

# Sanctified Sex Scandal... Again!?

By Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggart, Catholic Priests, the list goes on. Hookers, secretaries, piano players, altar boys, women with problems. Abuse, adultery, fornication, rape...

Haven't we learned by now!?

You'd think Ministers would smarten up. But it has happened again. No, it's not anyone my readers would know. It is a Christian Pastor I personally know who will remain nameless.

Have you ever heard of a sex scandal in Judaism or Islam? If you have it is EXTREMELY rare. Let me tell you why.

Sometimes we Jews are made fun of for our seemingly archaic morality, and our over cautious rules we have that look ridiculous and extreme to the modern world. But you know what? It works! The Torah and our people are full of faux pas of human nature and we have developed a moral code based on Torah and what we know of human behavior to nip these things in the bud. Granted some of them I do not whole heartedly agree with, nor do I practice but I see why they were instituted.

First off Rabbis are married, this nips a lot in the bud that the Catholics are now dealing with. Celibacy is unscriptural and unnatural. I agree one must be genuinely called to that life and I believe it is few and far between. Celibacy in Judaism usually means that you have decided to remain unmarried after a divorce or death of a spouse. Rav Sha'ul (Paul) was a perfect example of that (I Cor. 7:7).

If you go into an Orthodox Synagogue you will notice the men and women are seated separate. The men in the middle and the women in a slightly elevated seating on either side. This is so the men will not be distracted from Torah and worship. This is also why in the Brit Chadasha Rav Sha'ul said for women to be quiet in Shul and wait till they get home to ask their husbands questions because they would yell the questions from the women's section down to their husbands during service (I Cor. 14:34-35). I enjoy worshiping with my family and I personally see no reason why men and women cannot sit together during service. But if some men are prone to distraction then I suggest the first several rows be reserved for men. Now if I noticed major distractions in my synagogue due to men

and women sitting together I wouldn't hesitate to put in place the traditional Orthodox Synagogue seating.

If you go to an Orthodox Rebbe's office for a scheduled appointment, you will notice the entire synagogue staff, even the Rebbe's secretary are men. Think of all the rumors and scandals that squashes right there.

Also let your MALE secretary know, and your wife know, of your itinerary. This helps even further if an accusation happens to arise.

If the Rebbe takes a woman into his office to advise, the Rebbe's wife is there as a witness and to insure no false accusations can be made on the woman's part after she leaves. If necessary the office door is let open to eliminate any other types of accusations.

In Orthodox Judaism men are not left alone in a public, such as a synagogue class room or such, with the opposite sex unless it is their wife, daughters or mother. Touching of the opposite sex is strictly prohibited unless it is that of one's wife, daughters or mother. This is why if a couple meets an Orthodox Jewish man he will shake the man's hand but not the woman's, he may bow slightly and smile politely, but will not shake the woman's hand.

I like the idea of not being alone with a member of the opposite sex that is not your family, but I see no problem with shaking hands with the opposite sex. As you can imagine, hugging the opposite sex which is not one of your family members is totally out of the question. But I come from a very huggy family, and I see no issue with hugging the opposite sex in a public setting with plenty of witnesses. But only a sideways hug so there is no confusion, speculation or accusation on what just went on.

I Cor. 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

We Jews realize the dangers and temptations and we do not pretend to put ourselves above that.

Just these very logical no brainers, if applied in ministry can reduce or eliminate the temptations and accusations of any sex scandal in ministry.