

Friday, April 18, 2003

Dear Wendy,

We have been receiving your messages at the office and all of them have been given to me and I have read them. Even after our conversation, you seem to be unclear about my information regarding your father's relation to you 25 years ago. Since I do want to help you resolve this issue so troubling to you, let me recall and reiterate what I knew.

First of all, Grace has always had a zero tolerance standard for any and all moral offenses or compromises by staff members. The church constitution and practice has always been to discipline church members for unrepentant immorality and we have done so publicly all through the years according to the Scripture (Matt. 18:15-20). When it comes to staff people, the standard has always been higher. Even if the sinning person repents, they lose immediately their position. This has happened in my knowledge less than 6 times in my 34 years at the church. I think the first occasion was your father. I found out and verified that he had hugged and kissed a single girl who worked in the office. The next day I dismissed him and he was gone. It wasn't adultery, she said, but even the physical contact at the level it was, effectively breached our standard and he was terminated. It was my recommendation to him and to other churches that he not be given any pastoral position, but return to secular work. I have continued to hold that conviction.

I had no knowledge of any molesting as you claim. When there was some accusation against him, he told me it was his bitter first wife and the only thing he ever did was rub his daughter's back while she was going to bed—something any loving father might do—and he said it was completely innocent.

Since the accusations were only second-hand hearsay to me, and Paul was a trusted person, there was nothing to do but accept his word. As you know, I recently spoke with him by phone to ask if my recollection was accurate. He said it was. He had told me just what I recalled and affirmed that it is still the truth, denying your accusations.

I'm not sure why all this has become an obsession for you after so many years, but neither myself nor anyone at Grace can do anything more than encourage you that we conducted ourselves with biblical integrity. Again, the standard is no tolerance for any moral sin among staff, demanding immediate termination as was clearly demonstrated in your father's situation.

I'm not sure what more we can do to help you in your struggle. But we are able to pray for you, your family, and your father.

Grace to you,

John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher

JM:pr

Pat Rotisky
Personal Secretary to John MacArthur
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Voice: (818) 909-5501; Fax: (818) 909-5505