



PastorCare

West Michigan

Helping Pastors Soar

August 2014

"Loose Lips Sink Ships"

During World War II, Americans were told that spies aligned with the Axis powers could be listening to anyone, anywhere. Thus they created the propaganda "Loose Lips Sink Ships", implying that open discussion of sensitive information could lead to military losses, for example, the sinking of a ship by an enemy vessel. Therefore we must "beware of unguarded talk".

I have taken this warning to heart because confidentiality is one of the core values of PastorCare. Confidentiality is absolutely essential. I am very mindful of the fact that my credibility and trust could be lost in a moment with one careless statement, or one careless slip of the tongue.

For the past eight months almost every pastor and Christian leader that I have been coaching has been in a situation that is highly confidential. In order to maintain confidentiality, I can't use any photos. I can't use any personal names. I can't use any ministry names. I can't give any specific descriptions that might reveal who I am working with or the nature of what we are working through. Actually, this is nothing new. Every year, there are many pastors who I have coached, whose stories will never be told, because it is not appropriate or in their best interest to share their stories.



Being truly confidential is more challenging and difficult than one might think. Especially when you factor in the multiple and interwoven relationships from various walks of life. Please pray for me as often as possible. I never want to be guilty of "Loose Lips Sinking Ships." I desperately need God's continued help, guidance, and protection.

I asked several of the pastors I have been coaching if they are ready to share their story. They all said no because they are still in the process of working through some of the issues in their journey of healing and restoration. Therefore, I decided the wisest way to proceed with this Newsletter was simply to include a couple of excerpts from email expressions of gratitude I received recently.

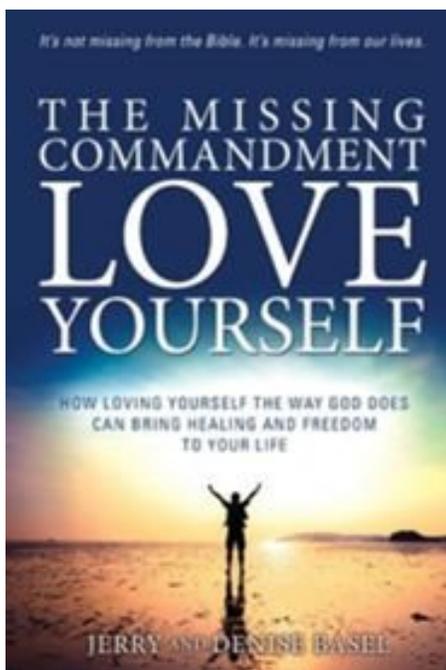
John,

Thanks for the amount of time you have invested in helping me process both emotional fallout from this whole mess and the pure physical details of where from here. I cannot thank you enough for your friendship, love and support. You have been awesome and full of wisdom and grace in all of this.

John

I just wanted to say thanks for your ministry and how God used you to encourage me during the rough transition time from the church. May God continue to richly bless you, your family and ministry.

Several months ago, a friend asked me a penetrating question: John, do you love yourself? I was surprised that my answer wasn't as strong or resounding as I would have thought it would be. When I got home I saw this book sitting on the table next to my chair. My friends Jerry and Denise Basel sent it to me as a resource for pastors. I had started reading it before. But this time I read the entire book for my own benefit. Now my answer to that same question is a resounding Yes!



What keeps you from loving someone God loves so much? How might your life change if you really believed God loves you—not just in your head but down where it counts, in your heart?

Imagine how different things could be: The lies you've believed about yourself all these years dispelled. The wounds of abuse healed. Your future lit with hope, peace, and purpose. Your closeness with God and others deepened immeasurably. The true, heaven-born you free at last to live a life unclouded by shame, guilt, and fear and empowered to love others fully. That can be you. The truth is far, far better than you've known.

Drawing on their many years of biblical counseling practice, Jerry and Denise Basel invite you on a journey of God-discovery, self-discovery, and truth discovery. *The Missing Commandment: Love Yourself* will help you experience God's love as the daily, motivating force in your life. And it will show you how to stop punishing and start loving someone whom your heavenly Father loves very much—YOU.

You see, the missing commandment has never been missing from the Bible, only from your life. But that can change starting now.



Sue and I hope you will partner with us in this strategic Kingdom ministry through your prayers and your finances.

Please make checks payable to **PastorCare West Michigan**.
Mailing address: **1632 Waterbury Dr. SE**
Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

Online contributions can be made through the PastorCare West Michigan website, using our secure **PayPal account**.

All contributions are tax deductible. PastorCare West Michigan is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Pastor John and Sue Smith, M.Div., D.Min.
Executive Director, PastorCare West Michigan

Mobile: 616-304-8543

Email: jsmith@pastorcare.org

www.pastorcarewm.org