiritual understanding of this spirit deepened, this book will help you reach that end.



<https://www.amazon.com/How-Fell-Prey-Jezebel-Uncovering-ebook/dp/B017AUJU1C>

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<https://desireemmondesir.wordpress.com/about-desiree-2/>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6595908.Desiree_M_Mondesir

Images for desiree m. mondesir (author)

Images for Uncovering Jezebel and Her Deceptions by Desiree M. Mondesir (Author)

Jezebel - Wikipedia

Jezebel is described in the Book of Kings (1 Kings 16:31) as a queen who was the daughter of Ithobaal I of Sidon and the wife of Ahab, King of Israel.^[2]

According to the Books of Kings in the Hebrew Bible, Jezebel incited her husband King Ahab to abandon the worship of Yahweh and encourage worship of the deities Baal and Asherah instead. Jezebel persecuted the prophets of Yahweh, and fabricated evidence of blasphemy against an innocent landowner who refused to sell his property to King Ahab, causing the

landowner to be put to death. For these transgressions against the God and people of Israel, Jezebel met a gruesome death—[thrown out of a window](#) by members of her own court retinue, and the flesh of her corpse eaten by [stray dogs](#).



The Death of Jezebel, by [Gustave Doré](#)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jezebel>

[Images for jezebel](#)

The Spiritual Warrior's Guide to Defeating Jezebel by Jennifer LeClaire (Author), Mike Bickle (Foreword)

Leading Prophetic Voice Reveals New Insight on Defeating an Ancient Evil

According to leading prophetic voice Jennifer LeClaire, the subversive Jezebel spirit continues to deceive many. She shows, with keen biblical insight, that Jezebel does much more than most believers thought--and that it's time to expose the deceit and defeat the spirit's insidious work.

By pulling back the curtain on this seducing principality, LeClaire picks up where other books on Jezebel leave off. She demonstrates biblically not only that the Jezebel spirit uses control as a weapon but that it is a mastermind of immorality and outright idolatry. She also gives spiritual warriors the real-world strategies needed for defeating this dark spirit in the lives of God's people.

<https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Warriors-Guide-Defeating-Jezebel/dp/0800795415>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16241742-the-spiritual-warrior-s-guide-to-defeating-jezebel>

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<https://www.slideshare.net/k24s3/thespirtualwarriorsguidetodefeatingjezebel-jennifer-leclaire>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD5Y-0ykVCk> Discerning the Sneaky, Seductive Jezebel Spirit - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUkcMKvHz54> Defeating the Spirit of Jezebel | Spiritual Warfare | Spiritual Warrior's Guide to Defeating Jezebel - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC9n40CKtHA> Spiritual Warfare: When Jezebel's Witchcraft Keeps You Up at Night – YouTube

<https://jenniferleclaire.org/>

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<https://www.amazon.com/Jennifer-LeClaire/e/B002BM3976>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/474617.Jennifer_LeClaire

[Images for Jennifer LeClaire \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Spiritual Warrior's Guide to Defeating Jezebel by Jennifer LeClaire \(Author\), Mike Bickle \(Foreword\)](#)

24 best The Jezebel Spirit images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/LynetteLRogers/the-jezebel-spirit/>

[Images for Jezebel Spirit on Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/RWatkinsGlen/jezebel-spirit-pure-evil/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/hephzibah58/jezebel-spirit-exposed/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/angiehandy/rebuking-the-jezebel-spirit/>

[Images for rebuking-the-jezebel-spirit](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/nadinemartin07/jezebel-spirit/>

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What Does the Bible Say About The Jezebel Spirit? - OpenBible.info

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Images for prophetic-fear mongering-of-the-jezebel-spirit

19) Unintended consequences

It was actually a relief to serve at one parish where the parish council told me in the concurrent interview that it was not necessary to have the whole service of worship from the online resources printed out in the bulletin as had been introduced by the previous short-term pastor and that they were perfectly capable of opening the worship book to take their part. I was jolted back to a common reality where the next parish I served the bulletin ran between 12 and 16 pages of legal-sized paper including introductory notes. Among other things, I deleted the Canticle of Praise because it was Lent and replaced the Alleluia response in the Gospel Acclamation with the Lenten response. I also deleted the petitions from the online resources and left the heading for Prayers of Intercession because I regarded the online resources as suggestions and not requirements.

At the first council meeting, the focus for 4 women reflecting the concerns expressed by still other women was that the prayer of the day and offering prayer were not included. One woman, who was the custodian of one of the churches, asserted that quarterly evaluations were needed of the pastor in light of changes. I offered a brief history of the evolution of bulletins and said that both of these prayers are meant to be read by the presiding minister, and only because an increasing practice of becoming enamored with the possibilities of the computer and photocopier had it become more common. I told how I picked up a stack of bulletins from each service afterwards and opined that the parish must have a big printing cost. I also related how much work it was for the parish office secretary and for me to make edits and proofs on the cumbersome publisher program. The president sitting beside me said the practice was introduced by a former pastor some 15 years earlier.

My first Sunday the patriarch of 1 of the 3 congregations told me that they were staying open because of memorial funds and that, when those ran out in 6 years, they would no longer be able to continue in the parish. It occurred to me afterwards that, on the one hand, here were 3 small congregations struggling to stay open, but, on the other hand, at least some members felt entitled to have the service of worship with introductory notes printed out in the bulletin so that they did not need to be bothered to open their books.

20) Matriarch diatribes: Fight or flight?

Two incidents before I came into the congregation setting were told to me in which the matriarch berated, demeaned, and insulted various members. After both of these incidents, many left and never came back. In addition, others said they refused to work in the kitchen if she was there. When I asked members why they did not stand up to her, they responded that she exerted increasing control through the years and that they could not bring themselves to confront her. Those who still attended services of worship chose to sit on the opposite side of the aisle.

Resources

Fight-or-flight response | physiology | Britannica.com

Fight-or-flight response, [response](#) to an [acute](#) threat to survival that is marked by physical changes, including nervous and endocrine changes, that prepare a human or an [animal](#) to react or to retreat. The functions of this response were first described in the early 1900s by American neurologist and physiologist [Walter Bradford Cannon](#).

When a threat is perceived, the sympathetic nerve fibres of the [autonomic nervous system](#) are activated. This leads to the release of certain [hormones](#) from the [endocrine system](#). In physiological terms, a major action of these hormones is to initiate a rapid, generalized response. This response may be triggered by a fall in [blood pressure](#) or by [pain](#), physical injury, abrupt emotional upset, or decreased blood [glucose](#) levels ([hypoglycemia](#)). The fight-or-flight response is characterized by an increased [heart](#) rate ([tachycardia](#)), [anxiety](#), increased [perspiration](#), tremour, and increased blood glucose concentrations (due to glycogenolysis, or breakdown of liver [glycogen](#)). These actions occur in concert with other neural or hormonal responses to [stress](#), such as increases in [corticotropin](#) and [cortisol](#) secretion, and they are observed in some humans and animals affected by chronic stress, which causes long-term stimulation of the fight-or-flight response.

<https://www.britannica.com/science/fight-or-flight-response>

Images for Fight-or-flight response | physiology | Britannica.com

<https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/fight-or-flight-response>

Fight-or-flight response - Wikipedia

The fight-or-flight response (also called hyperarousal, or the acute stress response) is a physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived [harmful event](#), [attack](#), or threat to survival.^[1] It was first described by [Walter Bradford Cannon](#).^{[a][2]} His theory states that animals react to threats with a general discharge of the [sympathetic nervous system](#), preparing the animal

for fighting or fleeing.^[3] More specifically, the adrenal medulla produces a hormonal cascade that results in the secretion of catecholamines, especially norepinephrine and epinephrine.^[4] The hormones estrogen, testosterone, and cortisol, as well as the neurotransmitters dopamine and serotonin, also affect how organisms react to stress.^[5]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fight-or-flight_response

Images for fight-or-flight response

21) Catty

Sniping, rumormongering, backstabbing, insulting, bullying, and cutting are all behaviors that come under the category of cattiness. Some of the most difficult settings I have served are where cattiness was prevalent.

Resources

Catty Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/catty>

Images for catty quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/catty>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2045760/Miaow-The-catty-phrases-woman-dreads-hear.html>

catty - Wiktionary

Synonyms[[edit](#)]

- (*spiteful*): bitchy (*derogatory*), cattish, malicious, nasty, snide, spiteful

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/catty>

Images for nasty, snide, spiteful

catty women quotes - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/493988652848520666/>

Images for catty women quotes - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/40321359141117776/> Navigating Catty Behavior in the Workplace

Images for catty behavior on pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/AmySulam/being-a-catty-bitch/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/neuroticgirlie/catty-comments/>

Images for neuroticgirlie/catty-comments

<https://www.pinterest.com/AcidWytch/the-catty-bitch-files/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/chanellluster/catty/>

Further Wise Says of Solomon

²⁴It is better to live in a corner of the housetop
than in a house shared with a contentious wife.

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 25:24

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Proverbs+25:24>

Images for contentious wife

How to Deal With Catty Women in the Workplace - Woman

For years, women have fought for the right to be treated equally in the workplace. Having made great strides in this arena, many professional women now find that the greatest problem they face in the workplace is not men, but other women. Catty behaviors such as gossiping, backstabbing and sabotaging can turn an otherwise pleasant workplace into a place of misery and petty evils. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and emotionally disengage from the situation.

<https://woman.thenest.com/deal-catty-women-workplace-2488.html>

Images for catty women in the workplace

<http://womenforhire.com/advice/dealing-with-catty-women-at-work/>

<https://amibeingcatty.wordpress.com/2013/07/23/255/>

<https://woman.thenest.com/deal-catty-women-workplace-2488.html>

Images for deal-catty-women-workplace

<https://itsyourturnblog.com/why-women-act-like-catty-bitches-at-work-58a530a59ec8>

<https://www.refinery29.com/catty-female-coworkers-stigma>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/women-against-workplace-cattiness-melissa-e-christensen>

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/how-i-shut-down-catty-coworker-gossip-without-even-opening-my-mouth>

Images for shut-down-catty-coworker-gossip

<https://jezebel.com/if-women-are-catty-bitches-its-not-about-gender-its-1456972379>

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<https://www.livescience.com/40717-indirect-aggression-between-females-works.html>

<https://pairedlife.com/etiquette/Why-Women-can-be-so-Mean-to-Each-Other-and-What-to-do-About-it>

Images for Women-can-be-so-Mean-to-Each-Other

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/learnvest/2013/03/08/the-best-way-to-deal-with-a-mean-girl-at-work/#450d88a91fdd>

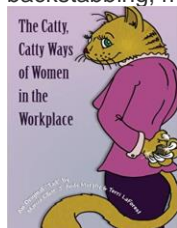
Images for deal-with-a-mean-girl-at-work

<https://www.bustle.com/articles/169376-5-reasons-the-catty-woman-trope-has-got-to-go-because-its-fueling-the-patriarchy>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/lisa-firestone/competitiveness_b_2000963.html Why Women Get 'Catty' | HuffPost

The Catty, Catty Ways of Women in the Workplace by Marcia Ellett (Author), J. Andy Murphy (Author), Terri Laforest (Author)

The Catty, Catty Ways of Women in the Workplace is a tongue-in-cheek tale about the trials and triumphs of the sisterhood of working women, as seen through the eyes of new hire Calli Felina and the rest of her feline office cohorts.

A humorous look at a serious subject, *Catty* explores the way women treat one another in the workplace, focusing on gossip, backstabbing, manipulation and other situations that cause the claws to come out and the fur to fly.



