

# TOPIC: How Julie Roys' Attempted Takedown of John MacArthur is a Battle in a Larger War

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**Host: David Wheaton 00:08**

How Julie Roys' attempted takedown of John MacArthur is a battle in a larger war. That is the topic we'll discuss today right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a nonprofit listener supported radio ministry. We are able to broadcast on the radio station, website or app on which you are listening today because of the support of listeners like you. Thank you for your prayer, your encouragement, and your support. You can connect with us by visiting our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), calling our toll free number 1-888-646-2233 or writing to Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

You've probably heard or read something about the conflict brewing and greatly intensifying actually, especially over the past year over a professing Christian investigative journalist named Julie Roys from Chicago, accusing Pastor John MacArthur and Grace Community Church, the church that he pastors in California, of protecting male abusers within the church and shaming females in counseling cases that have taken place within the church over the years.

Article after article, tweet after tweet, comment after comment has been written by Julie Roys and her allies against John MacArthur. Roys has called for MacArthur to be removed from preaching engagements and his daily radio program, Grace to You, one of the most prominent in the country, to be taken off the air. She and others want John MacArthur, to use a modern word, "canceled."

Grace Community Church and John MacArthur rightfully won't answer outside accusations regarding inside church matters. But we at The Christian Worldview, not affiliated with Grace Community Church or John MacArthur in any way, although we are grateful for his preaching ministry, think it's important to discern these public accusations in light of the following:

- What are the beliefs and goals of the accuser Julie Roys?
- What are the beliefs and reputation of the accused, Grace Community Church and John MacArthur?
- Are conclusions being made that shouldn't be made?
- And importantly, should church outsiders like Julie Roys hold sway over inside church matters rather than the church's pastors, elders and members addressing internal church matters?

Today we will examine the accusations of Julie Roys against Grace Community Church and John MacArthur to see how this is indicative of a larger war in evangelicalism to dismantle the biblical command for male eldership and Pastorship in the church and male headship in the home. So we'll get up to speed this week on the details and then next week in part two, Pastor Travis Allen of Grace Church in Greeley, Colorado and former elder at Grace Community Church in California will join us.

Julie Roys is the founder, according to her website, of the Roys Report, which is a Christian media outlet reporting the unvarnished truth about what's happening in the Christian community, so the church can be reformed and restored. Founded by investigative journalist, Julie Roys, that's what she calls herself, the Roys' report began as a personal blog, where Julie published her commentaries and occasional investigative pieces while working as a national radio host on moody radio.

However, in 2018, Julie published a series of articles on her website, exposing corruption and mission drift at the Moody Bible Institute. This led to the exit of three top officers at Moody. It also ended Julie's relationship with Moody and changed the focus of Julie's website from a blog offering cultural commentary to an independent Christian media outlet exposing corruption, abuse, and what's been termed the evangelical industrial complex.

Next paragraph. In 2018 and 2019, Julie wrote dozens of stories revealing bullying, deceit and financial abuse by celebrity preacher James MacDonald (again, this is her writing this) and Harvest Bible chapel in Chicago. In the course of her reporting, Harvest fired James McDonald and the entire board of elders at the church resigned. Other issues Julie has exposed include the sexual misconduct of Ravi Zacharias, nepotism and multiple large salaries of John MacArthur, (we're going to talk about today) sexual abuse and mismanagement at Willow Creek Community Church where Bill Hybels pastored in Chicago, and a pattern of bullying and abuse within the Acts 29 church planting network which was led by Mark Driscoll.

Now just as an aside, notice the moral equivalency already being made between James McDonald, Bill Hybels, Ravi Zacharias and Mark Driscoll, all confirmed by many within their own church or organizations to have been sinfully disqualified. Immoral equivalencies is being made here, implied here, that John MacArthur is part of that same group. Notice also the focus on, "abuse." Specifically, abuse by men toward women. So how would you define abuse? Is talking sternly to someone abuse? Is spanking a child abuse as scripture prescribes? Is a man asserting leadership in the home abuse?

