

“Public Officials Need More Protection not More Privacy”
Michigan Chronicle/The Christian Observer Opinion Editorial

About a year ago, I along with a group of my ministerial colleagues started writing a book titled *Secret Sex Wars*. Like all Americans, we’ve watched leader after leader in religious and public arenas become ensnared in sexual scandals. Yet as ministers, we are not passive bystanders. We inherit the sobering responsibility of trying to put some of those broken lives back together. So we set an ambitious goal for our book. We endeavored to show men that with God they can find the *preventative* power to reject sexual temptation. One principle we emphasized is even leaders need to be asked regularly how they are handling sexual temptation.

With all of their inspiring talents, leaders are great gifts to those they serve. However, the greater their gifts, the greater their responsibilities and personal pressures. In view of this, the public owes them whatever privacy they can obtain in their pressure-filled lives.

Yet we must not be naïve. Rising popularity and power give rise to greater temptations. Personal power can intoxicate some to abuse their influence, and their high profiles make them targets for sexual seduction. As a result temptation without transparency and privacy without accountability can lead to moral failure. Private indiscretions are the very stuff of public scandals. Therefore when leaders start to engage in questionable moral behavior, those closest to them must embrace their duty to challenge them to be honest about their temptations.

To protect our leaders from the pervasive dangers of sexual enticement and the temptation to cover up their failures with lies, we need to encourage more accountability not more privacy. Yes, leaders are great gifts, but they have flaws; therefore, for everyone’s sake we need to strive to protect them even from themselves sometimes.

Pastor Robert S. Scott, Sr.
General Editor of *Secret Sex Wars A Battle Cry for Purity*
www.secretsexwars.com