

Bill Gothard's Discipleship of Brother with Report of Outcomes

Bill Gothard assumes discipleship role with his brother

1976, a meeting was called with the Board of Directors of the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts (IBYC), Oak Brook Illinois, the personal ministry of Bill Gothard. The purpose of the meeting was for discussing and formulating a plan to deal with the sexual temptations and weaknesses of the Vice President and second in command of the ministry, as reported to them by Bill Gothard. This Vice President and second in command was [Steve, noted in these documents as] #2, the brother of Bill Gothard.

Confronted strongly by two men (Ed Martin, Gary Smalley) about [Steve's] reported immorality and intercourse with a staff woman, and with other evidences of immorality with other staff women, Bill Gothard was pressured by them to call a meeting with the Board to seek direction. Bill Gothard did not invite or permit these men to join him in the Board meeting. It was later learned from the Board of Directors that Bill Gothard failed to disclose the detail and level of immorality as had been reported to him by these men and other staff personnel.

Bill Gothard, with such serious reports of failure, and the great importance of maintaining integrity of the ministry to remain "above reproach" as it ministered to millions of Christians in the church of Jesus Christ, Bill requested and assumed the full assignment and responsibility to disciple his brother [Steve] to spiritual growth and maturity. Bill Gothard took on the responsibility completely by himself with no others to be included.

1978, Bill Gothard met again with a ministry secretary he had met with privately before in February 1975 about [Steve's] sexual violations of this secretary. She explained to Bill Gothard that there were continuing "problems" which she detailed to him. Bill Gothard reported back to her the next day that he had carefully interviewed [Steve] and [told] the woman involved that "there was a little problem...." Bill Gothard stated "[Steve] will be taking action to make sure there wasn't opportunity for temptation."

Report of the Outcomes of Bill Gothard's Dedicated Discipleship of his brother

The outcomes of Bill Gothard's special and important assignment of instructing [Steve] in how to overcome moral temptations and understand God's clear provisions for being mighty in spirit was detailed in a Report provided to Bill Gothard and the ministry's Board of Directors. This is a summary of that report.

"Bill (Gothard) personally committed himself to [Steve's] restoration (1976) and four years later [Steve] has regressed to the state of deep moral perversion." Gary Smalley, July 6, 1980 notes.

From interviews with the seven single staff women who served Bill Gothard as his executive secretaries and closest assistants, the behavior of his own brother toward these long serving women during this same four year period includes the violations summarized below. A number of specific accounts are in quotes as recorded during the one on one interviews with the women involved.

1. Bill Gothard's disciple [Steve] carried out [acts of sodomy] [redacted]. [sentence redacted] This woman initiated a meeting with Dr. Gus Hemwall, a medical doctor, and Chairman of the Board of Bill Gothard's ministry, to inform him of this sex act against her out of a natural concern for her health.

Would the Chairman of the Board, with this detailed knowledge of the sexual perversion of the Vice President of the ministry organization against another staff woman, would he have hidden this detail from the President and CEO of the ministry, Bill Gothard? We still do not know.

2. Bill Gothard's disciple, [Steve], had at least two of Bill Gothard's secretaries make vows to him including:
 - a. Vow to love, honor and obey and come whenever I call and dress how I ask you to.
 - b. Vow to keep the relationship and activity a secret.

[Two lines redacted.]

Note: Both Bill Gothard and his brother had programmed all of these staff women "don't tell your parents anything negative."

3. [Seven lines redacted.]
4. [Nine lines redacted.]
5. [Seven lines redacted.]
6. 1979. According to the 7 secretaries and close female associates of Bill Gothard, they consistently described "Bill Gothard watching secretaries constantly going to [Steve's] bedroom."
7. [Six lines redacted.]
8. [Three lines redacted.]
9. [Five lines redacted.]

[Steve] helped them think it was okay...using Scripture for his arguments, e.g. "girls given to the temple service" and "girls can overcome conscience."

[Steve] would challenge these staff women, "Show me from Scripture that pre-marital sex is wrong!"

Note: Readers of this report should consider the additional Report that details and documents the "direct involvement of [Steve] in the writing, editing, publishing of ministry books and literature including the Men's Manual, Character Sketches, and Life Notebook."

[Five lines redacted.]

10. [Three lines redacted.]
11. [Ten lines redacted.]
12. [Eight lines redacted.]
13. Bill Gothard's disciple, [Steve], sexually pursued all of the women closest to Bill Gothard [that] Bill Gothard had approved and directed to be moved to the Crazy Bear Lodge for periodic or permanent work assignments there.

[Eighteen lines redacted.]

Note: What spiritual help could Bill Gothard provide to his disciple [Steve] and to his own executive secretaries about saying "No" [redacted] to every other temptation of the flesh and of the Devil knowing that Bill Gothard later acknowledged to Department Directors and to his Board of Directors on July 5, 1980 of his own practice of and failures involving masturbation since he was 31 years old, a period of 14 years?