

When The Church Hurts You – FOT

Let's get to our topic: When the Church Hurts You

1. I know of many who have had their faith put on trial because of how the church or other Christians have hurt them What we often do is allow that hurt to cause us to struggle with God. We feel abandoned or let down by God due to the way the church has treated us Perhaps that is you and you want to call with a comment or question

2. The reason this can be so hard is because we expect the church to be a place of help and safety and love and comfort and when it isn't it can really cause us to wonder if God is actually real or if this Christianity stuff is legitimate....I know of pastors who have left the ministry all together because of how a church treated them...

3. The disciples experienced this in that they often had conflict with one another....

4. So, How do we deal with this in a constructive way?
 - a. Expect it and don't be shocked when it happens
 - b. Disassociate the church from God
 - c. Don't look to others to meet your ultimate needs
 - d. Talk through the hurt with a mature believer
 - e. Realize the spiritual battle going on. It is Satan who wants you to drop out of the game.
 - f. Jesus said in this world there would be much tribulation
 - g. Seek to forgive those who hurt you
 - h. Learn and grow from the hurt and determine that you will not be like they are. If you allow that hurt to keep you from living for God then you are no better than the one who hurt you

5. Play the song and discuss it: don't let another wounded soldier die. Are you a wounded soldier? Are you battle weary? Let us minister healing to them.