

**History of Attempts to
Confront Bill Gothard
Regarding Disqualifications from Ministry**

The Rev. Bill Gothard, in 1975-1976 developed a teaching from the Scripture text of Matthew 18:10-20. He carefully taught these concepts to his staff and employees with an emphasis on “only giving a good report” about one another. He then taught this to all attending the Seminars on a nationwide basis, distributing widely a booklet on the subject.

When reports of immorality and perversion began to be known as occurring among many of the senior and longest serving staff of Bill Gothard’s ministry, the reports were initially unbelievable to any of us also serving with these individuals in this wonderful ministry. As details began to emerge and facts were confirmed privately with some of the individuals involved, the teaching of Jesus Christ in Matthew 18 became real and most needed as a guide for how to proceed with a very tangled and complex set of spiritually and physically abused relationships. In the end, 14 of the staff closest to Bill Gothard who worked, lived and traveled with him, were found to be involved in a whole range of immorality. Much of it involved unspeakable perversions. Bill Gothard’s knowledge of ongoing immorality over a seven year period and his covering up of those facts from his own Board of Directors as well as the parents of the staff women involved, was the subject of these inquiries to Bill Gothard by a number of men and women over now many years.

While this abbreviated history is certainly not complete this is only due to our personal lack of knowledge of specific details of many other attempts bring about biblical repentance and restoration of Rev. Bill Gothard. The following are the specific attempts that we have personal knowledge of or were involved in ourselves.

Date	Summary of steps, actions taken	Bill Gothard’s Response
1976	Gary Smalley, Ed Martin, Kenny Nair (staff of Bill Gothard) approached Bill Gothard about accounts of immorality involving his brother and at least one confirmed/interviewed staff woman. When Bill Gothard hid the details from his Board of Directors, these men of long service resigned over Bill’s rejection of their concerns and requests.	Promised to do something about it, deceived his Board and hid the facts and details.
1979-1980	Tony met privately with Bill Gothard’s brother to confirm his involvement in widespread immorality and found a man who wanted help and was cooperative throughout the process of removing him from the ministry and finding of help.	Kept this detail from Board of Directors, claiming that he would handle this privately.
1979-1980	Tony met privately with Bill Gothard to review and confirm involvement in ongoing immorality among a large group of	Initially Bill Gothard was welcoming and supportive

	<p>Bill Gothard’s staff. When Bill Gothard informed Tony that the Board was not to know of these problems, and as Tony learned of Bill Gothard’s detailed knowledge of the ongoing immorality over at least seven years, Tony decided to go to step two of Matthew 18 and invite Bill Gothard’s Board of Directors to review the matter.</p>	<p>of the process of confirming all of the facts and the persons involved. Bill Gothard resisted informing his Board of these facts, was furious when Tony asked them to become involved in the review of the matters, and Bill Gothard was completely resistant once Tony learned of Bill Gothard’s many years of knowledge of ongoing immorality.</p>
1980	<p>Rev. Chuck Lynch and Tony met with Rev. Everett Hovey, pastor of LaGrange Bible Church, Bill Gothard’s home church which is also the church which ordained him to the ministry. They requested the pastor and elders to meet with them and Bill Gothard to review charges that questioned his qualifications to be involved in the ministry.</p>	<p>LaGrange Bible Church rejected the request stating that it was “a Corporate matter”</p>
1980, July 5-6	<p>IBYC ministry Board of Directors convened a 12 hour hearing where charges against Bill Gothard were presented, with personal testimony, confirming Bill Gothard’s knowledge of ongoing immorality over a seven year period, sending new and additional single staff women up to the Crazy Bear Lodge where they also were violated sexually and spiritually.</p>	<p>Board asked Bill Gothard to resign, which he did the next day. One month later he was reinstated, renamed his ministry, replaced the Board and has continued without confession of his own sin and failures</p>
1980, July, August	<p>Tony met privately with the new President and CEO and Chairman of the Board, Mr. John McClario. The purpose of the meeting was to confirm if the story might be true or false, of Mr. McClario’s monthly visits to a hotel in Florida where he co-habited with a prostitute over many years. The witness involved made clear that Mr. McClario’s wife and daughters and Bob Jones University (where he served as Board member) were not knowledgeable of these activities. Mr. McClario never answered the question or confirmed the story, did not say goodbye and hung up the telephone. He resigned all of his positions at the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts within the week.</p>	<p>There was no response or comment from Bill Gothard or Bob Jones who had arranged for his hiring and work as head of the Bill Gothard ministry. Bill Gothard filled his departure with his own appointment.</p>
1981,	<p>Bill Gothard, the Board of the ministry IBYC, and</p>	<p>Bill Gothard added a</p>

