



THE
CENTER
FOR
CLERGY & CHURCH SUPPORT

**Overcoming
Church Hurt**

The Center for Clergy and Church Support, Inc.
“Strengthening Communities By Strengthening Churches”

www.clergycenter.org



"Equipping Believers to Transform the World"

Welcome



By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Wise warriors are mightier than strong ones, and those who have knowledge than those who have strength, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory. (Proverbs 24:3-6, NRSV)

Dear Church and Nonprofit Leaders,

We are indeed living in most challenging times, and it even appears as if the church is being bombarded from the left and from the right. However, I believe, without one doubt, that the Rock of Gibraltar will crumble before the church is conquered. She is inevitable, invincible, inescapable, incredible, enduring, overcoming, and unbeatable. She is endued with power, entrusted with redemption, encouraged by the Holy Spirit, engaged in a winning warfare, and equipped for every good work.

It is with that holy excitement and passion that I greet you and introduce you to our organization, **The Center for Clergy and Church Support**. Established in 1996, our overarching mission is to **"strengthen communities by strengthening Churches"**. As a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, parachurch organization, we strive to serve as a cornerstone of support for the Christian community by delivering innovative and holistic services. We feel that one of the best ways to reduce crime, eradicate poverty, empower the disenfranchised, impact the lives of individuals, and build strong, vibrant neighborhoods and communities is through the local church. An investment in CCCS results in stronger, better managed, more connected and community engaged, need-meeting churches and faith-based organizations.

Simply put, we're here to help you do what GOD has purposed and called you to accomplish.

We do this by helping leaders discern if they have the gifts and calling to plant a church, ministry or nonprofit organization (**Assessment**), understand the best principles and practices to plant successfully (**Training**), make good decisions or, at least, keep from making the big mistakes (**Coaching**), and figure out how to grow and strengthen what they've planted (**Strategic Planning**). **Our deepest desire is to help Christian leaders plant and grow the churches, nonprofit organizations, and ministries they envision in their heart of hearts, impact lives, and transform communities.**

It is our prayer that you will find the services that we provide to be of value to you and your organization and that you will choose to invest in all we have to offer.

GOD's overcoming power is ours for the taking. Together, we can change the world as we unite our hearts. GOD has guaranteed our complete triumph against our hellish foe. **Though the signs of the time are dark and foreboding, the greatest hour for the church is at hand.** Let the church be the church!!

Please take time to visit our website, clergycenter.org to see all that we do or contact our office at (980) 866-1212.

One of my favorite poems says it best, *"the woods are lovely, dark and deep....but you have many promises to keep. ...and miles to go before you sleep. ...and miles to go before you sleep"*.

Kingdom Blessings,
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Overcoming Church Hurt



*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30 NIV)*

We expect to be mistreated in the world, but we're often blindsided—and get our feelings hurt—when brothers and sisters in Christ don't invite us to the party, talk behind our backs, or aren't there for us in a time of need.

Although some would argue that we need to die to self, overcoming hurt feelings—dealing with offense—remains a relevant topic in the church today.

Have you been hurt in church? What are you supposed to do? How do you handle it? Leave the church? Confront the issue? Bury it? Lash out at the person who hurt you? When people are hurt by a church or church member, how can this conflict be resolved? What does this Bible say about this and how do you practically walk that out?

Please allow me to share with you what I've learned from my past experience and how we got through the "church hurt". I pray that it helps you as well:

TAKE IT TO GOD

When a pastor or a parishioner hurts you, the very first action to take is prayer. The hurt you feel is real and pretending like you aren't hurt isn't going to bring healing. Sometimes when we get hurt in church folks like to tell us that we have no reason to feel bad and we just need to get over it. Half of that statement is true. We do need to get over it, but it's not always true that we have no reason to feel bad. If someone is spewing malicious gossip behind your back and you find out about it, it stings.

No matter what kind of hurt you're dealing with, don't rush into a confrontation with the offender. **TAKE IT TO GOD IN PRAYER.** Psalm 50:15 says, "Call upon me in the day of trouble." That works for a troubled soul just as well as it does any other trouble. Tell Him how you feel and ask Him to heal your wounds. It may be that the Lord is going to deal with

Or, it could be that the Lord will give you a graceful way to explain why you feel hurt. If you take it to God, He can give you the very words to say to your offender (Luke 12:12). And He can bring conviction to that person's heart when you approach them with a spirit of humility (John 16:8).

DON'T RETALIATE

Whatever you do, don't retaliate. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us to turn the other cheek (Matt. 5:38) and to love our enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (Matt. 5:44).

With that in mind, don't go around telling everybody what someone did to hurt your feelings. And don't make accusations against those who hurt you if you decide to confront the matter. Instead of saying, "You hurt my feelings!" say, "When you did that I felt hurt" or "When you talk to me like that I feel upset." Own your feelings because they are your feelings. It's very possible that your offender has no idea that what they said or did hurt you—and never meant to hurt you. If you approach them in humility seeking reconciliation, your offender may be quick to apologize.

LET THE LORD WORK

Peter exhorts us to "above all things, have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins" (1 Pet. 4:8). Again, be led by the Holy Spirit. It's not always necessary to go to someone who hurt you every time they do something you don't like.

It could be that the Lord is working something out in you. Maybe you're too sensitive. We always need to check our hearts. Is the person really being hurtful or are we looking at it through filters of past hurts or rejection or anger that cloud the truth? Ask the Lord. Or it could be that the Holy Spirit will bring conviction—maybe even heap coals of fire on their head—as you bless them outwardly with a heart of love.

YOU CAN'T HEAL UNTIL YOU FORGIVE

The bottom line is this: It doesn't matter how wrong your offender is, you have to forgive. Forgiveness is not for the other person—it's for you. Forgiveness doesn't justify what someone did that was wrong, nor does it necessarily mean that the relationship goes right back to where it was.

If you don't forgive, you end up bitter and resentful and before too long you'll end up hurting other people. The healing process can't really begin until you spit out the bait of offense. I'll leave you with this prophetic insight the Holy Spirit gave me when my wife and I were extremely hurt in church:

"When the feeling of hurt arises, the spirit of offense comes on the scene to fortify the pain, tempting you to hold on to the grudge in your heart. Therefore, the proper response to emotional pain of the soul is always an immediate confession of forgiveness from the heart. The alternative to forgiveness from the heart is the ongoing torment of the soul. So if you want to be free from your hurts and wounds, take thoughts of forgiveness, meditate on them and confess them rather than taking thoughts of the hurt, meditating on them and confessing them. This is God's way—and it's the only way that brings true healing. And, while you are at it, pray for those who have hurt you. This process will cleanse your heart and renew your mind. And you will walk free from the pain of your past." Amen.

Established in 1996, the mission of the Center for Clergy and Church Support is to inspire, train, and connect Christians who seek to bear witness to the Kingdom of God, by creating an environment of support and accountability that continuously moves clergy, churches and faith-based organizations toward excellence. The Center offers a full range of programs and services designed to help the community of faith fulfill its mission today and provides the tools they need to prosper in the future.