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<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/catty-catty-ways-of-women-in-the-workplace-marcia-ellett/1008588406>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0790613565>

[Images for The Catty, Catty Ways of Women in the Workplace by Marcia Ellett, J. Andy Murphy, Terri Laforest](#)

Why Do Women Act Catty? | Psychology Today

The unhealthy way women act on healthy feelings of competition

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/compassion-matters/201211/why-do-women-act-catty>

[Images for Women Catty | Psychology Today](#)

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[Images for mean-girls-in-the-office](#)

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<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-friendship-doctor/201008/why-are-women-so-mean-each-other>

[Images for women-so-mean-each-other](#)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/insight-is-2020/201309/women-who-hate-other-women-the-psychological-root-snarky>

Working with Bitches: Identify the Eight Types of Office Mean Girls and Rise Above Workplace Nastiness by Meredith Fuller (Author)

What do you do when the queen bee demands to know why you haven't written the report she never asked for? Or when the colleague who you thought was your friend takes sole credit for the project you worked on together?

It's hard to speak out about **catty** behavior, especially when it's insidious or goes on behind your back. But you can usually sense when something's "off"—particularly if you're completely stressed out and hate the job you used to love. Let's face it, ladies: there are plenty of nasty, manipulative, and destructive women in the workplace who fly under the radar while ruthless alpha males get all the bad press.

In *Working with Bitches*, psychologist Meredith Fuller offers practical advice on how to recognize and manage difficult women at work. Dr. Fuller combines actual cases with tips that women can use right away to defuse even the worst situations.

Readers will learn how to deal with the eight types of "mean girls" they might face in the office and find powerful reassurance that they are not alone.

<https://www.amazon.com/Working-Bitches-Identify-Workplace-Nastiness/dp/0738216585>

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<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/meredith-fuller/working-with-bitches/9780738216591/>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Working_with_Bitches.html?id=NGL_AgAAQBAJ

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<https://www.chatelaine.com/living/budgeting/working-with-office-mean-girls/>
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<https://meredithfuller.com.au/gallery/>
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<https://meredithfuller.com.au/dealing-with-mean-girls-and-boys-in-the-workplace/>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6434394.Meredith_Fuller
 Images for Meredith Fuller (Author)
 Images for Mean Girls and Rise Above Workplace Nastiness by Meredith Fuller (Author)

22) Thelma and Louise

A handful of women in one congregation I served as well as a former female pastor were known to be dissatisfied with the men in their lives, and their anger spilled out into the congregation.

Resources

Thelma & Louise (1991) by Ridley Scott - Unsung Films

Does she really have so few choices that she has to **end up doing what she used to make fun of**? And in the end, are women so truly desperate, as they're portrayed in **'Thelma & Louise'**, that a suicide mission seems to be more appealing than fighting for a better life?



<http://www.unsungfilms.com/5704/thelma-louise/>
 Images for thelma louise trucker scene

Thelma & Louise - Wikipedia

In her review for The *Los Angeles Times*, film critic **Sheila Benson** objects to the characterization of the film as feminist, arguing that it is more preoccupied with revenge and violence than feminist values.^[15]

In his review for The *New York Post*, film critic **Kyle Smith** describes the film as "a misogynist tale about unbelievably ditzzy women who lose what remains of their reason under pressure and suffer the ultimate punishment." Smith's review focused less on the fact that the film stars strong female characters and instead points out the terrible decisions these strong female characters make throughout the entire movie.^[16]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelma_%26_Louise
 Images for thelma and louise
https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelma_%26_Louise
https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Thelma_%26_Louise
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23) Hovering presence

The parish secretary at a new assignment informed me that she kept track of the whereabouts of the previous pastor. She expected the pastor to check in with her. The church secretary worked out of the office in the open country church as a part of a two-point parish. She showed greatest fondness for the one single adult daughter who kept her mother informed of her whereabouts even while living in a southern state. She registered disappointment with the son and daughter who lived nearby but did not check in with her. Given the opportunity, I opted to set up my office in the other church and limited my trips to the church with the church secretary office to those days when the quilters met and when the students came for Confirmation class.

On one occasion, she came down to the other church to meet with the organist unaware of my presence. I overheard her complain about the changes she was being asked to make in the bulletin. I came out of the office and said, "I heard my name mentioned and had to come out and see who was talking about me." From then on, I became even more circumspect about what I told her.

The Baptist Magazine - Volume 26 - Page 354 - Google Books Result

And if the spirits of the just made perfect descend to take an interest in the proceedings of the church below, doubtless the disembodied spirit of your **departed secretary will hover around yon** on the present occasion, and ...

<https://books.google.com/books?id=oeMRAAAIAAJ>
 Images for departed church secretary will hover around yon

24) Resentment towards pastor's compensation

A parish secretary ended up submitting the financial figures for pastoral compensation to the ELCA Portico Benefits webpage because the parish treasurer abruptly quit 2 weeks after the concurrence interview and the task was not otherwise getting done. During the staff meeting with her 8 days after I started, she made a comment how much pastors get paid and then uttered, "Nobody in this church

makes that kind of money!" I asked about teachers' salaries, since the salary guidelines use those salaries for reference points. She spoke in a resentful manner about teachers' salaries and applauded the decertification of teacher unions. She went on to say that factory workers in the area were accepting wage and benefit cutbacks. She made similar statements at a Parish Council meeting at the end of my interim assignment to consider the compensation package for the new installed pastor.

In another setting, I could count on one hand the combined total of number of times that 5 of the Congregation Council members of an open country congregation attended services of worship during the first 3 months of my tenure. One of the members did not attend council meetings my first 2 months but came the third month. In the course of the meeting, I showed a sample compensation package for a seminary graduate that the assistant to the bishop-administration had put together. He picked up the piece of paper and stated, "I don't make this kind of money, and I don't see why I should come to church and put money in the plate to pay somebody who does." The other 4 members nodded in agreement.

In general, I have found this resentment more prevalent in areas of hourly blue collar and rural residents and less prevalent in areas of salaried white-collar workers and city residents. In the future, I believe that this resentment will grow as fewer congregations will be able to afford full-time pastoral ministry at [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Salary Standards](#).

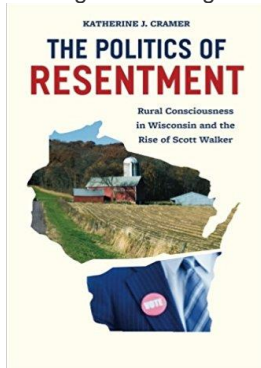
Resources

[The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker \(Chicago Studies in American Politics\) by Katherine J. Cramer \(Author\)](#)

Since the election of Scott Walker, Wisconsin has been seen as ground zero for debates about the appropriate role of government in the wake of the Great Recession. In a time of rising inequality, Walker not only survived a bitterly contested recall that brought thousands of protesters to Capitol Square, he was subsequently reelected. How could this happen? How is it that the very people who stand to benefit from strong government services not only vote against the candidates who support those services but are vehemently against the very idea of big government?

With *The Politics of Resentment*, Katherine J. Cramer uncovers an oft-overlooked piece of the puzzle: rural political consciousness and the resentment of the "liberal elite." Rural voters are distrustful that politicians will respect the distinct values of their communities and allocate a fair share of resources. What can look like disagreements about basic political principles are therefore actually rooted in something even more fundamental: who we are as people and how closely a candidate's social identity matches our own. Using Scott Walker and Wisconsin's prominent and protracted debate about the appropriate role of government, Cramer illuminates the contours of rural consciousness, showing how place-based identities profoundly influence how people understand politics, regardless of whether urban politicians and their supporters really do shortchange or look down on those living in the country.

The Politics of Resentment shows that rural resentment—no less than partisanship, race, or class—plays a major role in dividing America against itself.



<https://www.amazon.com/Politics-Resentment-Consciousness-Wisconsin-American/dp/022634911X>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26153424-the-politics-of-resentment>

<https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/19174311-download-the-politics-of-resentment-pdf-audiobook-by-katherine-j-cramer>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-politics-of-resentment-katherine-j-cramer/1122627891>

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/11/13/how-rural-resentment-helps-explain-the-surprising-victory-of-donald-trump/?utm_term=.02d6bfd8c86c

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<http://inthesetimes.com/article/19666/how-an-entitled-clinton-and-the-politics-of-resentment-gave-us-trump>

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<http://www.lse.ac.uk/united-states/events/2017-events/politics-of-resentment-katherine-cramer>

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<http://civic.mit.edu/2017/05/31/kathy-cramer-on-the-politics-of-resentment-what-i-learned-from-listening/>
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<https://academic.oup.com/poq/article-abstract/81/2/599/3835418?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
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<https://www.c-span.org/video/?416995-7/katherine-cramer-discusses-the-politics-resentment>
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<https://www.slideshare.net/jicom454ere/the-politics-of-resentment-rural-consciousness-in-wisconsin-and-the-rise-of-scott-walker-chicago-studies-in-american-politics-epub>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathy_Cramer
<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/contributor/katherine-cramer>
<https://polisci.wisc.edu/people/faculty/katherine-j-cramer>
<https://www.amazon.com/Katherine-J.-Cramer/e/B01NCAD3F6>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14231508.Katherine_J_Cramer
 Images for Katherine J. Cramer (Author)
 Images for The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker (Chicago Studies in American Politics) by Katherine J. Cramer (Author)

Who Moved My Teachers? – Mother Jones

Scott Walker became Wisconsin's governor in 2011 and promptly enacted a wide-scale rollback of unionization rights for state employees. That law, Act 10, effectively wiped out the ability of teachers and other public-sector workers to bargain collectively over salary and benefits.

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/03/scott-walker-trump-wisconsin-teacher-union/>

Images for Who Moved My Teachers? – Mother Jones

<https://bluewisconsin.news/2018/04/15/who-moved-my-teachers/>

<https://www.wpr.org/people/patrick-caldwell>

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/11/this-is-just-how-badly-scott-walker-has-decimated-public-schools-in-wisconsin/>

Images for scott-walker-has-decimated-public-schools-in-wisconsin

25) “If momma ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy”

I have worked with church secretaries who lived out the saying, “If momma ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy.”

First, I have come to better recognize the behavior and to remind myself that it is not about me.

Second, I have come to believe that congregations have a right to expect that staff not only demonstrate a certain level of competence in completing the duties of the position but also maintain a certain level of cooperation in working together to accomplish the work.

if momma ain't happy - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lmOeWv8x18>

Images for if momma ain't happy - YouTube

26) Crocodile tears

The 20 hour-a-week church secretary in my initial consultation with her offered to make any corrections and changes I wanted in the 4-page bulletin on a letter-sized paper. I suggested that I be able to edit the bulletin electronically, but she differed. I suggested then that it is best not to take red marks in the proofing personally. Unfortunately, the church secretary took the red marks personally and complained to the president of the Congregation Council who came to me and, without asking my side of the story, told me that the church secretary complained to him and that I needed to “back off.” Emboldened by the backing of the president, the church secretary told me that she did not see why she had to make so many corrections and changes since “you’re an interim pastor and not going to be here long term.” I showed her a photocopy of numerous corrections made to both the order of service and to the announcements of a rough draft of a recent bulletin and asked for an explanation. She replied, “I’m only human.” I said that it would be easier to type the bulletin myself or at least make the corrections on shared documents on the computer rather than going back and forth with hard copies until the bulletin looked presentable and offered to do so. She said, “Then, all I would have left to do is to photocopy and fold the bulletins.”

Resources

Crocodile tears - Wikipedia

Crocodile tears (or superficial sympathy) is a false, insincere display of emotion such as a hypocrite crying fake tears of grief.

The phrase derives from an ancient belief that crocodiles shed tears while consuming their prey, and as such is present in many modern languages, especially in Europe where it was introduced through Latin. While crocodiles do have tear ducts, they weep to lubricate their eyes, typically when they have been out of water for a long time and their eyes begin to dry out.

However, evidence suggests this could also be triggered by feeding.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocodile_tears

Images for crocodile tears wikipedia



Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocodile>

Images for crocodile wikipedia

28 best Crocodile Tears images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/lazymansrest/crocodile-tears/>

Images for crocodile tears pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/artisticchugo/crocodile-tears/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/candyrags2/crying-crocodile-tears/>

Urban Dictionary: crocodile tears

To pretend a sorrow that one doesn't in fact feel, to create a hypocritical show of emotion. The idea comes from the ancient belief that [crocodiles weep](#) while [luring](#) or devouring their prey.