Sept. 5	LaGrange Bible Church, Rev. Everett Hovey, authored, signed, published and distributed nationally a 19 page letter listing 26 charges to prove that Tony was “an agent of Satan.” Bill Gothard, the ministry Board, and the LaGrange Bible Church rejected the teachings of the teachings of Jesus Christ in Matthew 18 making no effort to attempt even step one of these clear teachings.	personal hand written letter to each of the documents he sent out to many across the country. Bill Gothard failed to send any copy to Tony.
1981	Bill Gothard employs and transports by jet aircraft two men to hold a secret meeting with the home church of Tony (in Whitewater, Kansas) to falsely accuse him before the Pastor and the Elders. They were prohibited by him from explaining the meeting or content to Tony.	Bill Gothard’s personal plan of retribution. Bill Gothard and his Board of Directors make no response to a letter Tony sends requesting a meeting to clear up and clarify any questions or concerns they might have.
1981 - early 1990s	Dr. Earl Radmacher, President of Western Seminary, Portland Oregon attempted on several occasions to address the behavior and Bill Gothard’s misuse of Scripture in numerous areas	Bill Gothard told Dr. Radmacher he did not need instruction from seminary professors, God is his teacher.
May 30, 1984	Dr. Ron Allen, then Professor of Hebrew Scripture, Western Baptist Seminary, Portland (now at Dallas Seminary) wrote his “Issues of Concern – Bill Gothard and the Bible, A Report	See above
1994 - present	Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc., a ministry to people leaving Cults of various sorts, began minister to many believers confused by the doctrines and the behavior of Bill Gothard. MCOI attempted to contact Bill Gothard but received no response until they published their first article,, “Bill Gothard’s Evangelical Talmud.” The first of numerous meetings with Bill and others of his staff until approximately 2003. These meetings addressed Bill Gothard’s behavior but particularly focused on doctrinal problems. The meetings with Bill Gothard included the pastors of MCOI leadership, Dr. Norman L. Geisler and others. As Bill Gothard was unrepentant a book was written, <i>A Matter of Basic Principles: Bill Gothard and the Christian</i>	Bill Gothard made numerous commitments to correct false teaching but in no case followed through or kept his word.

	<p><i>Life</i> in order to “take it to the church.” It was review by the Advisory Board of MCOI, Board of Directors is Evangelical Ministries to New Religions as well as several pastors and the individuals who were interviewed and written in the book. Another series of meetings occurred in 2005 between L.L. (Don) Veinot Jr, president of MCOI and Bill Gothard in person with Ron Henzel, Senior Researcher for MCOI participated by phone. After 6 meetings and numerous emails it was demonstrated that Bill Gothard’s view of grace is unbiblical and at best Roman Catholic in origin.</p>	
2007	<p>Bill Gothard contacts Dr. Gary Smalley requesting his help to remove a Wikipedia article that described Bill Gothard involved with young staff women, which article stated: “In 1982 the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> also reported allegations that "Bill Gothard was seen by staff members patting and fondling women employees. Later, he admitted in staff meetings that these actions were 'moral failures' on his part.”</p>	<p>Gary Smalley explained he could not help Bill Gothard do this because it was Gary Smalley himself who had found Bill Gothard late at night with one of the women on his lap in a nightgown.</p> <p>Bill Gothard rejected this opportunity to acknowledge his wrong and continued his efforts to remove the Wiki article and continue his cover up of his violations and irresponsible actions toward these staff women.</p>
2009	<p>Gary Smalley attempts to assist Bill Gothard in reconciling with Tony, a previous staff member which Gothard had slandered and libeled in a published letter distributed to many Christian leaders nationally, as well as accompanied by Gothard sending two staff men to hold a secret meeting with Tony’s home church where false witness was delivered per Gothard’s instructions, all without consideration to the teachings of Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:15-20.</p>	<p>In two phone conference calls, Gothard initial denied ever writing a 19 page letter, and denied he ever referred to anyone as “an agent of Satan” much less 69 times in one letter!</p> <p>Once a copy of the letter was provided to him by Gary S. Gothard turned angry and the communications stopped. Gothard no longer wanted to reconcile over such matters.</p>

2011	<p>Recovering Grace, a ministry of friends who had grown up as children and youth inside of Bill Gothard’s ATI training schools, and who had left the legalist teachings of the ministry. Their ministry expanded by word of mouth to now 300,000 other “alumni” and students of ATI who are seeking to know the grace of God and recover a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ apart from all works of the law and all works of 7 Universal Non-Optional Principles (laws) of Bill Gothard.</p>	<p>Bill Gothard has attempted communication with this group but has been unsure of how to reconcile with such a large group of believers who have traded his teachings of principles for the teachings of the grace of God from whom all blessings flow.</p>
2013, Oct., Nov., Dec.	<p>Bill Gothard telephones Tony G on two occasions and sends to him four additional letters confirming that he, Gothard, wants to pursue reconciliation with Tony and to do so is requesting Tony go to his warehouse and files and retrieve documentation that has been in storage for 33 years, and deliver to Gothard, a) any documentation that proves Bill Gothard had detailed knowledge before 1980 of ongoing immorality among his management and staff and b) Tony’s response to each of 26 charges Gothard made against Tony when Gothard pronounced him “an agent of Satan.”</p>	<p>Tony delivers to Gothard 140 pages of evidence, testimony and documentation answering in detail both questions on Jan. 2, 2014.</p> <p>Because the 19 page letter of Libel was signed by the chairman of the IBLP/IBYC Board and by the Senior Pastor of the LaGrange Bible Church (LBC), Tony copied the 140 pages to the IBLP Board and to the Elders and Pastor of the LBC.</p> <p>As of June 10, 2014, Gothard, nor the IBLP Board, nor the LaGrange Bible Church have responded with any communication at all to the materials presented.</p>
2014, Jan. - May	<p>Tony follows up previous package of documentation with six letters asking Gothard for some response, reminding him of God’s grace and mercy, and forgiveness by God’s children upon confession of sins.</p>	<p>No response at all from Gothard in five months. It is becoming clear he is more inclined to cover up his sins than to confess them.</p>
2014, Jan. – May	<p>Tony follows up previous package of documentation delivered to the Board of Directors of IBLP with three letters along with copies of six letters to Bill Gothard</p>	<p>No response at all from IBLP Board in five months. It is becoming</p>

