

The Wounded Heart

Cautions

Although in some important doctrinal matters we differ with the author, yet we still can recommend this book for its sympathetic recognition of the serious psychological and spiritual harm caused to victims of childhood sexual abuse. The most fearful harm which can be inflicted upon the heart of childhood sexual assault victims is the wound of offense it gives to the cause of the gospel, especially when their abuser claims to be a Christian. We believe the author recognizes this problem by his acknowledgement that the wounds of abuse are inflicted, not upon a sinless, but rather, upon a sinful heart. Because of this, the manner in which a victim responds to their abuse against them can be inconsistent and contrary to the biblical duty to love.

We could say that the author tries to show how one can, by an unbiblical response to past abuse, further contribute to their own stumbling at the gospel even though the original offense was given by another. This book is intended for an adult reader.

While the author treats of responding to sexual abuse as it is a "sin" and a "wound", he does not consider it in its aspect of being a "crime". Considering sexual assault as a crime against the law, and punishable by the state, does add another level of complexity to an already difficult matter. The question may arise, for example, How can it be consistent with love, forgiveness, and restoration, for a victim to testify against their abuser in court? Or, to what extent must a Christian respect other Christians right to remain silent when accused of sexual abuse before the civil courts? These types of concerns which may arise under conditions of legal responses to sexual abuse are not addressed in this book.