

Story Background–Reverend Robin

Church leaders should have faith. One definition of faith is; “strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof,”. The bible refers to faith as; “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.....by faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible,” (Hebrews 11:1-40). “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

There are many reasons a leader of the church may lose his faith. These reasons vary from internal conflict to external factors, including:

Lack of unity among church leaders. The church brings together individuals from varying backgrounds in life and different socialization. These people unite in their faith and the pursuit of allegiance to God. But, personality factors can inhibit their unity. Conflict develops between personalities and affects the progress toward the common goal.

The church may stray away from its core objectives and pursue other goals inconsistent with its beliefs. Churches pursue hardcore capitalism. They seek to extract the greatest contribution from congregation under the guise of building the church. This money finds its way into the pockets of the leadership to finance their lifestyle.

There are many variations on Christianity. It is hard to stay Catholic or Anglican given the upsurge in competing versions of Christian belief around the world. There are variations on the core of Christianity presenting an aggressive choice for persons who doubt their faith. People may be of the view that the mainstream religion has not contributed to their existence.

Leaders and their followers may feel abandoned by god. Deliverance may not come after praying. This is frustrating. Testimonials by anyone from “protestant” churches of their newfound prosperity after moving away from the mainstream church can be persuasive.

Inability to support celibacy is another issue. Webster -Merriman dictionary defines celibacy as “the state of not being married” and “abstention from sexual intercourse”. The second part of the definition is the popular explanation.

Catholic priests take a vow of celibacy. The vow may have its basis in the words of the bible “An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs–how can he please the Lord? But a married man is concerned about the affairs of the world–how can he please his wife?–and his interests are divided” (1 Corinthians 7:32-34).

However, the bible suggests that leaders of the church should have a family. “He must manage his family well,” (1 Timothy 3:4,12) and “His children obey him with proper respect,” (1 Timothy 3:4: Titus 1:6).

How does a leader of the church handle temptation? Temptation is everywhere. The leader is everywhere. He is among sinners of every kind. Sinners display their wares to the him. They flirt and flaunt in his presence to attract his attention and encourage him to commit the ultimate sin.

The leader may not have sexual education. Knowledge of sex and restraint helps to survive matters arising from temptation and other influences. This education is not provided to the all church leaders. His lack of knowledge renders him incapable of maneuvering around matters of the world.

Leaders should question their faith. They should examine the substance of their belief and poke holes in it. By questioning the faith leaders may find answers to lingering questions. The faithful can find this disheartening. Faith itself requires following the unseen. It requires following the untouchable.

Here lies the conundrum.

Reverend Robin is a leader of the church who loses his faith. He attempts without success to find a solution to his diminishing confidence in his belief in God.

Reverend Robin is a part of my short story series Tales From My Caribbean Crypt published on Amazon.

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