

Church Affair

Christian Community Church was one of the largest in the city—nearly 4,000 people attended, with 500 kids coming to youth group each week. Angie had become a Christian her junior year and was one of the most active kids in the church. Every week she was at youth group, Bible study, discipleship group, and the leadership planning meeting.

Angie's parents, however, didn't attend church when she first started going. Their marriage wasn't doing well. After lots of prayer from the youth group, Angie's mom finally agreed to come to church—and she even liked it. After a few months her mother had even gone to the pastor for counseling, and it looked like the marriage was doing better, too.

Angie's life had genuinely changed after her conversion. She broke up with a long-time boyfriend with whom she was sexually active and became a strong voice in the youth group for sexual abstinence. Christ had really changed her life, and it looked like he was changing her parents' lives as well. Angie was happy with where her life was going. Christianity really did change her life for the better.

Until one night when Angie arrived at youth group. All the kids were talking. They looked worried, some of the girls were crying, and some of the guys were angry. "What's going on?" Angie asked.

"You haven't heard? Pastor Daniels has been having an affair and had to leave the church. Everyone's talking about it."

Angie couldn't believe it. Not Pastor Daniels. He was a great pastor. His sermons were really interesting—and funny. Sure, he was kind of attractive, but he had a wonderful family. In fact, Angie was good friends with one of his daughters. He had just given a four-week series on the Christian view of sex, which had really helped Angie. No, this just couldn't be. The information had to be wrong.

"He resigned voluntarily. He admitted he was having an affair."

Angie didn't know how to respond. She felt betrayed. Youth group was a shambles that night, so Angie left before the meeting was over. When she arrived home, her mother was upset and had been crying.

"Angie, I...I need to talk to you. Pastor Daniels resigned from the church tonight."

"I know, Mom. Everyone knows. That's all we talked about at youth group. I guess he was having an affair. He admitted it."

"He was having an affair with *me*."

At first her mother's words seemed a blur. Angie felt dizzy, nauseated. Her brain hadn't registered what her body already understood. All Angie knew was that she would rather be dead than hear what she just heard. It was too much, the betrayal too deep, reality too hard. Life would be impossible to live with this knowledge. Her own mother involved with a minister she had loved and trusted. Her own mother.

Angie never went back to church. Any church. She refused to talk with any kids in the youth group. Her parents got a divorce, and Angie never trusted anyone again. Who could blame her?



"When it comes to sex,

how can Christian people even show their faces? They are so screwed up it's unbelievable. How many TV evangelists and ministers and youth directors have been caught having sex with a hooker or someone in their church? Christians are such hypocrites. They keep telling everyone else to wait until marriage, while they're having sex like rabbits. Forget them!"

17-year-old senior male

The Stats

According to a study by Tom W. Smith of the National Opinion Research Center, roughly 15% of married or previously married Americans have committed adultery. The results largely agree with the 1987 ABC News/Washington Post poll that found 89% of spouses faithful. Other pop culture gurus, on the other hand, have stoked reports of rampant infidelity: Kinsey says 37% percent of men have committed adultery; Joyce Brothers, 50% of women; and Shere Hite, 75% of women married 5 years.

Family Research Council
Washington Watch
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By the Book...

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans...Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:1, 5

Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

2 Corinthians 2: 7-8

1. What would you have said to Angie when she found out about her mother? On the back write Angie a letter
2. Would you have been able to defend Christianity after what happened?
3. If you were Angie, what would you have done?
4. What could the youth group have done for Angie?

