

Lessons to Learn from the Fall of Jimmy Swaggart

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I. Introduction.

A. The fall of Jimmy Swaggart into immorality has far reaching consequences.

B. There are lessons to learn from the fall.

II. False spiritual standards cannot restrain the flesh. The charismatic movement depends upon feelings. (Galatians 3:3)

III. There is danger to shallow theology and emotional religion.

A. True doctrine is the foundation of all proper behavior.

B. Strong doctrine should never be minimized.

IV. It is important to uphold a true standard for spiritual leaders. (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1:5-7)

V. Spiritual credibility has a fragile nature.

VI. Hypocrisy is ugly. (Matthew 23:14)

VII. The gospel is powerful to go beyond the vehicle that proclaims it.

VIII. Self-deception is powerful. (James 1:20, Psalm 15:1-2)

IX. Pride and ego fulfillment is dangerous. (Galatians 6:12)

X. Sin revealed has a disastrous result.

XI. There is a false standard of spiritual success.

XII. Sin cannot be confined to one area of a person's life. (2 Corinthians 5:9)

XIII. Response.

A. Pray for him.

B. Recognize that the seeds in him could be found in all of us.

C. Pray for the integrity of the church.

Application Questions:

1. How does one go about selecting spiritual leaders in light of the failures of leaders in the past?

2. How can one provide healing for a congregation or ministry suffering under the moral failure of a leader?

3. Which lesson from the fall of this leader impacts you the most personally? Why?
