



Michael Farris

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I continue to hear distressing news about the moral conduct of Christian leaders and speakers some of whom were/are popular in the homeschooling movement. Of course, anyone can sin--including me. But I cannot be so gracious about protracted patterns of sin that reveal a deep hypocrisy.

From my own observation there is a central problem that often accompanies these kinds of failures. All leaders have to have a certain amount of ego strength to be able to withstand the slings and arrows of the naysayers who attack anyone who attempts to lead. But, that basic strength can get out of control. Consider it a danger sign when the leader never shares the spotlight with other leaders in the organization. Consider it another danger sign when the leader does not have anyone in his organization with both the power and the character to tell him "no" at times.

Mike Smith has been at my side at HSLDA from the beginning and he now leads the organization day to day. Chris Klicka was a significant part of our leadership team for many years as well. And I guarantee you that both Mike Smith and the HSLDA board tell me "no" on semi-regular occasions.

I am also reminded of the statement of Dick Armey when he was asked what his wife would say if he was caught in an affair like Bill Clinton. He said, "She would say 'how do I reload this thing?' as I lay there in a pool of blood."

Having a wife who is a good shot is also a great asset.

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Willie Deutsch and 458 others like this.

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Christina Rodriguez Amen

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Dennis-Sharon Rhine Grimes Amen – well said. We are GRIEVED at the lengths to which followers of these "leaders" have gone to cover their sin and "protect" the "leader."

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Johnnie Yohe McGarvey AMEN to that!

4 hours ago · [Like](#)



Bob Menges Very well said.

4 hours ago · [Like](#)



Fred Daniels John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

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Derekand Tracy Jipson Amen

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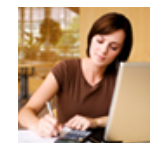
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Dennis-Sharon Rhine Grimes Thankful for the mutual accountability maintained by the leadership at HSLDA.

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Dan R Smedra The Apostle Paul mentioned the problem of immoral conduct and hypocrisy among religious leaders in his day...Romans 2:17-24. Maybe he might have some valuable thoughts and be able to shine a light on the problem?

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Heidi St. John Pride is a killer—and having wise, godly people around you is wise. Wait... isn't that in the Bible? Good words, Mike!

4 hours ago · [Like](#) · 8



Katie Jean LaPierre great insight. Just recently my husband was told no by the leadership on something he REALLY wanted. It was inspiring to see how well he took it and I think it built the leadership's trust in him.

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Kimery Lorenz Thank you for sharing/transparency/accountability, Mr. Farris.

4 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Lori Brooks Carden Haha, NO to Yes-Men, and YES to wives with good aim We are grateful for leaders who keep themselves accountable and "in-check"!

4 hours ago · [Like](#) · 4



Tracy Klicka MacKillop Thank you, Mike . Amen! Accountability and transparency are excellent checks to our natural pride. And while I didn't carry a gun, fearing God over man, combined with a deep love for my Chris helped me to speak truth into his life. I am so grateful he had you and Mike Smith, as well as the rest of the amazing HSLDA legal team looking out for his best interests--you all are working together for Christ's honor.

3 hours ago · [Like](#) · 26



Kathy O'Donnell Mike, I can think of one such 'leader' who used to work for HSLDA. Did you see problems with him then and let him go?

3 hours ago · [Like](#)



Shari McMinn Excellent, and why so many of us do put our trust in HSLDA to help our families. Thanks to you, your wives, your kids, and your accountability circle.

3 hours ago · [Like](#) · 2



Caroline Moore Wise words Mike and a great anecdote at the end!

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Gene Jarvis We also use a faulty system of pastorship, the one man show, We put a person on a pedestal. We are broken into tribes, Piper, MacArthur, Wesley, and Calvin. Billy Graham somehow made it through when many fell. I notice that a key to steadfastness is humility. Leadership is to be shared.

3 hours ago · [Like](#) · 5



Darlene Carroll Amen, with sorrow over those who have fallen...

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Jerry Miki Morgan Great thoughts, Mike. We have to have people who can hold us accountable, no matter our position. In the homeschooling community, we know for certain that most

people already think we're crazy for what we're doing. Especially those of us who do so f... [See More](#)

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Katyrose Walker Chapman Wow good insights. I am wondering who these folks are to watch out for in the homeschool movement?

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Heather Russell Trimmer Well said, as usual!

3 hours ago · [Like](#)



Elizabeth Arias Sullivan Lol!!! Preach!

3 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



MikeJoshalyn Ocker Great thoughts! It is disturbing that within the Church it has become expected that "submission" equals dutiful, blind excusing of gross sin. It is not good for souls, for marriage, for family, or for the children growing there.

3 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Connie Loewen Jost Well said! Thank you! That ring of power can be intoxicating– so grateful for men and women of character and integrity.

2 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



Summer Butler Well maybe that's why my husband didn't want me to learn to shoot a gun. He he He is a faithful man.

2 hours ago · [Like](#)



Rick Davis Mike, aside from being a good shot or saying "no," what are some of the things a good wife does or says that is a real help and benefit to you in your ministry and career?

2 hours ago · [Like](#)



Mark Stevenson Another leader? Geez....lots of prayer. While you're at it pray for Mary Rice [Mary Hopkins](#) as she has been in ICU for the last wk fighting for her life. Lots of home schoolers have been raised on her music ministry.

2 hours ago · [Like](#)



Susan Bell Reames This post has now made people suspect it was someone at HSLDA. It would have been better to be clear. It is Bill Gothard that is again in the news regarding a scandal. People put on pedestals soon fall. People concerned with outward appearance often forget the real issue is the heart condition.

about an hour ago · [Like](#) · 1



Kathy Parsell Weitz Mike, I've thought and prayed much about this as these reports continue... I am convinced that the followers of the man are also culpable. We must guard our own hearts against the tendency to look to the man (who may indeed have great insight and wisdom) instead of to the Savior. I am grateful for the safeguards God has placed in your life!

about an hour ago · [Like](#) · 3



Lene Mahler Jaqua I suppose the pool of blood is a bit of tongue in cheek but the point is well taken.

about an hour ago · [Like](#)



Savoury Jacobson Most encouraging thing I've read in a while. Thank you very much for this Dr. Farris...encouraged to know there is at least one or two leaders still standing..and that they have wives who are great shots.

about an hour ago · Edited · [Like](#)



Lindy Abbott These are wise words. I agree that EVERYONE can sin, but it takes a hypocrite and pharisee-type liar to continue in a sinful lifestyle. We all need accountability and

people in our life that will call us out when we are sinning or walking in the wrong direction. I think leaders need to be warned of these dangers that you so wisely speak of. Only a fool will trust himself without peers to speak truth into his life.

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Cheryl Piazza Our family has always been grateful for you and your team. Thank you to all the loving supports behind the sentries manning the gates!

about an hour ago · [Like](#)



Jonathan Jay Harris Nice write up. At least Doug Phillips fessed up & stepped down. Bill Gothard has years of sin not dealt with. King David repented immediately when confronted by the prophet Nathan. He is our model. Unrepentant sin destroys lives.

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