Abuse has a spectrum of definition. Abuse to one is not abuse to another. Julie Roys has also written a book. Here's the description. "In Redeeming the Feminine Soul: God's Surprising Vision for Womanhood, (that's the title of the book) popular national radio host, Julie Roys, reveals the stunning truth that no one else is talking about. Women are destroying themselves. Internalizing society's devaluation of the feminine, some women are killing their own natural impulses to pursue a feminist ideal that bears no relation to God's good design. Other women struggle to conform to a fundamentalist feminine caricature, which requires denying their full humanity and gifting."

Julie Roys perceives John MacArthur as a fundamentalist because he holds to Scripture with regard to male leadership in the church and the home, based on passages like 1 Timothy 2 starting in verse 11. *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, (that has to do with the church and the home) but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.*

This is not a cultural thing. This goes all the way back to the beginning of creation. Verse 14. *And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.* That is what John MacArthur believes from Scripture. And that is why in our changing cultural moment of this day, so many dislike him. A website called, Church Leaders, wrote a story about a conference that Julie Roys founded called, The Restore Conference held at Judson University in Chicago. Quoting from the conference promotion, This year's conference is taking place on May 21, 2022. (This is actually last year's conference. It is going on this year again in October). We'll cover topics including, "Where is God when there's abuse?" There's that word again. Another topic, "Recovering from Spiritual Trauma." Another topic, "Effective Victim Advocacy." Quote from Julie Roys. "I put together Restore Chicago because I've witnessed firsthand the pain and the devastation left by two major church scandals in the Chicago area,"

Roys said in her podcast while recapping highlights from the 2019 conference. She's referring to the scandals at Harvest Bible Chapel with James McDonald and Willow Creek with Bill Hybels. Moving on with this article from, Church Leaders website. "What this year's conference won't include, (this is in 2022) is its founder, host and speaker, Julie Roys.

Roys announced last Friday that she made the difficult decision to step down from both leading and speaking at the conference due to something she wrote in her book, Redeeming the Feminine Soul, which released in 2017. In the book, Roys details her obsession with helping a high school senior girl who identified as a lesbian. The girl was part of her church's youth group when Roys was a youth leader. Roys was in her mid 30s and had been married to her husband, Neil, for almost 15 years with two children. Roys called the relationship with the student, "dysfunctional," and wrote that it made her, "confused and distraught."

While describing her relationship and her intense desire to rescue the troubled teen, Roys explained that she, "Didn't want to give up the relationship. I became emotionally hooked, and the thought of ending the relationship killed me. Deep down. I knew something was seriously wrong, but I didn't want to admit it. I didn't know how or why I had gotten so emotionally entangled with someone so incredibly dysfunctional and needy, Roys said, but I knew our relationship was unhealthy and dangerous. I needed to get help." The article goes on to say, "The investigative reporter, Roys, said it was, "One of the most painful times in my life," and explained her reasoning for sharing her story in the book. "I shared the story because it showed how I had failed to help a troubled teen because I had not first dealt with my own issues. And by telling the story, including my own missteps and

subsequent journey to healing and wholeness, I had hoped to encourage others to recognize their own issues and do similar work."

Article says, Others saw Roys assigning blame to a teenager who at one time had been a student in a ministry she helped lead. She admitted that it should have been obvious to her that as a youth leader, Roys held a position of power. "I regret I didn't see this at the time I wrote the book," Roys said.

Now I'm not going to conjecture beyond what Julie Roys admitted about her relationship with this younger woman while Julie was married to her husband. Beyond the fact that Julie Roys admittedly did the wrong thing in this relationship with this girl who identified as a lesbian when she was a youth leader at a church in a counseling situation, if you will.

How ironic that she would say that, for what we're going to be talking about today with a counseling situation that took place, that Julie Roys has written endlessly about on her website, at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles.