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=crocodile%20tears>

Images for Dictionary: crocodile tears

[Images for pretend a sorrow](#)

27) Insistent on things done her way

I struggled to figure out the mentality of the church secretary who seemed insistent on things being done her way. She came on board 2 years earlier for her first job as a church secretary. She stated in the initial conversation that she imagined she was going to change things in the congregation. Then I ran across an article from The New York Times.

How to Manage (and Avoid) Entitled Employees - The New York Times

Ms. Haines said entitlement manifested itself in the following workplace traits: a resistance to feedback, an inclination to overestimate talents and accomplishments, a tendency to be demanding and overbearing and to blame others for mistakes, and little sense of team loyalty. Sound familiar?

People who exhibit this behavior have difficulty adapting to new situations and are not agreeable because they see themselves as the benchmark against which the behavior of others should be judged. Some researches have described entitled people as having arrested emotional development, functioning as if they were about 6 years old with needs that must be met first. This is especially hard for business owners – most of who come from a discipline of delayed gratification – to grapple with.

<https://boss.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/23/managing-and-avoiding-entitled-employees/>

Images for How to Manage (and Avoid) Entitled Employees - The New York Times

<http://sfmagazine.com/post-entry/october-2016-managing-entitled-employees/>

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<https://www.fastcompany.com/3040068/3-ways-to-manage-entitled-employees>

<https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/blog/2014/04/3-ways-you-can-manage-entitled-employees.html>

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Images for managing-entitled-employee-improving-attitudes-workforce

<https://www.retaildoc.com/blog/how-to-avoid-being-or-hiring-the-entitled-student-employee>

28) Power more decentralized

One woman served as president of the Congregation Council and congregation in a congregation with an average worship attendance of 200+; as well as chair of the Executive Committee, Worship and Music Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Evangelism Committee; *ex officio* member of the Call Committee with voice but not vote; co-chair of the Altar Guild; and chair of the Property and Management Committee, which otherwise consisted of all men. At a Worship and Music Committee meeting, I stated that I thought power more decentralized is more beneficial to the whole

Resources

Deborah Gordon: The emergent genius of ant colonies | TED Talk

Deborah Gordon studies *ant* colonies in the Arizona desert to understand their complex social system.

https://www.ted.com/talks/deborah_gordon_digs_ants/up-next

Images of Deborah Gordon: The emergent genius of ant colonies | TED Talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukS4UjCauUs> Deborah Gordon: The emergent genius of ant colonies - YouTube

https://www.ted.com/talks/deborah_gordon_what_ants_teach_us_about_the_brain_cancer_and_the_internet/up-next Deborah Gordon: What ants teach us about the brain, cancer and the Internet
<http://bostonreview.net/archives/BR35.5/gordon.php> Boston Review — Deborah M. Gordon: Colonial Studies

Decentralization - Wikipedia

Decentralization (or decentralization) is the process of redistributing or dispersing functions, powers, people or things away from a central location or authority.^{[1][2]} While centralization, especially in the governmental sphere, is widely studied and practiced, there is no common definition or understanding of decentralization. The meaning of decentralization may vary in part because of the different ways it is applied.^[3] Concepts of decentralization have been applied to [group dynamics](#) and [management science](#) in private businesses and organizations, [political science](#), [law](#) and [public administration](#), [economics](#) and [technology](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decentralization>

[Images for decentralization](#)

Seven Implications of Decentralization in Churches – Rainer on Leadership #184 – ThomRainer.com

At the core of these changes is a desire to move away from centralization. And this trend may be one of the most significant trends of the American church in a century.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/seven-implications-of-decentralization-in-churches-rainer-on-leadership-184/>

[Images for Seven Implications of Decentralization in Churches – ThomRainer.com](#)

<https://www.preaching.com/articles/the-trend-toward-decentralization/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/two-major-but-rican-churches/>

[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

Trying to do the job alone - Sermon Index

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your request for more information concerning block #11 on the insurance form which asks for "cause of injuries" wherein I put "trying to do the job alone." You said you needed more information, so I trust the following will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade and on the date of injuries I was working alone laying brick around the top of a four-story building when I realized that I had 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to put them in a barrel and lower them by a pulley that was fastened to the top of the building. I secured the end of the rope at ground level and went up to the top of the building and loaded the bricks into the barrel and swung the barrel out with the bricks in it. I then went down and untied the rope, holding it securely to insure the slow descent of the barrel.

As you will note on block #6 of the insurance form, I weigh 175 pounds. Due to the shock of being jerked off the ground so swiftly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Between the second and third floors, I met the barrel coming down. This accounts for the bruises and lacerations on my upper body.

Regaining my presence of mind, I held tightly to the rope and proceeded rapidly up the side of the building, not stopping until my right hand was jammed in the pulley. This accounts for the broken thumb.

Despite the pain, I retained my presence of mind and held tightly to the rope. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed about 50 pounds. I again refer you to block #6 and my weight.

As you would guess, I began a rapid descent in the vicinity of the second floor. I met the empty barrel coming up. This explains the injuries to my legs and lower body. Slowed only slightly, I continued my descent landing on the pile of bricks. Fortunately, my back was only slightly sprained, and the internal injuries were minimal.

I am sorry to report that at this point I finally lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope, and as you can imagine, the empty barrel crashed down on me.

I trust this answers your concern. Please know that I am finished "trying to do the job alone."

http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=31967&forum=35

[Images for Trying to do the job alone - Sermon Index](#)

than power more centralized and suggested perhaps someone else could be chair. The members of the committee took offense at the suggestion.

Centralization - Wikipedia

Centralization, or centralization (see [spelling differences](#)), is the process by which the activities of an organization, particularly those regarding planning and decision-making, become concentrated within a particular [location](#) and/or group or keeping all of the important decision making powers within head office or the center of the organization.

The term has a variety of meanings in several fields. In [political science](#), centralization refers to the concentration of a [government's](#) power – both geographically and politically – into a [centralized government](#). In [neuroscience](#), centralization refers to the evolutionary trend of the [nervous system](#) to be partitioned into a [central nervous system](#) and [peripheral nervous system](#). In [business studies](#), centralization and [decentralization](#) refer to where decisions are made in the [chain of command](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centralisation>

[Images for centralization](#)

29) Nurse Ratched

The head administrative nurse at Salem State Hospital in **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** exemplifies the desire to maintain control.

Resources

Nurse Ratched - Wikipedia

Nurse Ratched is the head administrative nurse at the [Salem](#) State Hospital, a mental institution where she exercises near-absolute power over the patients' access to [medications](#), privileges, and basic necessities such as food and toiletries. She capriciously revokes these privileges whenever a patient displeases her. Her superiors turn a blind eye because she maintains order, keeping the patients from acting out, either through [antipsychotic](#) and [anticonvulsant](#) drugs or her own brand of [psychotherapy](#), which consists mostly of humiliating patients into doing her bidding.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nurse_Ratched

Images for Nurse Ratched

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Flew_Over_the_Cuckoo%27s_Nest_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Flew_Over_the_Cuckoo%27s_Nest_(film))

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Flew_Over_the_Cuckoo%27s_Nest_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Flew_Over_the_Cuckoo%27s_Nest_(novel))

Images for one flew over the cuckoo's nest

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) - YouTube

"While serving time for insanity at a state mental hospital, implacable rabble-rouser Randle Patrick McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) inspires his fellow patients to rebel against the authoritarian rule of head nurse Mildred Ratched (Louise Fletcher). This Milos Forman masterpiece was the first film since *It Happened One Night* (1934) to take all five major Oscar prizes for picture, director, screenplay, actor (Nicholson) and actress (Fletcher)."



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-hB-WkQQkI>

Images for One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBHN7aJGogY> One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest 1975 Best scene - YouTube

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0073486/> One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) - IMDb

Images for implacable rabble-rouser Randle Patrick McMurphy

Images for authoritarian rule of head nurse Mildred Ratched

Urban Dictionary: Nurse Ratched

The antagonist in the 1962 [Ken Kesey](#) novel "[One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#)" and in the 1975 movie of the same title. The overbearing, cruel, perfectionist nurse (ranked number 5 in [AFI's](#) list of Greatest Movie Villains) rules the asylum in the story with an iron fist.

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Nurse%20Ratched>

Images for Dictionary: Nurse Ratched

Images for overbearing, cruel, perfectionist nurse

30) Over-functioning mothers as evidenced by under-functioning sons

One woman served on the Congregation Council, and I could almost predict that she would wait until the end of the meeting to bring up a "gotcha" item. Her son attempted to take his own life on numerous occasions and ended up in a care facility because of debilitating depression and died before his time.

Another woman served simultaneously as Congregation Council president and several other leadership positions. She often spoke of "driving up north to baby my (bachelor) son."

Two other women in 2 congregations I served at the same time worked part-time church office staff positions. In both situations, their sons took drugs and ended up in jail.

Resources

I Quit!: Stop Pretending Everything Is Fine and Change Your Life by Geri Scazzero (Author), Peter Scazzero (Contributor)

Geri Scazzero knew there was something desperately wrong with how they were doing their life and ministry. She finally told her husband, 'I quit,' and left the thriving church he pastored, beginning a journey that transformed her, her marriage, and her church. Geri quit being afraid of what others think. She quit lying. She quit denying her anger and sadness. She quit living someone else's life. *I Quit* provides you a way out of an inauthentic, superficial spirituality to genuine freedom in Christ. *I Quit* is for every person who thinks, 'I can't keep pretending everything is fine!' Biblical quitting goes hand in hand with choosing. When we quit those things that are damaging to our souls or the souls of others, we are freed up to choose other ways of being and relating that are rooted in love and lead to life. When we quit fear of what others think, we choose freedom. When we quit lies, we choose truth. When we quit blaming, we choose to take responsibility. When we quit faulty thinking, we choose

to live in reality. When we quit for the right reasons, quitting changes us. Something breaks inside of us when we finally say, 'No more.' But it must be done for the right reasons, at the right time, and in the right way. That's what this book is about.

<https://www.amazon.com/Quit-Stop-Pretending-Everything-Change/dp/0310321964>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9201436-i-quit>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/editions/14081000-i-quit>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/i-quit-geri-scazzero/1100268694>

https://books.google.com/books/about/I_Quit.html?id=jGMD8NXb1xQC

<https://www.christianbook.com/pretending-everything-change-life-unabridged-audiobook/geri-scazzero/9780310326038/pd/DA14776-CP>

<http://www.leadership.com.sg/person/self-leadership/the-drawbacks-of-an-over-functioning-leader/#.W>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4085822.Geri_Scazzero

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/145491.Peter_Scazzero

Images for Geri Scazzero, Peter Scazzero

Images for I Quit!: Stop Pretending Everything Is Fine and Change Your Life by Geri Scazzero, Peter Scazzero

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23271439-the-emotionally-healthy-woman> The Emotionally Healthy Woman: Eight Things

You Have to Quit to Change Your Life by Geri Scazzero

Images for The Emotionally Healthy Woman: Eight Things You Have to Quit to Change Your Life

Is It Hard Work or Overfunctioning? - Margaret Marcuson

Overfunctioning involves taking responsibility for others, especially for their problems and shortcomings.

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/is-it-hard-work-or-overfunctioning/>

Images for Is It Hard Work or Overfunctioning? - Margaret Marcuson

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/can-you-avoid-overfunctioning-when-help-is-needed/>

http://day1.org/4142-family_systems_basics_about_money_at_church_2_overfunctioning_and_underfunctioning

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/pastors-burnout/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/do-you-know-what-not-to-do/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/what-church-leaders-lazy/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/is-helping-overrated-susan-luff-comments/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/can-you-be-lighter-in-relationships/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/are-you-losing-sleep-over-your-churchs-finances/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/is-there-a-secret-to-ministry/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/3-mistakes-ministry-productivity/>

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/gather/>

http://day1.org/2591-the_rev_margaret_marcuson

<https://www.unityleaders.org/ministry-operations/sustainable-ministry-is-it-possible/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Leaders-Who-Last-Sustaining-Yourself/dp/1596270950>

Leadership Over-functioning - Together Magazine

Leaders who over-function are not good for church health.

