

## THE ENEMY WITHIN

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Many years ago, a fellow Christian and fellow musician and I had an enjoyable evening playing piano duets when the subject of Schubert came up.

“He is not my favourite composer”, I said quietly.

My friend became angry, stormed out of the room and has ignored me ever since even in Church.

I came to the conclusion that he admired Schubert but, because I did not, he made me an enemy.

I will not mention names, but a sound evangelical man succeeded in obtaining the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Most of his church and the vicar thereafter ignored him, and made him most unwelcome. The vicar was put out as he was only a MA.

The man with the DD remained humble. He did not flaunt his achievement but he was treated badly by members of the church.

In a brethren assembly, there was a gifted brother and, quite often, people were converted through his faithful preaching, although he took no credit for it whatsoever. Other brethren in the meeting felt jealous and somewhat diminished and made life difficult for this gentle but intellectual brother. So much so, that he left. Thereafter, a clandestine meeting was held about him, to which he was not invited, and at this meeting he was slandered and libelled since a report was read out. He was falsely charged with heresy, being an idler and a busybody. All of this was totally untrue. They had set this brother at nought; they had born false witness against him and were unrepentant. They would not follow the Scripture instructions to affect a reconciliation. The wronged brother indeed requested a reconciliation but has been ignored; yet he has done no wrong.

Satan has some very willing helpers among Christians!

It is unforgivable how some Roman Catholic clergy sexually abuse boys, and of nuns who are abominably cruel to unmarried teenage mothers who are pregnant, some of whom were raped. With such atrocious examples, one can understand why Christianity is in decline. It is not Christ or Christianity that is at fault, but those who claim to be Christians.

While the doctrines of Romanism do not all agree with the Bible, it is wrong to suggest that all Catholics are evil or paedophiles.

I cannot understand how any man wants to sexually abuse a boy or, for that matter, a girl.

New figures (2010) state that sexual abuse of children in the UK has increased by 60%. I believe this is largely due to the media portraying sex and sexual crimes, and how pop songs are raunchy and children imitate such singers.

The false teaching of cults and Pentecostal/charismatics is also giving Christianity a bad name. The originator of the Full Gospel Business Men's Association has been cited for fraud as have many charismatic preachers such as Jimmy Swaggart and Jim and Terry Bakker.

Jimmy Swaggart was caught with prostitutes on a few occasions and lived a decadent life quite at odds with Christian teaching.

The case of the Bakkers is absolutely shocking. They began as a poor couple by preaching from the back of their trailer home. It is unbelievable to have to report that Tammy, as a Christian, had her breasts enlarged, wore wigs and false eyelashes and spent a lot of money on make up, all of which is against New Testament teaching. By the 1970s, money was pouring in to them and the continual purchase of beauty products and beauty enhancements were being made by Tammy from these funds. They were now running their own TV satellite network PTL (Praise the Lord).

Apparently, their shows had audiences of 25 million and guests included Ronald Reagan. PTL pleaded for money for the Lord's work. But the Bakkers purchased Rolls Royces and paid themselves and their aides four million dollars over 16 months. It was also proved that Bakker paid hush money to his church secretary, Jessica Hahn over a period of eight months totalling 265,000 dollars. Later, she testified that Bakker and another preacher forced her to have sex with them in a hotel room in Florida. Bakker was also accused of tax fraud and conspiracy. The Bakkers were divorced in 1992.

Another charismatic was Aime Semple MacPherson who faked her own death and when she did die, she had a telephone buried with her in her coffin so she could communicate with her followers who were still alive. This smacks of the heresy of spiritualism.

And there was Morris Cerullo who, in 1992, said he had healed a child of cancer. She died of that disease two months later. He was also involved in unethical and illegal financial matters. These healings are similar to the claims of spiritualists like Betty Shine.

The Full Gospel Mens Association, to which we have referred, is another Pentecostal/charismatic organisation. Its founder, Demos Sakanan, was investigated for fraud.

Such people are hypocrites as well as frauds and are a serious disgrace and a very effective deterrent for Christianity.

The teaching of Pentecostals and charismatics is astray from the Bible in several doctrines.

(See article [Denominations and Cults](#))

I have heard many Christians say, "I hope people will understand why I am not a Catholic, Pentecostal or a charismatic!".

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