	requesting a phone conference, or a personal meeting with them to answer any questions and consider how the charges of the immorality of Bill Gothard might be best addressed.	clear they are more inclined to cover up his and their sins than to confess them.
2014, Jan. – May	Tony follows up previous package of documentation delivered to the Elders and Pastor of LaGrange Bible Church with ten letters with additional support and encouragement from the Scriptures for the importance of addressing and resolving these problems among believers. This was sent along with copies of the six letters to Bill Gothard for the purpose of requesting a phone conference or a personal meeting with the LBC Elders to consider the many serious charges of ungodliness and contrary doctrine of Bill Gothard that have caused so much wide spread damage and division among the churches of Jesus Christ.	In five months, no phone call, no invitation to meet with the Elders. Initially they did indicate in a brief email they would “pray and fast” about this matter and consult God as to their responsibility. They eventually informed me they had “no standing” on the matter and would not become involved in any hearing of the charges. They have maintained their position of maintaining the ordination as in good standing and ask the church of Jesus Christ to rely upon their judgment their commissioning of Bill Gothard to ministry is still supported fully by this church. And that after receiving and reading all of the details of evidences standing against Bill Gothard which Biblically disqualify him from any position of trust or ministry. Tony did ask them directly if they were also consulting with Bill Gothard about what they ought to do. They would never answer that direct question. One must wonder if they did not hear much more from Gothard than from God.
	Tony sends letter to President of IBLP, Dr. Tim Levendusky requesting a time for communications.	No response at all from Levendusky. It is becoming clear he is not

		inclined to support the confrontation and correction of Gothard's and IBLP Board sins.
	Tony sends two letters to Mr. Chris Hogan, a friend of the ministry of IBLP and a featured speaker at their events, requesting communications about these serious matters.	No response at all from Hogan. It is becoming clear he is not inclined to support the confrontation and correction of Gothard's and IBLP Board sins.
Jan. 28, 2014	In the first two weeks of January 2014, Bill Gothard initiated false witness against Tony G and two other men. Tony G sent a letter to Bill Gothard on 1.28.14 asking him to cease bearing of false witness. The other two men also confronted Bill Gothard in a conference call, Gothard apologized to both men, they forgave him, and Gothard wrote a letter acknowledging his wrong to be sent to each person he spoke to about his false statements.	Bill Gothard rejected the request to apologize to Tony G.
June, 2014	Open Letter published by Group of Theologians, Pastors, Apologists and other believers calling on Bill Gothard to acknowledge error in doctrinal teachings. http://iblpopenletter.com/ Response by Bill Gothard at: http://iblpopenletter.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Open-Letter.Response.5.14.pdf Response to Gothard by Open Letter group: http://iblpopenletter.com/response-bill-gothard/	Bill Gothard actually responds with a summary of his teachings on each of the errors listed. Open Letter group responds publishing specific written and verbal teachings of Bill Gothard which are in violation of his June, 2014 public statement.

God's Word reminds us of the desires of God to see His children inside of the church of Jesus Christ, to be in pursuit of holiness, sanctification, living in peace and in love toward one another. When and where a believer and especially a Teacher or Overseer develop and practice wicked and immoral behavior, and/or develop and promote teachings that are contrary doctrines to that of the Scriptures, they are to be confronted for the purpose of correction and restoration to godly behavior and pure doctrine.

In cases of special and prolonged rebellion against the truth and continued behavior damaging to individuals and to the church, the process outlined in Scripture includes discipline and a public warning to the church. Elders, Pastors, Teachers, Overseers, are all subject to the discipline process and warnings of Scripture, all "without partiality."

We must pray for God to grant to each of these repentance which is an act of God. “The Lord’s bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” II Timothy 2:24-26

“Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning....maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality...The sins of some men are quite evident going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after.” I Timothy 5:17-25.

“Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.” Ephesians 5:11

“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” Matthew 18:17

“I am so amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ...he is to be accursed!...But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned...he began to hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of all...I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” Galatians 1-2

“For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.” Colossians 3:25

Guidance for a Biblical Response to Teachers and Teachings Contrary to God’s Word

II John 1:9-11 “Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.”

III John 1:9-11 “I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire *to do so* and puts *them* out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.”

I Corinthians 5:9-13 “I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler— not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.”

Galatians 1:6-9 “I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Galatians 2:11-14 “But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”