In a desire to be sensitive to the safety of the survivor community, Roys wrote, "I have made the difficult decision to step down from leading and speaking at the upcoming Restore Conference. (Again, this was in 2022, last year.) Given the controversy and the hurt caused by what I wrote in my book, I fear that speaking at the conference would be a distraction. The primary reason I planned the conference was to provide a safe space for those hurt by the church, to find care and community. Now coupled with having a painful experience of my life publicly debated, Roys said, it's been hurtful and disorienting." And with help from others has realized her need for, "Some time away with Jesus." I will continue reporting, but sadly, I can't be with you at the conference. This also is painful, but I think necessary."

Again, how ironic that she, Julie Roys, was having a, "painful experience of my life, publicly debated. It's been hurtful and disorienting." As we talk about this counseling case at Grace Community Church where Julie Roys has really slandered Grace Community Church, the elders there, and John MacArthur, I wonder how they feel? MacArthur and the elders of Grace Community Church. How do they feel with the repeated, one sided, slanderous attacks by someone who doesn't even attend that church, wasn't there when this case she's tried to, "expose," happened, and has stated her goal, her actual goal is to have John MacArthur taken off the radio.

I will read that tweet in a second. Just one more paragraph from this article from the Church Leaders website. Cult survivor, abuse survivor and author Ashley Easter tweeted, here is Julie Roys' statement. I've highlighted every section that puts the focus on her pain, struggle and perception that this is a controversy about her versus a clear cut, calling out of misdeeds to support a survivor.

Notice she doesn't seem to call her actions abuse. Just as a follow up note, Julie Roys is holding the Restore Conference this year in 2023. In October of this year. Two of the six or eight speakers listed on the website are Kyle James Howard, who calls himself a trauma informed sole care provider. Here's what he has written on Twitter just recently. You can go to his Twitter page and read all kinds of things just like this. He's one of the speakers at Julie Roy's conference. He wrote on Twitter on March 8, he's a black man, he said, "It's fascinating to observe how much of white Christian Twitter is fighting over where power should be centralized within the hands of white men or white women. Meanwhile, BIPOC, which means black, indigenous, people of color, BIPOC Christians are largely spending their energy trying to decolonize what they learned about power. There is absolutely a large segment, if not the largest, of white Christian Twitter, that is really just a battle for the throne of white power. There is no looking to ethnic minority leaders or traditions to possibly learn a better way to steward power. Ethnic minorities are merely pawns on the chessboard, each side uses to advance ambition for keys to the throne room."

That from Kyle James Howard, a speaker at Julie Roys' upcoming Restore Conference this year. That's what Critical Race Theory sounds like. And just to highlight one of the other speakers, I didn't look into all six or eight of them, but here's one more.

Her name is Jenai Aulman. Here's what she said on Twitter. "If as a white person, you are looking for in retweeting only BIPOC(again, black, indigenous people of color) voices, that agree with your already established theological and political positions, you are not looking for BIPOC wisdom, you are looking for BIPOC tokens to center and fortify your perspective and white experience."

This is who Julia Roys platforms at her conference. So just be aware of the kind of worldview she's promoting at her Restore Conference. We should insert the old adage here, Consider the source when considering her accusations against John MacArthur and Grace Community Church. The Truth and Fire website said this about Julie Roys' attack, specifically on this one she made a year ago regarding this counseling case at Grace Community Church, which I will detail more in just a few minutes.

Julie Roys made public a settled, local church matter and she leveraged the sensitive nature of the details, there in, to paint a narrative sure to spark public outcry. Many, and that's absolutely the case, you read the comments on her article she has written against this case at Grace Community Church, many took the bait, and have rushed to reach some harsh conclusions. If Roys is simply, "Digging for dirt, or sharing the one sided details of decades old settled local church matters to ruin reputations, be a busybody, sow seeds of division and discord in the body, and or to serve as an agent of chaos, confusion, and cancel culture, may the Lord move her to repent,"

Truth and Fire writes. "If she will not repent, may the Lord judge her soul as he deems right." The key point for this long setup as we head into this case, that took place that has really gathered so much

attention online and conversation about; if there is a problem in Grace Community Church with "abuse," then the elders and members of that church need to address it biblically.