<http://togethermagazine.com.au/2017/06/23/leadership-over-functioning/>

Images for Leadership Over-functioning - Together Magazine

<http://www.peterfrith.org/persyst/over-and-under-functioning.pdf>

<https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/quit-overfunctioning/>

7 Signs Of Perfectionistic Overfunctioning - How To Recognize It In Yourself And Change It - Forbes

When I studied to become a marriage and family therapist, I learned of a phenomenon called "overfunctioning" – doing more than is necessary, more than is appropriate and more than is healthy. And I learned that when one spouse or partner overfunctions, the other one inevitably underfunctions. It's a dynamic we get locked into, and often never escape. That concept made me sit up at attention, because I suddenly realized it was playing out in my own life.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kathycaprino/2015/10/29/7-signs-of-perfectionistic-overfunctioning-how-to-recognize-it-in-yourself-and-change-it/#6d623cb25715>

Images for 7 Signs Of Perfectionistic Overfunctioning - How To Recognize It In Yourself And Change It - Forbes

Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers: A Handbook by Joan S. Gray (Author)

For instance, **overfunctioning** leaders can create passive, underfunctioning followers. The Christian education committee chair does all the recruiting of church school teachers herself rather than asking the rest of the committee to help. She ends up feeling resentful, which affects her recruiting negatively because people sense her irritation and a lack of enthusiasm, and so they are slow to respond. Moreover, she's teaching her committee that recruiting is the chair's responsibility, not theirs, and so the situation will never change. The leader's willingness to do too much enables others to feel comfortable doing too little. Overfunctioning also creates a leadership vacuum in the group since no one is working with the leader to learn how to get things done.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664503055>

Page 80

https://books.google.com/books/about/Spiritual_Leadership_for_Church_Officers.html?id=zqzxEpZPCh8C

This timely new leadership guide for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is written for church officers who are looking for a deepened relationship with God. Joan Gray challenges elders and deacons to see themselves as spiritual leaders and equips them to lead alongside their pastors.

Gray lays out a variety of leadership styles and helps leaders understand when each is appropriate. She also provides resources for dealing with relationships in the church and identifies ways churches can be supportive of the spiritual leadership of elders and deacons.

<https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Leadership-Church-Officers-Handbook/dp/0664503055>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7659401-spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers>

<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664503055/spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers.aspx>

<https://www.christianbook.com/spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers-handbook/joan-gray/9780664503055/pd/503055>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers-joan-s-gray/1112400646>

<http://www.viewsfromtheroof.com/tag/spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers-a-handbook/>

http://www.presbyteryov.org/resource_center/spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers-a-handbook/

<https://pres-outlook.org/2010/08/spiritual-leadership-for-church-officers-a-handbook/>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1702457.Joan_Gray

Images for *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers: A Handbook* by Joan S. Gray (Author)

Images for For instance, overfunctioning leaders can create passive, underfunctioning followers.

Think Less Live More: Lessons from a Recovering Over-Thinker by Shelley Rowe PE (Author)

For a world of chronic over-thinkers, this book holds the key. In eight easy steps, discover the essential role feelings play in creating a more fulfilling life and rewarding career. With wit, stories and a bit of science, the book shares tips from an executive, engineer, and recovering over-thinker on how to live with meaning by thinking less. Built-in exercises allow you to put the tips to work immediately. Don't over-think it - start reading now!

<https://www.amazon.com/Think-Less-Live-More-Over-Thinker/dp/0984698965>

<https://people-equation.com/are-you-over-functioning-in-your-leadership-role/>

Images for *Think Less Live More: Lessons from a Recovering Over-Thinker* by Shelley Rowe PE (Author)

31) When a staff member undermines

The long-time bookkeeper spoke derisively of the former pastor. Even though I used team building exercises at each staff meeting, I realized it was of little avail in his case. His sister previously served as president of the Congregation Council and continued as a member during my time. Leaders walked by my office to go down to his to consult with him. He attended council meetings evidently to try to steer the course as pastors had come and gone. I exercised caution when speaking with him knowing that my words could be used against me out in the congregation. Fortunately, he retired, but unfortunately a successor pastor related that the retired bookkeeper continued to entertain complaints about staff as he stayed on as a member of the congregation.

32) Retired office staff

Not just one but two women who worked in the church office stayed on in the congregation after retirement. Both wore dour facial expressions, and their words dripped of murmur. I sought to keep the staff focused on the work at hand without becoming distracted by these women with too much time on their hands to overthink things.

33) Squawking of a wet hen

A never married retired home economics teacher, who during her younger years held a position in the synod women's organization, registered her frequent complaints in a high nasal pitch. I reminded myself to ask if the presenting situation was the issue.

Urban Dictionary: mad as a wet hen

In the old south, after a hen laid her eggs she would want to sit on them until they hatch. Even if you gathered up all her eggs, she would still sit on the empty nest. So, in order to "break her" and get her to lay more eggs, the farmer would lift her off the nest and dunk her in water. She'd then go right back to her nest, so this had to be done two or three times, after which she'd be **mad as hell** and start **"fussing and scrambling about"**. Apparently this "broke her" and she'd start **laying eggs** again.

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=mad%20as%20a%20wet%20hen>

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Madder%20than%20a%20wet%20hen>

Images for mad as hell and start "fussing and scrambling about"

wet hen 10 29 12 001 - YouTube

Mad as a wet hen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCKCxeyQKdw>

Images for wet hen - YouTube

Images for mad as a wet hen

34) Bitter old lady syndrome

The faces change, but the personality shows up – the feeling that life has passed one by and others are to blame.

Resources

[What Does the Bible Say About Bitterness? - OpenBible.info](http://www.openbible.info)

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/bitterness>
 Images for bible and bitterness
<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/12-bible-verses-for-the-bitter-hearts>
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Being-Bitter>
<https://believe.christianmingle.com/what-the-bible-says-about-bitterness-and-how-to-overcome-it/>
<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/7-bible-verses-to-help-overcome-bitterness/>
<https://www.gotquestions.org/root-of-bitterness.html>
<http://www1.cbn.com/teachingsheets/bible-bitterness-and-resentment>
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-a-root-of-bitterness>
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-cant-i-overcome-my-bitterness-and-anger>
 Images for overcome-bitterness-and-anger
<http://biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2014/02/21/the-heart-of-bitterness/>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Bitterness/>
<https://www.godvine.com/bible/category/bitterness>
<https://www.compellingtruth.org/Bible-bitterness-resentment.html>
<https://www.citynews.sg/2017/12/6-bible-verses-resolve-bitterness/>
<http://deeptruths.com/bible-topics/bitterness.html>
<http://www.holybiblesays.org/articles.php?ID=411> The Fruit of The Root of Bitterness - What Does The Bible Say?
<https://www.reviveourhearts.com/true-woman/blog/four-ways-to-spot-a-bitter-root/>
<https://theologyforwomen.org/2010/11/bitter-women.html>
 Images for bitter-women

Why Do Some Women Become Bitter and Angry Little Old Ladies?

Certainly, not all old women become bitter and angry. But let's get real. You've probably known or met more than a few of them.

<http://putoldonholdjournal.com/women-become-bitter-angry-little-old-ladies/>

Images for bitter old ladies

<http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/spring3.html> Bitterness; the Silent Disease of Women

Images for bitterness the silent disease of women

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1322444/Why-women-miserable-age.html>

Images for Why-women-miserable-age

<http://www.womenshealthmag.co.uk/health/stress/5698/how-to-break-the-bitterness-habit-feelings-negative-thoughts/>

35) Decorating the Christmas tree

An announcement appeared in the Sunday bulletin about decorating the Christmas tree the next Saturday at 9am and urging people to come and take part. I showed up at 9am and not surprisingly most of the decorations had already been completed by the patriarch, matriarch, and their daughter-in-law. Twice in the year before I came the patriarch and matriarch couple had made emotional outbursts exhorting others about not doing their part so that some vowed never to return as long as they were there. Some of the women refused to work at funeral lunches when the matriarch was in charge.

Three more women came a little later to help decorate. The patriarch sat in the front pew with his arm in a sling and a crutch by his side while the women decorated the trees. I sat in the pew across from him and on a lighter note stated, "I'm thinking those decorating have a pretty good idea of how things ought to be done. I'm here for moral support." I made similar comments on a lighter note as I took a seat to the side of the altar when the patriarch took a seat inside the altar and handed bulbs to the decorators.

36) Roast preachers

A group of widows and never married older women ate at Perkins each Sunday after the second service of worship. They invited me to come and join them. I went once when I first started but did not return. I sensed these women had too much time on their hands and spent a disproportionate amount of that time coming up with things they did not like at church. I suppose, if I had done so regularly, I probably could have exercised damage control, but the exercise would have been emotionally draining. Whatever they ordered off the restaurant menu was second to the roast preacher of the conversation menu.

Resources

Roast Preacher | Northwest Baptist Seminary

Preachers need to have thick skin. Whenever a person gets up in front of a crowd to speak, people are going to evaluate what they have to say – which may be a mild way of describing the kind of scrutiny under which a preacher is placed. **Roast Preacher is the most common dish served for Sunday dinner.**

<https://www.nbseminary.ca/roast-preacher>

<https://www.nbseminary.ca/category/preaching>

Images for Roast Preacher is the most common dish served for Sunday dinner.

Roast Preacher | Our Daily Bread

People who have "roast preacher" for Sunday dinner need a change of diet.

<https://odb.org/2002/09/08/roast-preacher/>

Images for People who have "roast preacher" for Sunday dinner need a change of diet.

37) Survive the nitpicker

The older widow pointed out this and that and asked questions about this and that. There seemed to be no end...

Further wise sayings of Solomon

¹⁵A continual dripping on a rainy day
and a **contentious wife** are alike;

¹⁶to restrain her is to restrain the wind
or to grasp oil in the right hand.

oremus Bible Browser: Proverbs 27:15-16

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Proverbs+27:15-16>

Images for A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike;

Resources

Mark McPherson | The Nit-Picker: one of the 52 types of difficult people.

The Nit-Picker spends their time finding faults which are, given the circumstances, minor and inconsequential. And when they've found them, they like to let people know about it. But oddly enough, many Nit-Pickers ignore more serious faults or problems – ones that deserve to be highlighted. They let these go and concentrate on faults which are, at least at the time, unimportant.

<https://www.markmcpherson.com.au/blog-52-types-of-difficult-people-the-nit-picker/>

Images for Mark McPherson | The Nit-Picker: one of the 52 types of difficult people.

<http://pelicanflies.beginningofwisdom.net/growth-in-christ/2012/taming-a-nitpicker/>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/lisa-m-sodeika/you-missed-a-spot-five-ways-to-spot-and-stop-negative-nitpicking-ways_b_5449992.html

Images for spot-and-stop-negative-nitpicking

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/avelist/5-types-of-difficult-cow_b_8170028.html #1

<https://www.qualitylogoproducts.com/blog/how-to-deal-with-difficult-customers/> Informed and nonconfrontational: The Nitpicker

<http://www.markmerrill.com/how-to-deal-with-different-types-of-difficult-people> The Nitpicker

Images for how-to-deal-with-different-types-of-difficult-people The Nitpicker

<http://www.amy-castro.com/dealing-difficult-people-choices/> Nitpicker

Ten Fears of Church Leaders - ThomRainer.com

6. Fear of **nitpickers**. There is obvious overlap in this fear and the fear of critics. The nitpickers often don't view themselves as critics; they offer suggestions about points of minutia. For example, this group includes those who remind the pastor to make announcements of minor matters five minutes before a worship service begins.

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/04/nine-fears-church-leaders/>

Images for Ten Fears of Church Leaders - ThomRainer.com 6. Fear of nitpickers.

