



# Book Synopsis & Overview

## *Murder in the Church*

When Pastor Chris Schimel got a call from a parishioner late one September Saturday night, he never could have imagined what would happen next.

The woman on the other end of the line, Sarah Gil\*, shared shocking news—news that led to a nine-day struggle between life and death. Sarah and her husband Raymond, long-time members of the church, had struggled in their marriage for several years. But, despite their issues, Raymond’s announcement that he planned to leave Sarah that night for another man blindsided her. And the other man was anything but innocent—an ex-con named Daniel Rogers who had connived his way into Raymond’s life and business and now threatened to not only end the Gil’s marriage but to destroy Raymond’s family. And he was far more dangerous than anyone could have imagined.

In his new book, *Murder in the Church* (Author Academy Elite), Schimel shares the story of his desperate attempt to save Raymond from the clutches of a madman. But, in a story where evil seems to lurk around every corner, Schimel also shares the story of a church that exemplified the beauty of Christ’s bride and what it means to truly love and forgive a broken believer.

“This is one of those incidents where you really don’t believe it unless you’ve experienced it,” says Schimel.

“Daniel Rogers was pure evil and he was out to destroy. I have been in ministry now for over 40 years, and I’ve never experienced anything like it.”

Six days after Raymond left with Daniel, Schimel, his wife, Shirley, Sarah, and the police rescued Raymond from Daniel’s clutches, saving his life. But Daniel Rogers wasn’t done. Angry over what happened with Raymond, he turned his rage to Christina, the Gil’s teenager daughter, murdering her in cold blood, in the daylight, while she worked at a local department store.

The Sunday after Christina’s death, Raymond and Sarah chose to appear before the church, where Raymond tearfully confessed and where the congregation extended forgiveness, in a scene that forever changed Schimel.

*“I never saw a flood of people move to the front en masse,”* says Schimel. *“Each seemed to move as God impressed him or her to forgive. And I thought that’s it. That is the beauty of the church: God’s forgiveness of us, demonstrated by Him on a cross, and then lived out by His Church to undeserving sinners.”*

Chris Schimel has served as a pastor for more than thirty-five years in churches from New York to California. He is founder of Touch One Ministries, author of four books, and has spoken in churches and ministries around the country. Currently he makes his home in Ohio where he is the lead pastor in a multi-campus church. The Schimel’s have two grown sons. More information is available at: [www.chrisjschimel.com](http://www.chrisjschimel.com).

\*Names and selected details have been changed to protect the privacies of those involved.