There is a process for that. To meet with elders, to have elders meet together, to meet with the pastors, including John MacArthur, to see whether changes need to be made, to see whether discipline needs to be meted out.

But what shouldn't be happening is someone slandering the church and the pastor, who lives half a country away, in Chicago, who presents evidence to accomplish her goal. To actually cancel John MacArthur. Please stay tuned as we have much more coming up on this topic after this. You are listening to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton.

### **Featured Resource: REVIVAL: The Work of God 18:22**

You pray for revival as if it must come, but you go on working as if it will not come. We must carry on witnessing for Christ, living a holy life, seeking to know Christ better, following his ways following his path, making unity and peace among God's people wherever we can, supporting the preaching of the Word by our prayers and our encouragement, and being quite frankly, godly Christians.

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**Host: David Wheaton 20:29**

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, The ChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry.

Our topic on the program today is how Julie Roys' attempted takedown of John MacArthur is a battle in a larger war. So here's an example of the kinds of articles that you will read on Julie Roys' website, and we have some of these linked on our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. You can read them for yourself. Here's one opinion and open letter to John MacArthur by Julie Roys written on October 3, 2022. Here's what she wrote to John MacArthur.

You sided with child abuser David Gray, (this is the case we're gonna get into) when his wife, Eileen, brought allegations against him. And even after Gray was convicted of sexually abusing his children, your church supported his in-prison ministry. An endorsement reportedly by you appeared in Gray's newsletter in 2012, which you have never refuted. Meanwhile, you punished Gray's wife, Eileen, excommunicating and publicly shaming her for refusing your unholy pressure to allow David Gray back into the family's home.

David Gray, she goes on to write, confessed he abused his kids in counseling with an elder at the church named Carrie Hardy, prior to Eileen 2002 excommunication. Gray even handed Hardy a handwritten, "list of sins," during counseling and admitted he used a belt and rod way too harshly, brutally on a child, tied up and locked up the child and was not always adequately dressed in the child's presence. Plus, Hardy confirms in a declaration given to a Los Angeles court that the church knew about Eileen Gray's allegations of abuse and the restraining order she'd obtained for her and her children's protection. Yet you and the other Grace Community Church elders urged Eileen in multiple letters to remove the restraining order.

And Hardy told Eileen in counseling to, "submit to David Gray (her husband) even in spite of his admitted abuse of her and their children," according to a court declaration supplied by an outside pastor. So there's that case with David and Eileen Gray. We'll get into that more in a minute. But there's another case that she has highlighted that took place at Grace Community Church.

According to an eyewitness, Paul Guay, I think that's how you pronounce it, confessed to you, John MacArthur, that he had sexually abused his own daughter, Wendy Guay. I have published documents supporting this allegation, Julie Roys writes. Including a handwritten letter by you, John MacArthur, to Wendy the daughter, in which you state that you and Paul Guay, "talked at length about the situation," and you urge Wendy to forgive her father and you confirm that Paul Guay will remain a, "faithful part of our staff."

Now this is very plausibly explained in both of these cases that the elders of Grace Community Church in the case of David and Eileen Gray, who did this counseling for them, and John MacArthur,

who purportedly met with Paul Guay who sexually molested, sexually abused his own daughter, they were believing in good faith, expressions of repentance by these men, and they wanted them to pursue reconciliation with their families instead of divorce and separation.

And then, when these men turned back into sin, purportedly, the elders of the church and John MacArthur get blamed for it. Now to close out this open letter to John MacArthur that Julie Roy's wrote, she said, "Besides how you treated Eileen Gray, and Wendy Guay, you have told Beth Moore to, "Go home. Such condescending behavior toward another person is never justified, regardless of theological differences. You embellished the story about your involvement with black leaders when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. There are key differences between the story you've repeatedly told and the story told by eyewitnesses.

This isn't misremembering. It's misrepresenting." Do you see how she did that there? She accuses John MacArthur of misrepresenting what happened. In other words, she believes the eyewitnesses over John MacArthur's firsthand account. Why should these purported eyewitnesses be believed? What are their motivations for disputing John MacArthur's account? And then she closes the article by saying this. "I do not presume to know the condition of your soul, (as if John MacArthur is not a believer) but I do know that you have grievously wronged people I have grown to care for deeply. And I pray for your sake and for the sake of the many wounded souls I have interviewed, that you change course and make things right."