<https://hellochristian.com/3683-the-top-10-fears-of-church-leaders>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=143364388X> Chapter 6 BECOME A VOICE AND VISION FOR HOPE

38) Older sibling syndrome

I sometimes use the phrases of "Martha's moods" and "elder envy" in referring to Martha in the account of Jesus Visits Martha and Mary and the older brother in The Parable of the Prodigal Son and His Brother.

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. **But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so, she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me."** But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

oremus Bible Browser: Luke 10:38-42

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=335854859>

Images for Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

Images for Martha was distracted by her many tasks

Resources

Beware of the Martha Syndrome — Charisma Magazine

The Martha Syndrome is being so busy working for God that we neglect to spend time with God.

<https://www.charismamaq.com/spirit/bible-study/36507-beware-of-the-martha-syndrome>

Images for Beware of the Martha Syndrome — Charisma Magazine

<https://unashamedworkman.wordpress.com/2007/09/10/martha-syndrome/>

https://www.deltawindonline.com/features/spiritual_rumination/watch-out-for-the-martha-syndrome-in-your-life/article_670ead88-ffad-11e6-9642-1f38f71af2f1.html

<https://www.cmf.org.uk/international/electives/?page=devotions&id=52> The Martha Syndrome - Christian Medical Fellowship

<https://www.religioustolerance.org/kumasi01.htm> The Martha Syndrome and the Mary Solution - ReligiousTolerance.org

<http://www.pbv.thunder-bay.on.ca/NetSermons/Luk1038fser.html> The Martha Syndrom - Rev. Bill Versteeg

Never Enough: The Martha Syndrome: Loyce J. Bussey

Never Enough: The Martha Syndrome, describes the plight of many Christians who are honored to be asked to serve the Lord in their local churches, but later allow their ministry to supercede other priorities in daily life. Consequently, many become overworked and experience depression and burnout to the point that their service becomes a burden. As this burden interferes with their fellowship with God, they find themselves desperately working in their own strength to fulfill the calling that began in the Spirit. **The Martha Syndrome, named after Martha of Bethany** as recorded in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, is often accompanied by such shame and anxiety that the Martha is unwilling to accept mind renewal and acknowledge the Lord's promise of burdens that are easy and a yoke that is light. The message and precepts presented in this book will bring spiritual, emotional and physical healing for many well-intentioned Christians who find themselves captured in this condition and who yearn to be restored into God's unique plan. Discover the true joy God has in store for each Christian as they learn how to receive His empowerment to perfect His plan and purpose for their Christian service.

<https://www.amazon.com/Never-Enough-Syndrome-Loyce-Bussey/dp/0942407865>

http://www.fatherson.com/book_details.asp?id=25961

Images for Loyce J. Bussey (Author)

Images for Never Enough: The Martha Syndrome: Loyce J. Bussey

The Parable of the Prodigal Son and His Brother

²⁵Now his **elder son** was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

oremus Bible Browser: Luke 15:25-32

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Luke+15:25-32&version=nrsv>

Images for Parable of the Prodigal Son and His Brother

Resources

The Elder Brother Syndrome - Zianet

However, Jesus *does* fault his *attitude*. In spite of his many laudable characteristics and his tireless service to the father, the elder son was not right *in his heart*.

<http://www.zianet.com/maxey/reflx110.htm>

Images for elder brother syndrome

<https://www.janetchanson.com/elder-brother-syndrome/>

<http://davidpafford.com/two-lost-sons-elder-brother-syndrome/>

<http://preservingbibletimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Sons-Chapter-13.pdf>

<https://www.slideshare.net/steve4040/elder-brother-syndrome>

http://www.hibbingmn.com/community_voice/church_news/the-elder-brother-syndrome-do-you-have-it/article_bd2e5e54-26ec-11e3-aab1-0019bb2963f4.html

The Older Brother Syndrome | Gateway Church

The Prodigal Son. Probably the most famous of all Jesus' parables. It's the story of a family – a wayward child... a jealous brother... a forgiving father

<https://gatewaypeople.com/ministries/life/events/welcome-home/session/2007/11/17/the-older-brother-syndrome>

Images for older brother syndrome

<http://www.propheticcrossroads.com/home/older-brother-syndrome>

<https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/daily-reflection/do-you-suffer-older-brother-syndrome>

<https://spiritlightbooks.wordpress.com/2010/06/17/older-brother-syndrome/>

<https://revandy.org/2013/11/21/older-brother-syndrome/>

<http://gnbc.org/older-brother-syndrome-ii/>

39) Entitled Demander

A woman in the congregation distinguished herself by being involved in any number of projects and by spearheading others. I had been serving in the assignment 39 days, when the morning before the first Congregation Council meeting following the annual meeting to elect council members, she stopped by the office to complain that the newly elected members did not attend services of worship and should be instructed to do so. When I got to the council meeting, I discovered she had made an extra-budgetary request for an effort connected to the Episcopal church that she had become involved in when living in California. While acknowledging her many contributions to the congregation, the council voted to table the request.

She had been married to a Lutheran pastor but had little good to say about him after the divorce. She raised numerous questions during the call process citing her own unpleasant experiences. I was told she questioned and second guessed the previous young pastor. She was one of the reasons he was all too glad to take another call closer to his wife's family out east. When she came to the office another time to question something, I replied in a terse manner. She did not come again to complain.

An entitled demander in the church is similar to the older sibling syndrome personality in that such a personality builds up social capital by overextending and then makes demands in a supposed quid pro quo.

Resources

True Christians are not "Demanders" | Counseling One Another

By demanding that his church does things his way he chooses the road that is temporarily easier. In doing so, he loses out on the maturing process of love because of refusal to walk the more difficult road of actually living with other believers in Christian unity and humility. As a result, he does more harm than good, which God strongly warns against (1 Cor 3:17).

<http://counselingoneanother.com/2012/03/12/true-christians-are-not-demanders/>

Images for True Christians are not "Demanders" | Counseling One Another

<https://www.amazon.com/Life-Together-Exploration-Christian-Community/dp/0060608528>

Images for Life-Together-Exploration-Christian-Community

Understand the four types of 'difficult' patients | FierceHealthcare

2. The **entitled demander**. This type of patient likes to tell you what types of tests to order and medications to prescribe--and may threaten legal action if denied.

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/practices/understand-four-types-difficult-patients>

Images for Understand the four types of 'difficult' patients | FierceHealthcare 2. The entitled demander.

<https://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2011/04/patient-evokes-emotional-reaction-physician.html> The second kind of difficult patient is called the entitled demander.

<https://blog.timesunion.com/mdtobe/dealing-with-annoying-patients/1563/> Then there are the "entitled demanders"

40) Gotcha or gotcha?

When I visit with my third brother, he will often respond, "Gotcha." I understand him to be saying, "I understand you." When I deal with some people in the congregation who demonstrate troublesome behavior, their mode of operation is sometimes an unspoken, "Gotcha!" I take this behavior to be an in effect saying, "I caught you." I feel at ease relating to the first "Gotcha," but ill at ease dealing with the second "Gotcha."

Urban Dictionary: gotcha

2

[gotcha](#)

Comes from, "I 'got' you."

Which is an [alternative](#) for, "I [understand](#) you."

Or, "I will [comply](#)."

6

[gotcha](#)

a slang version relaxed pronunciation of [got you](#) or I've got you, usually referring to an unexpected [capture](#) or [discovery](#) of another person.

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=gotcha>

Images for urban dictionary gotcha

41) Crabby

Daniel Erlander in [A Place for You: My Holy Communion Book](#) by Daniel Erlander speaks of Jesus' critics as the crabby people.

"One day the **crabby** people were very upset. They saw Jesus eating in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Zacchaeus." Page 5

Crabby | Definition of Crabby by Merriam-Webster

informal

: easily irritated : peevish and irritable : GROUCHY

a *crabby* recluse

He gets *crabby* if he doesn't have his morning coffee.

She was in a *crabby* mood and got a certain amount of satisfaction out of pushing her sister's buttons. — Isis

Crawford

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crabby>

Images for Crabby | Definition

[Images for easily irritated : peevish and irritable : GROUCHY](#)

42) Cranky

I had been warned about one of the members who "seemed to be opposed to everything." I was wondering who this somebody might be. On the 4th Sunday, I met a man who introduced himself by stating, "You don't have to know my name. You just need to know that I'm that cranky old fart." Most members exhibiting difficult behavior do not come right out and identify themselves as such, but this man did. He came up to me after the service of worship on my 7th Sunday and asked, "Do you remember me?" He then reminded me in the same way he originally introduced himself. The next time I met him, I did not wait for him to introduce himself in that manner again. I said, "Hi, Mr. Cheerful." A boyish smile came across his face, and he could not speak. I tried the same approach the next time and

received the same response. His wife bought 2 packages of cookies left over from the bake sale the day before to give to him. She said, "I've been married to him for almost 40 years. I'm gonna keep him." I was only there for 3 months as a bridge pastor and never did figure out his name.

Resources

Confronting the Guardians

These **cranky** barrier people and guardians of the status quo often wield great power in the life of the church. Such behavior must not be tolerated. It must be confronted and named for what it is. Most people don't care for confrontation. I know I don't. But if one is going to be truly a leader, he must learn the art of healthy, positive confrontation. In fact, willingness to confront negative, unhealthy behavior in the church is a sign of leadership. It takes courage, faith, prayer, and a deep love for the church to confront people of the church who are damaging the church by their unhealthy, hurtful behavior.

Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827232888>

Page 21

Images for cranky barrier people

cranky Christians - DruryWriting

How come Christians are so cranky lately? You know Christians prone to grumble, gripe, and complain about just about everything from church music or the length of the sermon to carpet in the nursery.

www.drurywriting.com/keith/cranky.htm

Images for cranky Christians

Cranky Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/cranky>

Images for cranky quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/cranky>

<http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/cranky.html>

<http://flavorwire.com/427423/25-fabulously-cranky-mark-twain-quotes>

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/cranky>

<http://quoteprism.net/cranky-quotes>

https://twitter.com/cranky_quotes?lang=en

Cranky vs. Christ-like: What Kind of Christian Are You Becoming?

To be honest, I can't stand being around "mean-spirited" Christ followers. They usually major on minors, and they are the self-appointed protectors of truth. They suck the joy out of every room they walk into. A **cranky and crotchety** Christian is a contradiction. It seems that the longer we walk with Jesus, the more kind and gracious and unselfish and loving we should become.

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/159186-cranky-vs-christ-like-what-kind-of-christian-are-you-becoming.html>

Images for Cranky

Images for mean-spirited

Images for crotchety

cranky - Wiktionary

Grouchy, irritable; easily upset.

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/cranky>

Images for cranky

37 best Cranky images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/Jacksgal68/cranky/>

Images for cranky pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/brittagrissom/cranky-bad-moods/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jmm6285/cranky/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jenjenjackson/cranky-pants/>

43) Check in or check up

A president and vice president in one congregation stopped into the study 2 or 3 times a week to check in to keep the lines of communication open, while in the next congregation the president and vice president never stopped by the study but seemed intent on checking up on me by seeking out discontent in the congregation. The bridge interim went well in the former setting but did not go well in the latter setting. After 4 months, the president and vice president informed me that I was "not the right fit" and asked for my resignation. The relationship between the pastor and president/vice president can be an indicator and predictor of how the interim goes.

Letter of Agreement for Interim Pastoral Ministry – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA)

The congregation will:

C. Accept the interim pastor, uphold them in prayer and **accord them love, respect, and good-will**. Page 42

Letter of Call to an Ordained Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

With this call, we pledge our prayers, love, esteem and **personal support** for the sake of ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ's name.

Page 104

Call Process Booklet EDITED – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/call_process_rev11.17.09smaller.pdf

Call Process Booklet - Yumpu

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/53432941/call-process-booklet>

Images for accord the pastor love, respect, and good-will

Images for we pledge our prayers, love, esteem and personal support for the sake of ministry

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- d. **To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s)** and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://download.elca.org> > ELCA Resource Repository > Model Constitution

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL C12.04.: d. maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) images mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities

44) Checked out

I brought up the *check in or check up* dynamic at a meeting of colleagues. One asked, "What do you do about a president who has checked out?" This interim pastor explained that the Congregation Council elected one of its members to be president in his absence. This officer did not want to talk with the interim pastor but wanted to get a new installed pastor ASAP. The consensus was that sometimes a pastor works with those who want to work together and works around those who do not want to work together.

