

Writing Assignment #1

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The defense mechanism seen in the universal church is that of grandiosity, where the misconception is birthed out of the enormity of the church and the power of the leader, giving the illusion that the church is protected from crises (Mitroff, 2001). The first publicized scandal happened in 1985, with Father Gilbert Gauthe, in Louisiana, who admitted to sexually abusing 37 boys and who pleaded guilty on 34 criminal counts. This was the first of countless church indiscretions that have continued to be exposed over the decades. The Roman Catholic Church use to be at the top of list of grandiosity because no other church has is breadth of size and internal power.

However, over most recent decades we have seen churches from all affiliations and denominations fall into this category of grandiosity resulting in the uncovering of adultery, outside of the marriage children, homosexuality, and embezzlement because the leader failed to maintain humility remembering that the church was ordained and created by God even if it does have a name on it that the leader created. God will never allow hypocrisy to go on in the church and his witness to be tainted without exposing the truth. God boldly declares in Luke 12:2-3 that secrets will be unveiled and the truth will come forth and God's thoughts about every behavior and action will be absolved. This defense mechanism has been exhibited consistently over such a long period of time that the world has more validity than the church. The light, and the power of the authority of the church has been dimmed and weakened. Grandiosity plays into the hands of the adversary who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy not only from the believer but from the church. This defense mechanism gives the church a false sense of security as though the leader of the church has the last say instead of God.

Bibliography

Mitroff, Ian. *Managing Crises Before They Happen: What Every Executive and Manager Needs to Know About Crisis Management*. New York: Amacom. 2001.