



**Video and audio services and messages are being
live streamed at 9:30 and 11:00 am Sundays at
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchTempe>**

**Pastor Roger's sermons and other FBC Pastors
can be heard for free on our website
at www.fbc-tempe.org.**

Sunday Morning Messages

New Sermon Series April 7 – May 5

MENTAL HEALTH

April 14 – “Spiritual Abuse”

(Matthew 23)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch with guest professional, Mindelle Will

April 21 – “Social Conflict – Teens”

(Luke 17:3, Ephesians 4:29, Romans 12:17)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch with guest professional, Alicia Padilla

April 28 – “Self Regulation”

(2 Timothy 1:7, Galatians 5:22-23)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch with guest professional, Loretta White

May 5 – “Relational Trauma”

(John 8:31-32, Hebrew 6:18)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch w/ guest professional, Karissa Whitlatch

Mental Health – Spiritual Abuse

Matthew 23

April 14, 2024

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch

Guest Professional: Mindelle Will

What Are Some Examples of Spiritual Abuse?

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples,² saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*. – *Matthew 23:2-3*

1. _____

They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with *so much* as a finger. – *Matthew 23:4*

2. Burdens with no _____

⁵ But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels *of their garments*. ⁶ They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. ⁸ But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ. - *Matthew 23:5-10*

3. Using the Bible to get people to _____ you

Why is Spiritual Abuse so Painful?

So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.- *Matthew 23:31*

1. Spiritual abuse is equivalent to _____

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. – *Matthew 23:13*

2. Spiritual abuse keeps people from _____

Spiritual Abuse is the _____ of what Jesus is Offering

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. – Hebrews 4:15

1. Jesus is no _____

²⁸ “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30

2. Jesus offers to take my _____ and help me walk through _____

²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” – Matthew 20:25-28

3. Jesus came to _____

What Can We Do To Avoid Spiritual Abuse?

1. _____ people to Jesus Christ

2. _____ - Don't use the Bible/God as a means to get people to serve you

3. Let God _____

a. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. – Matthew 23:26-28