Resources

5 Signs your boss may be "checked out" | HuffPost

While I do realize there really is not a perfect boss, these type of checked out managers suck the life out of a frustrated team's morale, wastes time, money and resources.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/5-signs-your-boss-may-be-checked-out_us_589a4c0de4b0985224db5b61

Images for 5 Signs your boss may be "checked out" | HuffPost

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/douglas-labier/are-you-checked-out-on-the-job-heres-why_b_9246322.html

Images for checked out on the job

New Study Shows 51% Of Managers Have 'Checked Out,' Care Little About Their Jobs - Forbes

If large number of managers are disengaged and giving less than 100 percent to their jobs, how can they expect their employees to be highly engaged and productive?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/victorlipman/2015/04/13/new-study-shows-51-of-managers-have-checked-out-care-little-about-their-jobs/#512dabb338a9>

Images for New Study Shows 51% Of Managers Have 'Checked Out,' Care Little About Their Jobs - Forbes

<https://news.gallup.com/businessjournal/182228/managers-engaged-jobs.aspx> Only 35% of U.S. Managers Are Engaged in Their Jobs - Gallup News

Images for Only 35% of U.S. Managers Are Engaged in Their Jobs - Gallup News

45) Us-them

He walked with a lumbering gait and looked like a thunderstorm about to let loose. He often wore an unbuttoned flannel shirt with the tails out exposing a worn gray t-shirt to the services of worship. As president of the Congregation Council, the only time he stopped by the pastor's study was to relate complaints from the church secretary when she disagreed with the directions given by me. The church secretary for her part spent parts of her work day surfing on social media.

It so happened that the school superintendent also belonged to the congregation, so I asked the president if he was chair of the school board he would feel entitled to march into the superintendent's office and tell the superintendent how to conduct business with the

administrative assistant. He stated unhesitatingly that he would not see any problem doing that. His son-in-law belonged to the career military, and her husband worked as a police officer in the neighboring town (population 1,026). He got his news from FOX TV and did not trust any other news sources.

Resources

Social Identity Theory | Simply Psychology

This is known as **in-group (us) and out-group (them)**. Social identity theory states that the in-group will discriminate against the out-group to enhance their self-image.

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/social-identity-theory.html>

Images for Social Identity Theory | Simply Psychology

Images for in-group (us) and out-group (them).

The Psychology of 'Us' vs. 'Them' | HuffPost

People who share the same collective identity think of themselves as having a common interest and a common fate. For example, liberty lovers vs. extremist, republicans vs. democrats, Israelis vs. Palestinians, India and Pakistan, government and insurgents, the list can go on and on forever. The more progressed a sense of identity, the less there is a sense of separation.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/roya-r-rad-ma-psyd/the-psychology-of-us-vs-t_b_711853.html

Images for The Psychology of 'Us' vs. 'Them' | HuffPost

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristine-maudal-even-fossen-brainwells/how-to-avoid-us-vs-them-t_b_6265080.html

Images for avoid the us vs. them thinking

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/tim-rymel/the-election-of-us-vs-the_b_12805002.html

Images for election of us vs. them

The Sad Legacy Of Us Vs. Them - Forbes

In today's hypercompetitive economy, there's no room for us vs. them, only us. That means opening the books and treating your employees like the business partners they can be.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/fotschcase/2016/09/06/the-sad-legacy-of-us-vs-them/>

Images for The Sad Legacy Of Us Vs. Them - Forbes

www.forbes.com/sites/duenablomstrom1/2019/02/06/why-a-culture-of-us-vs-them-is-deadly/#3a0a740e7520

Images for why-a-culture-of-us-vs-them-is-deadly

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2018/12/27/sales-versus-marketing-why-an-us-versus-them-mentality-will-sabotage-your-success/#352b09798a65>

Images for why-an-us-versus-them-mentality-will-sabotage-your-success

Us Versus Them, or Not Our Kind | Psychology Today

It's all too easy to designate in-groups and out-groups, dehumanizing others

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/intersubjective/201811/us-versus-them-or-not-our-kind>

Images for us-versus-them-or-not-our-kind

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/finding-new-home/201908/the-psychology-us-vs-them>

Images for psychology-us-vs-them

46) On side-stepping a charging ram

When I was growing up, I went over to a neighbor's farm where they raised sheep. It became a sport for us boys to go in the pen and sidestep the head butt of a charging ram.

Certain people exhibit rammy behavior.

Urban Dictionary: Rammy

2

[rammy](#)

A manner of behavior that is very [rough](#), [thoughtless](#), and [potentially](#) dangerous

The boy was so rammy when he opened the refrigerator, that he [knocked over](#) everything on the top [shelf](#) before he found the milk [jug](#).

[#petery#rough#thoughtless#violent#dangerous#aggressive](#)

by [Nynbern Follower](#) February 09, 2010

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Rammy>

Images for rammy A manner of behavior that is very rough, thoughtless, and potentially dangerous

After I figure out what is going on and deal with my own anxiety, I make a sport of it and sidestep the charge. Usually, such people end up looking foolish because they only know how to charge straight ahead.

Resources

Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In

If pushing back does not work, what does? How can you prevent the cycle of action and reaction? Do not push back. When they assert their positions, do not reject them. When they attack your ideas, don't defend them. When they attack you, don't

counterattack. Break the vicious cycle by refusing to react. Instead of pushing back, **sidestep** their attack and deflect it against the problem.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1101539542>

Images for sidestep their attack and deflect it against the problem

<https://www.amazon.com/Getting-Yes-Negotiate-Agreement-Without/dp/0743526937>

Images for Getting-Yes-Negotiate-Agreement-Without

Mediation Representation: Advocating as Problem Solver

a. Engage Proactively in Problem-Solving Moves

Use the Other Side's Adversarial Move as an Opportunity

Instead of pushing back, **sidestep** their attack and deflect it against the problem.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1454838272>

Images for Use the Other Side's Adversarial Move as an Opportunity

Images for sidestep their attack and deflect it against the problem

<https://www.amazon.com/Mediation-Representation-Advocating-Problem-Coursebook-ebook/dp/B00F3JFHYM>

Images for Mediation Representation: Advocating as Problem Solver

47) Stay above the fray

A pastor related to me that his father as a parish pastor out on the North Dakota prairie encountered a particularly disagreeable president of the Congregation Council in one of the open country congregations. They stepped outside and settled their differences with their fists. This pastor seemed to follow in his father's footsteps and not only stepped into the fray but escalated the fray. I do not recall any actual fist fights, but I do recall his emotional pugilistic tendencies.

Resources

Above The Fray | Definition of Above The Fray by Merriam-Webster

Above the fray definition is - not directly involved in an angry or difficult struggle or disagreement.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/above%20the%20fray>

Images for Above The Fray | Definition

Seven Tips for Staying Above the Social Fray - Business Insider

Anyone who works at [InkHouse](http://inkhouse.com) has heard my "stay above the fray" mantra. I generally offer this advice for real-world scenarios, for example, those nasty emails that compel the recipient to compose a two-page, line-by-line defense. My advice is to write the response, read it out loud, and then delete it. I have desperately wanted to get into the fray on a number of occasions. But I cannot name one instance where it would have created a positive outcome (other than the short-term gratification that I spoke my mind, which leads to longer term regret).

<http://www.businessinsider.com/seven-tips-for-staying-above-the-social-fray-2011-1>

Images for Seven Tips for Staying Above the Social Fray - Business Insider

<https://www.fb.org/viewpoints/staying-above-the-fray-on-social-media>

Images for staying-above-the-fray-on-social-media

<http://www.tammystrait.com/above-the-fray/>

<https://condenaststore.com/featured/well-so-far-im-managing-to-stay-above-the-fray-leo-cullum.html>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/5-ways-to-stay-above-the-political-fray-at-work_us_58e69787e4b0d6001f07f2ca

Images for stay-above-the-political-fray-at-work

<https://tricycle.org/magazine/above-fray/>

48) Guess who is sitting in the front of the church?

The organist continued to play the organ after 4+ decades. Her husband rang the bell the same amount of time. The organist also counted the money after the service of worship. Her daughter assisted her in counting the money. Her daughter also served as a deacon on the Congregation Council of the open country congregation and as such assisted with communion. She was one of the few members of the council who attended regularly. She sat in the front next to the man with whom she co-habited. He was still married to a woman who sat in the back pew. She did not believe in divorce and refused to grant one. It took me a while to figure out the situation, and a retired pastor finally explained the circumstances to me. I debated what to do and decided that I preferred to keep my head attached to my neck and so did not play the part of John the Baptist.

Beheading of John the Baptist - Wikipedia

According to the [Synoptic Gospels](#), [Herod](#), who was [tetrarch](#), or sub-king, of [Galilee](#) under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist because he reproved Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis, daughter of King Aretas of Nabataea) and unlawfully taking [Herodias](#), the wife of his brother [Herod Philip I](#). On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter (whom [Josephus](#) identifies as [Salome](#)) danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he promised to give her anything she desired, up to half of his kingdom. When Salome asked her mother what she should request, she was told to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Herod was appalled by the request, [he reluctantly agreed and had John executed in the prison.](#)^[1]



The Beheading of St John the Baptist, 1608 (Valletta Co-Cathedral, Malta)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beheading_of_John_the_Baptist

Images for Beheading of John the Baptist

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beheading_of_St_John_the_Baptist_\(Caravaggio\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beheading_of_St_John_the_Baptist_(Caravaggio))

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Baptist_\(Caravaggio\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Baptist_(Caravaggio))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_Herod_with_the_Beheading_of_St_John_the_Baptist

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Baptist

49) Pray for the best and prepare for the worst

I try to anticipate the spectrum of possible outcomes. Even, then, I remind myself to be ready to be surprised, but not shocked.

Resources

Benjamin Disraeli Quotes - BrainyQuote

I am prepared for the worst but hope for the best.

Benjamin Disraeli

https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/benjamin_disraeli

Images for I am prepared for the worst but hope for the best. Benjamin Disraeli

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/prepare-for-the-worst>

<http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/prepare-for-the-worst.html>

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst - Idioms by The Free Dictionary

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst,
and Hope for the best but expect the worst.

Prov. You should have a positive attitude, but make sure you are ready for disaster.

While my father was in the hospital after his heart attack, we hoped for the best and prepared for the worst.

When you study for a major exam, hope for the best but expect the worst. Don't make yourself anxious worrying that it will be too difficult but review as if you expect the exam to be extremely hard.

See also: [and](#), [hope](#), [prepare](#), [worst](#)

<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/Hope+for+the+best+and+prepare+for+the+worst>

Images for Hope for the best and prepare for the worst - Idiom

[PDF] Hope for the Best, and Prepare for the Worst - Yale School of Medicine

Hoping for a cure and preparing for potential death need not be mutually exclusive.

https://medicine.yale.edu/palliative/student/hope%20for%20best_y3_37192_284_5636_v1.pdf

Images for Hoping for a cure and preparing for potential death

The Last Lecture Quotes by Randy Pausch - Goodreads

"Another way to **be prepared** is to think negatively. Yes, I'm a great optimist. but, when trying to make a decision, I often think of the worst case scenario. I call it 'the eaten by wolves factor.' If I do something, what's the most terrible thing that could happen? Would I be eaten by wolves? One thing that makes it possible to be an optimist, is if you have a contingency plan for when all hell breaks loose. There are a lot of things I don't worry about, because I have a plan in place if they do."

— Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3364076-the-last-lecture>

Images for Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture be prepared is to think negatively

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40611510-the-last-lecture>

<https://www.goodreads.com/videos/1011-randy-pausch-last-lecture-achieving-your-childhood-dreams>

50) What kind of campfire?

