

How to Help Leaders Who Have Made Mistakes

There are good numbers of leaders in most of the Central and Eastern European countries who served well during the communistic regime in their different churches and ministries and after 1990 became very active, well-recognized, and highly respected leaders in their countries. Some of them even assumed significant leadership positions in European and global institutions. But in the last few years some of them became corrupt, misusing their power, position, and resources. Even worse, when the failings of the former secret police were exposed, some of these revered Christian leaders were publicly revealed as having collaborated with the secret police/ KGB/Securitate and signed declarations of allegiance to them. Similarly, in different countries, some Christian leaders have been paid by the secret police. Yet a few of these leaders still hold their ministry and church positions. “How should we as Christians treat them?” is often the question new leaders have to face! We know we have to forgive but that we are also responsible for disciplining and restoring the fallen leaders within the body. How do we deal with sin in love without allowing the sin of a few people corrupt the rest of the church and poison the next generation of leaders?

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I. Introduction: The conflict and reconciliation between birds and rest of the animals.

II. Seeking the truth and the courage to live according to it. Most of the time, there is a price to be paid.

III. After acknowledging the real truth about God , ourselves and others, the most difficult step is to accept it.

IV. Sometimes, information which we get about ourselves from others and from public society is a mirror. We can see ourselves, but it is not enough: Action must be taken!

a. We have to be very careful - When it is meter of information from the former communistic secret police - remember - before to take any action - you need to double check all the information and compare with several sources of information

b. There are few names in several countries – Romania, Slovakia, and Poland - where names on innocent leaders have been given as agent of Secret police, but these people were with mistaken names.

V. Next step—REPENTANCE: After recognizing that what some leaders have done is SIN
–they need to repent:

A. Admitting to God that they are traitors, trying as they are to serve two
MASTERS—GOD and the secret police.

B. Formally asking their brothers and the church to forgive them. Most of the time
this is the most difficult step. Leaders are afraid to lose face.

C. Without repentance – there is no forgiveness.

VI. Confess – publicly—and step down from the official position. The leader loses his or her
qualification for the leadership position.

VII. The role of CHURCH DISCIPLINE: One of the most difficult things in the churches in Central and Eastern Europe--

- a. Who is responsible for doing it?
- b. How?
- c. When?
- d. How long must it last?

VIII. Do not forget—PROCESS OF RESTOTATION

- a. Small-group debate/discussion: Can leaders who became agents of the former secret police...
 - i. Be restored?
 - ii. Assume any ministry role and/or leadership responsibility?
 - iii. If yes to the above, on what level can they lead?

IX. Live according the truth—every day , in every situation.

X. Remember - **1 TIMOTHY 3:15**—The Church is the “pillar” and “ground of the truth” of the Living GOD.