One has to wonder whether Julie Roys has ever considered the thousands of people, perhaps hundreds of thousands of people, millions of people, around the world and within Grace Community Church that John MacArthur has pastored for 54 years, who have been so greatly benefited, both having come to saving faith, and grown in their faith through his faithful preaching of the Word.

Apparently not, because this is who Julie Roys is, and this is her mission that she wrote against John MacArthur on Twitter. Listen to this carefully. This is how the evangelical celebrity machine works.

Folks like John MacArthur are, quote, "too big to fail." "He remains on Moody Radio Network and Salem Radio Network. Getty Music platformed John MacArthur at their sing conference last year, despite calls not to do so, as they did with Ravi Zacharias. People will say they didn't know, but many did.

What is she saying? She's saying that her accusations are correct and should be believed and acted upon, and that Moody Radio and Salem Radio Network should not be airing John MacArthur's radio program called Grace to You. In other words, John MacArthur should be canceled because of what Julie Roys has reported about Grace Community Church and John MacArthur. The clear goal here, don't miss it, is for John MacArthur to be taken down, to pressure and shame radio networks that air Grace to You, to pull them off. Now to all of these accusations by Julie Roys, which have been going on for years, but really intensified in February and March of 2022, before Grace Community Churches

Shepherd's Conference last year, the Shepherd's Conference is going on right about now this year, it is really intensified.

And Grace Community Church has had a consistent response, which is basically no response. Here's what they've written on their own website. They said, the following is a statement from the Grace Church elders regarding recent headlines about past counseling cases. "Grace Church's elders do not publicly discuss details arising from counseling and discipline cases, especially on social media. Nor do we litigate disputes about such matters in online forums. Grace Church deals with accusations personally and privately in accordance with biblical principles. We do not respond to attacks, lies, misrepresentations, and anonymous accusations. Our church's history and congregation are the testimony. Myriads of Grace Church members who have sought counsel at our church will testify that the counsel they receive is biblical, charitable, supportive, and liberating."

And I will say, this is the correct response. It would be totally wrong for the church to make public details of internal church counseling situations. I mean, how would you like it if you had been to counseling at church and those details were made public? Now, if laws were broken, there is a criminal justice system for that.

But the fact is, the elders in the David and Eileen Gray counseling case in the early 2000s, 20 years ago, were questioned by justice authorities and not charged for any wrongdoing. That's significant.

Now I counted over 50 articles on Julie Roys' website that were about and mostly against John MacArthur. In fact, she says on her own website, Title expose's on John MacArthur dominate our top 10 stories of 2022. This year, the Roys Report exposed one of evangelicalism's top figures, John MacArthur, a man hailed by his own institutions as, "The world's premier expository preacher and the dominant voice of the 21st century." "Yet, as we reported in exclusive expose's, MacArthur repeatedly shamed or ignored victims of abuse, while protecting their abusers." Five out of their top 10 stories in 2022, most read stories, were about slandering John MacArthur.

One more paragraph from this piece. Again, it shows her goal. "Though many of MacArthur's defenders have sought to discredit our articles, the facts backed by firsthand accounts and primary documents have withstood scrutiny. Even so, MacArthur continues to enjoy widespread acceptance within evangelicalism, speaking at conferences and broadcasting on major Christian radio networks, but some are confronting the Christian community for refusing to hold one of their prized pastors to account. And as this issue of sexual abuse and cover up in the church continues to dominate headlines, perhaps this will change in 2023."

Just make no mistake, she's very clear about her intention. She's expecting the broader Christian community, by virtue of her articles, to turn against John MacArthur and to get him cancelled. This is who Julie Roys is and this is what she's out to do.