When I think of a campfire, I first think of the summer of 1971 following high school graduation as a junior counselor at Riverside Bible Camp next to my home town of Story City, Iowa singing Kumbaya.

Kumbaya - Wikipedia

"Kum ba yah" ("Come by Here") is a spiritual song first recorded in the 1920s. It became a standard campfire song in scouting and summer camps and enjoyed broader popularity during the **folk revival** of the 1950s and 1960s.

The song was originally a simple appeal to God to come and help those in need.^[1]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumbaya>

Images for Kumbaya

Mark Olson who served as a pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI and who wrote **Moving Beyond Church Growth: An Alternative Vision for Congregations** liked to tell the story of a campfire with a different meaning. The Lewis and Clark expedition went well, he recounted, as long as the expedition moved forward.

Lewis and Clark Expedition - Wikipedia

The Lewis and Clark Expedition from May 1804 to September 1806, also known as the Corps of Discovery Expedition, was the first American expedition to cross the western portion of the United States. It began in [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#),^[1] made its way westward, and passed through the [Continental Divide of the Americas](#) to reach the Pacific coast. The [Corps of Discovery](#) was a selected group of US Army volunteers under the command of Captain [Meriwether Lewis](#) and his close friend Second Lieutenant [William Clark](#).



[Corps of Discovery](#) meet [Chinooks](#) on the [Lower Columbia](#), October 1805 ([Charles Marion Russel](#), c. 1905)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark_Expedition

Images for lewis and clark expedition

But, when the expedition became delayed and the men spent too much time around the campfire, they began to gripe and grumble.

When I think of a farcical campfire scene, I cannot help but be reminded of the campfire scene in the movie **Blazing Saddles**.

The Campfire - Blazing Saddles (5/10) Movie CLIP (1974) HD - YouTube

Taggart's (Slim Pickens) men eat a supper of beans and suffer the consequences.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIP9KXdmO0>

Images for Campfire - Blazing Saddles - YouTube

<https://www.pinterest.com/bonniebrame/blazing-saddles/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blazing_Saddles

As I look back over my years in pastoral ministry, I thank God for the many people who prefer to sing Come By Here,

The Church As A Campfire

So much of the fabric of the camp fire image is central to the life of the local church. :

www.ministryhealth.net/mh_articles/119_js_campfire.html

Images for church as a campfire

but I realize there are certain people who would rather sit around the campfire and gripe and grumble, bemoan and break wind than sing Kumbaya or move forward on the expedition. Congregation life, at least for them, becomes anything but Kumbaya.

51) Thrown into the fire

An article – about a backup quarterback starting the first game of the year that described him as being “thrown into the fire” – got me thinking about that phrase.

Coller: Shaun Hill proves Mike Zimmer made right choice in Week 1 win By [Matthew Coller](#) | [@MatthewColler](#)

It wasn't always pretty, but Minnesota Vikings quarterback Shaun Hill showed on Sunday why he has been one of the best backup quarterbacks in the NFL for a long time.

Hill didn't score a high quarterback rating in the 25-16 win over the Tennessee Titans – a mere 77.3 – but he did manage 18 completions on 33 attempts for 236 yards and most importantly zero turnovers and zero sacks.

In the lead up to the opener, there was much debate over whether a short-handed Sam Bradford would be a better option than the 36-year-old backup. Who knows how much debate there was inside the coach's room, but Hill proved that Mike Zimmer was right to spend the week saying, “We have confidence in Shaun Hill.”

Hill told the media he wouldn't be paying attention to reports or articles or anything that wasn't on the Disney Channel.

Paraphrased, Hill said that his ability to provide solid play while being **thrown into the fire** at inopportune times was the reason he still has a life in the NFL.

[Zimmer, Shaun Hill, Sam Bradford, Minnesota Vikings, NFL](#)

<http://www.1500espn.com/vikings-2/2016/09/409773/>

[Images for minnesota vikings quarterback shaun hill](#)

<https://www.vikings.com/video/vikings-huddle-getting-to-know-shuan-hill-18185708>

The biblical story that comes to mind is Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace.

Youth in the fiery furnace

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted.

He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to **bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.** ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. ²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” ²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.” ³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

[oremus Bible Browser: Daniel 3:8-30](#)
<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Daniel+3%3A8-30&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>
[Images for bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire](#)

Intentional interim pastors who accept assignments in “intervening” type settings are advised to be prepared to be “thrown into the fire.”

[Michael Rehak - Director - The Institute for Congregational Identity - LinkedIn](#)

As an Intentional Interim with congregations, I tend to work with those that have experienced **severe conflict** and wounding. My understanding of congregational personalities and their spiritual orientation, coupled with my training in conflict mitigation and systems theory enhance my abilities to work with congregations to help facilitate healing.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-rehak-aa596821>

[Images for Michael Rehak - Director - The Institute for Congregational Identity](#)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-central-synod-of-wi---elca>

52) Demine landmines

An interim ministry colleague suggested that it is not simply enough to watch out for landmines,

[Transformational Task Forces: Leading Congregations Away from Minefields by N. Graham Standish](#)

Ultimately the point of TTFs is to lead churches through transitions and transformations in a healthier way that allows church leaders to lead the congregation, rather than to put pastors on point, where they are more likely to be attacked. As pastors, this way of doing things calls on us to have a different role—to be teachers, resourcers, facilitators, and implementers. It allows us to let leaders lead members, while we become leaders of the leaders.

<https://imnedu.org/transformational-task-forces-leading-congregations-away-from-minefields/>
Images for Transformational Task Forces: Leading Congregations Away from Minefields by N. Graham Standish
<https://alban.org/archive/transformational-task-forces-leading-congregations-away-from-minefields/>
<https://www.ngrahamstandish.org/articles>
<https://www.ngrahamstandish.org/resources>

but an intentional interim pastor can demine the landmines to clear the way for the new pastor.

Demining - Wikipedia

Demining or mine clearance is the process of removing land mines from an area, while minesweeping describes the act of detecting mines.



A US soldier clears a mine using a [grappling hook](#) during training

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demining>
Images for demining

53) One should not make idle offers one cannot follow through on

At one setting, two different people both stated a similar sentiment, "We'll have to have you over sometime." In each case it never happened. My one rule of thumb when I hear something like this is, "I'll believe it when I see it." My other rule of thumb is, "One should not make idle offers one cannot follow through on."

Resources

Don't Make Promises You Can't Keep - BNG Team

Do you over-commit as a business? Do you find yourself in over your head? Learn about the dangers of making promises you can't keep.

<https://www.bngteam.com/dont-make-promises-cant-keep/>

Images for don't make promises you can't keep

<https://www.theatlantic.com/projects/ideas-2010/archive/2010/06/dont-make-promises-you-cant-keep/57943/>

<https://nerdist.com/dont-make-a-promise-you-cant-keep/>

Don't make promises you can't keep | Words To Live by | Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/32088216065688603/>

Images for Don't make promises you can't keep | Words To Live by | Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/tblakew5750/promises/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/cherylruebel/promises-are-not-made-to-be-broken/>

Images for promises-are-not-made-to-be-broken

Gary Puckett & The Union Gap: Don't Make Promises - Lyrics Wikia

It seems the songs we're singing
Are all about tomorrow
Tunes of promises you can't keep
Every moment bringing
A love I can only have borrow
You're telling me lies in your sleep

Do you think I'm not aware
Of what you're saying
Or why you're saying it?

Is it hard to keep me where
You want me staying?
Don't go on betraying it

Don't make promises you can't keep (don't make promises you can't keep)

http://lyrics.wikia.com/wiki/Gary_Puckett_%26_The_Union_Gap:Don%27t_Make_Promises

Images for Gary Puckett & The Union Gap: Don't Make Promises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcBbN354Cm0> Gary Puckett & The Union Gap - Don't Make Promises – 1967 45rpm

Promises Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/promises>

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/promise>

Images for promise quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/promises>

<https://www.yourtango.com/2018311267/best-promise-quotes-about-commitment>

www.wiseoldsayings.com/promises-quotes/

<https://www.ranker.com/list/notable-and-famous-promise-quotes/reference>

<http://www.quotegarden.com/promises.html>

https://www.coolnsmart.com/promise_quotes/

<https://www.christianquotes.info/top-quotes/16-glorious-quotes-promises-god/#axzz5K97fMWbt>

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/promise.html

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/keeping-promises.html

<https://www.wattpad.com/144374406-promises-quotes>

<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Promises>

<https://www.yourquote.in/tags/promise/quotes/>

What Does the Bible Say About Keeping Promises? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/keeping_promises

https://www.openbible.info/topics/making_promises

https://www.openbible.info/topics/promises_of_god

Images for bible and promises

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2015/06/26/top-7-bible-verses-about-keeping-promises/>

Images for bible-verses-about-keeping-promises

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/gods-promises-verses-in-the-bible/>

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/bible-study/gods-promises>

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/the-promises-of-god-10-powerful-bible-verses-1/>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/dictionary-of-bible-themes/5467-promises-divine>

<https://bibleresources.org/bible-promises/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/which-promises-are-for-me/>

54) Beware of the dog that...

Beware of the big St. Bernard who puts its paws on your shoulders, licks your face,

Why Do Dogs Lick Your Face, Hands and Feet? Should You Stop it?

When your dog licks you, it's likely they're extending affection and care towards you.

<https://www.labradortraininghq.com/infobites/why-do-dogs-lick-your-face-hands-and-feet/>

Images for Why Do Dogs Lick Your Face, Hands and Feet? Should You Stop it?

and leaks on your shins...

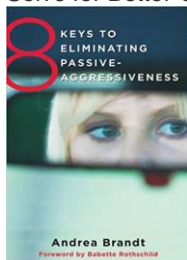
Resources

8 Keys to Eliminating Passive-Aggressiveness (8 Keys to Mental Health) by Andrea Brandt (Author), Babette Rothschild (Foreword)

Guidance for dealing with this common and frustrating form of behavior.

Many people often say "yes" to something when they'd rather say "no." They offer cooperation through words but follow up with how they *really* feel—in actions that contradict their words. That's passive-aggression. At its heart, passive-aggression is about being untrue to oneself, which makes it impossible to have a clean relationship with others. Passive-aggression as a communication method doesn't make someone "bad." It is simply a strategy learned in childhood as a coping mechanism, a hard-to-break habit. Changing passive-aggressive behavior requires knowledge, tools, and practice, as outlined here.

The book offers effective methods for transforming passive-aggression into healthy assertiveness to communicate in constructive ways through eight keys: Recognize Your Hidden Anger; Reconnect Your Emotions to Your Thoughts; Listen to Your Body; Set Healthy Boundaries; Communicate Assertively; Interact Using Mindfulness; Disable the Enabler; and Problem-Solve for Better Outcomes. Hands-on exercises are featured, enabling readers to better understand themselves.



<https://www.amazon.com/Keys-Eliminating-Passive-Aggressiveness-Mental-Health/dp/0393708462>
<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/8-Keys-to-Eliminating-Passive-Aggressiveness/>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/8-keys-to-eliminating-passive-aggressiveness-a>
https://books.google.com/books/about/8_Keys_to_Eliminating_Passive_Aggressive.html?id=oa5QAQAAQBAJ
<https://www.goodtherapy.org/eliminating-passive-aggressiveness-web-conference.html>
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/groups/8-keys-to-eliminating-passive-aggressive-behavior-santa-monica-ca/34839>
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mindful-anger>
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/experts/andrea-brandt-phd-mft>
<https://psychcentral.com/lib/8-keys-to-eliminating-passive-aggressiveness/>
<https://abrandtherapy.com/speaking-media/press-releases/8-keys-eliminating-passive-aggressiveness-press-release/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luDEKL3aN60> 8 Keys to Eliminating Passive-Aggressiveness - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtcVnFE2tmU> 8 Keys to Eliminating Passive-Aggressiveness Audiobook | Andrea Brandt
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<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/andrea-brandt/1565398/>
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 Images for (8 Keys to Mental Health)

Passive-Aggression | Psychology Today

What Does It Mean to Be Passive-Aggressive?

