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SF 505 Personal/Professional/Theological Foundations for Ministry

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Case Study: John Jones

### Overview

Pastor Jones, a very good friend of mine had given his heart to our Lord Jesus at a very tender age, as a teenager. He later got married in his late Twenties to a beautiful young woman named Anna. Pastor Jones had met Anna while they were in Seminary and felt the Lord will have her to be his wife, to help him in the ministry. Everything was going well they were flowing together in the ministry; Anna was supportive and allowed her Husband to take the lead. Pastor Jones was asked to travel to the Islands and Pastor a Church, and he agreed. Both himself and wife took up the mandate and travelled out to the Islands. It was a happy moment for them, they felt that the Lord had fully prepared them for the mission field. After a few years some of the dark shadows that was lurking around Pastor Jones began to surface. Those shadows grew larger and more prominent, in the ministry and later became the source of hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness and division.

### Case Study

Unforgiveness was written all over the angry outbursts and attitudes dished out at whoever approached Pastor Jones, after he was sent on sabbatical leave. Pastor Jones was reported of having an intimate relationship with one of the young women in the church. He had also made several sexual advances on some of the older sisters, who took the matter to the superintendent of the Church. The congregation was not aware of what was discussed in a private meeting with the leadership of the Church, but a public meeting was called. Pastor Jones

and his wife Anna was invited along with the church leaders and the entire congregation. In that meeting Pastor Jones's wife Anna stood up and addressed the congregation on behalf of herself and family. She announced that they no longer wanted to be a part of the Church and they will be moving on. Pastor Jones referred a young Pastor fresh out of Seminary to run the church in his absence. After several months the young Pastor was ordained as the senior Pastor of the church by the Apostolic team. Pastor Jones was very angry and accused the young Pastor of stealing his congregation. He denied all the accusations made by the sisters and did not apologize to them or the church. He continued to spread rumors of the Pastor stealing the church and some of the believers left the church and joined him to begin his own ministry.

Twenty years after Pastor Jones was still complaining about losing the church to the person whom he referred. During this period Pastor Jones had suffered many heart attacks, and almost lost his life. The new Pastor kept calling him and Pastor Jones would refuse to take his calls. One day the Pastor wrote him a letter and told him how sorry he was that he felt offended over the decision of the Apostolic team. The Church kept inviting him to fellowship and every time he would refuse the invitation. By this time Pastor Jones and his wife Anna had joined another evangelical movement. Several years later the Lord finally got through to Pastor Jones and he showed up in one of the yearly conferences hosted by the church. He was so broken before the Lord, that he was hugging the Pastor and crying uncontrollably, begging him for forgiveness. He felt that the Lord wanted him to free himself from his anger and bitterness, since then he has gone back and ministered on several occasions. He was healed and totally set free, no more complaining and accusations, God had come through for him.