

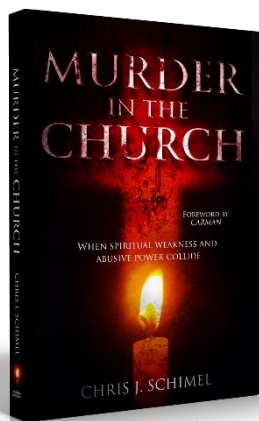
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MURDER IN THE CHURCH: A True Story

How one Pastor led one family and his church through their darkest hour.

ATT: Murder in the Church is in the early stages of motion picture development.

We are proud and happy to announce that we are partnering with Voyage Media, a production company in Los Angeles, and working with a producer and screenwriter to develop a motion picture adaptation of MURDER IN THE CHURCH. The movie script is now in process.



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 threatened in ways no one could have imagined.

In his re-published 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.

Available Now
Murder in the Church
5 1/2 x 8 1/2, \$14.99
ISBN: 978-1-64746-080-8

"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 more than 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 broad 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."

What Listeners Will Learn from Chris Schimel

- The heart-stopping story of a family in crisis and a madman out to destroy it.
- How God works in even the darkest situations.
- What true forgiveness should look like in the church.
- How the church can minister to those suffering from secret sins.
- How couples can protect themselves from marital struggles.
- How to make good parenting choices.

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

Chris J. Schimel

Author, Pastor, Speaker, Coach



Chris Schimel is an author, long-time pastor and ministry founder. Chris comes alongside churches and individuals to help make their ministries and lives more effective and whole by offering emotional healing resources and instruction.

Chris has authored five books, *Touch One* and *Beautiful Behaviors* (both Creation House), *Once Broken* (Evergreen Press) *I Do, Do You?* (Author Academy Elite) and his most recently republished release, *Murder in the Church* (also with Author Academy Elite). He has also written three other E-books he makes available on his website. In more than 45 years of ministry, Chris has served in various positions of leadership within his denomination and in the cities where he and his wife, Shirley, have lived and ministered. They have seen thousands come to Christ through the ministries they have led.

Chris graduated with his ministerial degree from Mount Vernon Bible College in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and served as a youth pastor for five years in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and California, before accepting his first senior pastorate at an inner-city church in South Gate, California. It was here that he and Shirley received a crash course in ministry, affecting the lives of gang members, murderers, prostitutes, drug addicts, and the like. While leading this ministry they watched their church grow from 60 to over 400 in a little over seven years almost exclusively from new convert growth.

From there he and Shirley went to Northridge, California, to pastor for eight years. While in Northridge, Chris earned his Master of Divinity degree from Oral Roberts University, and then moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he and Shirley planted a church, birthed another, merged two churches, and served as pastors until the spring of 2005. He is now lead pastor over a multi-site church in the Youngstown, Ohio area.

Chris is founder and director of Touch One Ministries. He has spoken in churches and ministries around the country. The Schimel's have two grown sons.

More information on Chris is available on his website at:
<https://www.chrisjschimel.com> and from the press page, also on his website:
<https://www.chrisjschimel.com/landing-page>

15 Suggested Discussion Questions for Chris Schimel

1. Chris, you found yourself in the midst of what was literally a life-and-death situation with a family in your congregation. Can you tell us briefly about what happened?
2. What were your first thoughts when you heard that this man in your congregation had left his family for another man?
3. What did you know about this man who Raymond chose as a business partner and now planned to move in with?
4. What was your involvement with the Gils prior to this situation?
5. This story ended in tragedy. What happened?
6. You say in the book that you felt God leading you to share this story. Why did you decide to write the book?
7. As you discuss in the book, Raymond and Sarah struggled in their relationship. Is the marital coldness they experience indicative of the state of marriage in our world?
8. How can we protect our marriages from reaching a point of no return?
9. Raymond got caught up in the homosexual lifestyle primarily due to pornography. What role do you feel pornography plays in marriage problems today?
10. What impact did poor parenting have on the tragedy of this story?
11. And as with our marriages, how can we make better choices when it comes to parenting to help prevent something like what happened to Christina?
12. Raymond had been struggling with feelings of homosexuality for a while but had not spoken about them to anyone, until he told his wife he was leaving her for Daniel. Why do you think this is such a difficult issue for people to discuss within the church?
13. Raymond appeared in front of your church and confessed to the congregation what he had done, after Christina died. What happened on that day?
14. Where is Daniel Rogers today?
15. How did this tragedy impact your church? And how has it impacted your own pastoral ministry?