Instead of getting visibly angry, some people express their hostility in passive-aggressive ways designed to hurt and confuse their target. Most people will have to deal with passive-aggression from others in their personal and professional lives at one time or another: a roommate who leaves a sweet-yet-scolding note about the one cup that was left unwashed, for example, or the report a colleague keeps "forgetting" to finish.

Passive-aggressive behavior can be intensely frustrating for the target because it's hard to identify, difficult to prove, and may even be unintentional. Passive-aggression can lead to more conflict and intimacy issues, because many people struggle to have a direct and honest conversation about the problem at hand.

Nagging or getting angry only puts the passive-aggressive person on the defensive—often resulting in them making excuses or denying any responsibility. Recent research shows that there are healthier ways to confront passive-aggression and handle relationship conflict.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/passive-aggression>

Images for Passive-Aggression | Psychology Today

Passive-aggressive behavior - Wikipedia

Passive-aggressive behavior is characterized by a pattern of passive hostility and an avoidance of direct communication.^[1] Inaction where some action is socially customary is a typical passive-aggressive strategy (showing up late for functions, staying silent when a response is expected). Such behavior is sometimes protested by associates, evoking exasperation or confusion. It may be an expression of difficulty in dealing with one's negative emotions.

It is an act if it is occasional and does not substantially interfere with social or occupational function, or relationships; it is a behavior if it is used persistently.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passive-aggressive_behavior

Images for Passive-aggressive behavior

Passive Aggressive Quotes (24 quotes) - Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/passive-aggressive>

Images for passive aggressive quotes

www.wiseoldsayings.com/passive-aggressive-quotes/

<https://www.proudstories.com/passive-aggressive-quotes.html>

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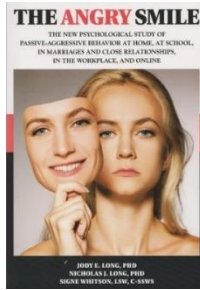
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<https://www.izyodiase.com/8-quotes-on-passive-aggressive-behavior/>

<https://successstory.com/inspiration/passive-aggressive-quotes>

The Angry Smile: The New Psychological Study of Passive-Aggressive Behavior at Home, at School, in Marriage & Close Relationships, in the Workplace & Online by PhD; Nicholas J. Long, PhD; Signe Whitson, LSW, C-SSWS Jody E. Long (Author)

What is passive-aggressive behavior? The authors of this three-part book have studied the psychology of this behavior for over four decades in both clinical and educational settings. They offer real-world examples and empowering, practical strategies for working with or when confronted with individuals who exhibit any of the five levels of passive aggressiveness.



<https://www.amazon.com/Angry-Smile-Psychological-Passive-Aggressive-Relationships/dp/B06XWWK5BB>
<https://www.amazon.com/Angry-Smile-Psychology-Passive-Aggressive-Workplaces/dp/1416404236>
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<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/experts/signe-whitson-lsw>
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<http://signewhitson.com/tag/the-angry-smile/>
<https://mycitylife.ca/people/lifestyle/passive-aggressive-behavior-children/>
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<https://www.lsci.org/pdf/the-angry-smile/ANGRY-SMILE-Powerpoint-for-Online-course-3RD-EDITION-UPDATES.pdf>
<https://www.lsci.org/product/the-angry-smile/>
https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/life/angry-smile-helps-to-define-and-deal-with-passive-aggressive/article_ee764b38-47b4-11e7-a6ac-3748f63339c6.html
<https://reachmd.com/programs/primary-care-today/angry-smile-exploring-psychological-impacts-passive-aggressive-behavior/9712/>
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<https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/the-angry-smile?page=11&sort=mostpopular&phrase=the%20angry%20smile>
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https://www.pinterest.com/vona_kean/understanding-passive-aggressive/
 Images for understanding-passive-aggressive

55) Service Provider

A man left the village after high school to go into the military. He then moved to a city on the other side of the state to work in a factory. He never married but took up with a woman friend in later years who preceded him in death. When he died, a niece asked if the church would bury him even as it had baptized and confirmed him several decades earlier. His body was embalmed and placed in a refrigerator for the funeral on a Saturday 42 days later. Twenty-seven hours before the service, a regional military honor guard telephoned saying that he was scrambling to arrange for the local honor guard to conduct the military tribute at the cemetery. He said that the niece had originally stated that the elite honor guard of 2 uniformed soldiers would be sufficient but then changed her mind and wanted both military details.

The niece sent a three-page tribute she wanted read. Before the service she said there would be no remembrances by the family but then raised her hand after the hymn of the day to read a letter. Her phone rang at the beginning of the service and she had to dig in her purse to find it and shut it off. Seven family members sat in the front row. Only 2 opened their worship books to follow along or sing the hymns. Four members of the congregation showed to pay their respects.

One of the funeral directors stayed in the basement during the service, so that the other director had to run down to get him at the end of the service. They got lost in a village population 1,114 (2016) while leading the procession trying to find their way out of town so that after circling the block one of the family members drove up to the head of the procession to lead the way to the country cemetery. When I walked to the burial site, I saw one of the women raise the back of her short black dress to put her smart phone in the back of her black panties so that she could use both hands to operate the video camera during the committal. During the service of worship she sat in the front row crossing and uncrossing her legs.

The church secretary had been told by the funeral director across the state that the niece had arranged for the lunch to be catered. Two hours before the service she stopped by to see how everything was going only to be told those arrangements had not happened. She agreed to go to the nearby grocery store to get the fixings and recruited another woman to help her serve. She was told to plan for 50. Nine family members showed. They did not say thanks or offer to pay. I sat with the family during the lunch, but they barely acknowledged my presence.

I determined that the next time I received such a request I would inquire deeper and, if anything, agree to a committal service rather than a funeral service. I surmised that in the future there will be more of the same type of requests from people who regard the church as just another service provider.

56) To thank or not to thank

I met with an Endowment Committee as they were seeking to decide how to respond to requests for assistance. The chair remarked, "I may be old school, but the way I was taught, people responded to a financial gift with a thankyou note. We did not receive one note from any of our recipients last year."

Are We Raising An Ungrateful Generation? | HuffPost

There are too many teenagers out there today who are wondering what their parents have done for them. They're crossing boundaries I never dreamed of stepping over in my youth. Older values have given way to self-centeredness and greed in a throwaway society. Social networks and the anonymity behind a computer screen have enabled our children to forget their manners. Disrespect for authoritative figures is being reinforced by popular television programs that degrade adults. I grew up in a different generation, where acts of kindness were rewarded with gratitude and love rather than monetary compensation. If we wanted something special, we earned it through diligence and hard work. Parents and the boundaries they set were respected. Broken rules were followed by strict consequences rather than empty threats.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/marcia-kester-doyle-/rude-children-_b_5589057.html

Images for Are We Raising An Ungrateful Generation? | HuffPost

57) Sneer

The Day of Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native

language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others **sneered** and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

oremus Bible Browser : Acts 2:1-13

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=379055329>

Images for But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

Even on the Day of Pentecost, some sneered. Why should I think it will be different now?

Resources

8 best Sneer images on Pinterest | Cold, Faces and Singers

<https://www.pinterest.com/samrubenstein/sneer/>

Images for sneer pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/davidobenson/sneer/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/deepa1710/sneer/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/yoojungsong161/sneer/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/johngustov/smirk-sneer/>

Images for smirk-sneer

<https://www.pinterest.com/peterp1322/people-sneering/>

Images for people-sneering

Sneer Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/sneer>

Images for sneer quotes

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/Sneer+quotes>

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/sneer.html

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/sneer>

Sneer - Wikipedia

A sneer is a **facial expression of scorn or disgust** characterized by a slight raising of one corner of the upper lip, known also as curling the lip or turning up the nose.^[1]



"Christ Carrying the Cross" (1515 AD) by [Hieronymus Bosch](#) — illustrating the facial expression known as a "sneer"

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sneer>

Images for sneer

Images for facial expression of scorn or disgust

<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Sneer>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/sneer>

58) Monkeys

A colleague related how a professor at seminary advised, "If they have monkeys on their backs, do not let them put the monkeys on your back."

Resources

Employee Management Tips: Rid Yourself of Monkeys

Don't sacrifice your own performance by taking on employee burdens.

<https://www.jodymichael.com/blog/rid-yourself-of-monkeys/>

Images for Employee Management Tips: Rid Yourself of Monkeys

Images for Don't sacrifice your own performance by taking on employee burdens.

Management Time: Who's Got the Monkey? - Harvard Business Review

Why is it that managers are typically running out of time while their subordinates are typically running out of work? Here we shall explore the meaning of management time as it relates to the interaction between managers and their bosses, their peers, and their subordinates.

<https://hbr.org/1999/11/management-time-whos-got-the-monkey>

[Images for Management Time: Who's Got the Monkey? - Harvard Business Review](http://hnr.k-state.edu/doc/rres-690/whosgotthemonkey.pdf)

<http://hnr.k-state.edu/doc/rres-690/whosgotthemonkey.pdf>

Images for /whos got the monkey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkdZt0-9rFM> Episode 33 - Monkeys on Your Back - YouTube

Images for Monkeys on Your Back - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZwxT8DBpa0> Delegating Responsibility: The Monkey on Your Back - A 3-Minute Crash Course - YouTube

[Images for Delegating Responsibility: The Monkey on Your Back - A 3-Minute Crash Course - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZwxT8DBpa0)

The comedian George Carlin states the corollary.

10 Great George Carlin Quotes - Humor at Work

8. "Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town."

<https://www.humorthatworks.com/database/10-great-george-carlin-quotes/>

Images for 10 Great George Carlin Quotes - Humor at Work 8. "Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town."

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/17592254766254645/> Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean ... - Pinterest

Images for Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean ... - Pinterest

59) Watch out for the enforcer(s)

He had retired from a career as a school superintendent. As one who had to deal with the public, I thought he might be able to sympathize with a pastor dealing with a congregation. I should have known better. When the patriarch took exception to one of my actions, it was the retired school superintendent who pushed back.

Like a center on the ice hockey team who needs to be aware of where the enforcer on the other team is, it is helpful for a pastor to be aware of the enforcer(s) in the congregation whose role it is to keep the pastor in line. Sometimes, an enforcer may act respectfully and not personally, while at other times an enforcer may act disrespectfully and may make it personal. Even when the pastor does not engage in the kind of aggressive behavior that an ice hockey enforcer is called to respond to, an enforcer in the congregation may see their role to simply let the pastor know who is in charge. Sometimes, it may be possible to evade and avoid the big hits, while, at other times, it may be necessary to stand up to the enforcer.

Enforcer (ice hockey) - Wikipedia

Enforcer is an unofficial role in [ice hockey](#). The term is sometimes used synonymously with "fighter", "tough guy", or "goon". An enforcer's job is to deter and respond to dirty or violent play by the opposition. When such play occurs, the enforcer is expected to respond aggressively, by [fighting](#) or [checking](#) the offender. Enforcers are expected to react particularly harshly to violence against star players or goalies.

Enforcers are different from [pests](#), players who seek to agitate opponents and distract them from the game, without necessarily fighting them. The pest's primary role is to draw penalties from opposing players, thus "getting them off their game", while not actually intending to fight the opposition player (although exceptions to this do occur). Pests and enforcers often play together on the same [line](#), usually the fourth line.

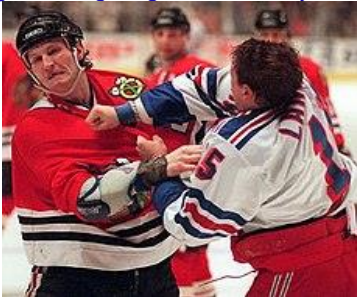
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enforcer_\(ice_hockey\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enforcer_(ice_hockey))

Images for Enforcer (ice hockey)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_NHL_enforcers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fighting_in_ice_hockey Enforcers

Images for Fighting In Ice Hockey Enforcers



Bob Probert (left) in a fight with Darren Langdon.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Probert

Images for Bob Probert enforcer (ice hockey)