Now, this case, this particular counseling case that has been prominent on her website and online, the one I've been talking about is titled, Exclusive, on her website. John MacArthur shamed, excommunicated mother for refusing to take back child abuser who was her ex husband, by Julie Roys.

This is again from March 8, 2022. This is when the intensity just went white hot on her website in spreading this out across the internet. A blogger named, David Merrill, he wrote a timeline with a completely different perspective on it than Julie Roys does. I just want to read a timeline so you can understand some of the details of this case.

David and Eileen Gray were married in 1982. They adopted three children in the mid 1990s. David Gray taught in children's ministry at Grace Community Church and was part of the music department. In the summer of 2001, Eileen, the wife, sought and got a restraining order against her husband for allegations that he had been over punishing, extremely punishing of their children. Then they entered counseling at Grace Community Church with one of their elders named Carrie Hardy and also a second elder. This occurred in the summer, early fall of 2001. Again, over 20 years ago. The next year, April 2002, after counseling, the elders took the position that Eileen should reconcile with her husband.

David Gray had admitted over punishing his kids. The elders believed that David Gray had repented of this, and they wanted this husband and wife, this family to be reconciled. By August of 2002, Eileen refused to reconcile and the church concluded that Eileen, because of the process of church discipline, they had gone through with her per Matthew 18, they perceived her as not wanting to reconcile, so this is when they disfellowshipped her from the church body. MacArthur did this on the night of a communion night. This is something they do at Grace Community Church, they actually exercise church discipline there for professing believers who are persisting in sin.

From August 2002 now to September 2002, the Family Court, this has now gone into a civil court, granted Eileen sole custody of her three children, and a legal separation from David Gray, and she moved north from the church with the kids to be closer to family. Her husband was still granted monitored visitation, as Eileen still wanted the kids to see their father.

Fast forward a few months now, September 2002 to February through May 2003. The children begin to demonstrate negative reactions to, David, their father, during visitation. This is again according to the timeline that a blogger named David Merrill has written, and the children reportedly begin describing to Eileen, the mother, instances of David sexually abusing them.

I'm not sure how that would take place if these were monitored visits, but this is what it says. Eileen reports thinking the children were mistaken at first, but upon believing them, she ceases David's visitations. Later in the year in 2003, same year, Eileen reports the children's accusations to the police. Again, not right away, but later in 2003. That's interesting. There is no evidence that this was

reported to anyone when the actual allegations of sexual molestation happened. By February 2004, early the next year by this time again, Eileen Gray is gone from the church, the church discipline is over, and detectives arrest David Gray on suspicion of 10 felonies including sexual abuse charges.

By the next year of June 2005, one year later, now several years after counseling at Grace Church, David Gray, the husband, is convicted on six out of 10 counts and sentenced to multiple prison terms, resulting in his incarceration for 21 years to life in prison. Gray, the husband, had pleaded not guilty, insisting that Eileen had been more interested in building a case against him rather than reconciling. Now fast forward 17 years after 2005, David Gray is still in prison, and in March 2022 he was denied parole for another 10 years, with the parole board reportedly describing Gray as, "A sadistic predator, who weaponized religion." He finishes his column by saying Julie Roys celebrates the decision.

If true, if David Gray sexually molested his children and over punished, this is truly a horrible situation for the children, and Eileen Gray. But of course, we don't know if it's true. David Gray has denied it, his children have accused him of it, and he's now serving time in jail. It may very well be true, we just don't know. Now, I have no inside knowledge of this case. I've just read things online that anyone could read, but here's what I think is plausible in this situation, at least with regard to what transpired with the counseling situation at Grace Community Church.

1. The two elders that were counseling them, they were qualified for eldership through the very strict process that Grace Community Church holds per New Testament qualifications to be an elder. Their goal in the counseling is to reconcile a marriage and a family. That's their goal. Not to see it head towards a breach of separation and divorce.
2. David Gray admitted his sin of over punishing his children.
3. There was no admission and no known evidence of any sexual abuse or sexual molestation at this time.
4. The elders who counseled them believe that David had repented and wants to change. But of course, the elders could be easily misled by David Gray.
5. They want Eileen to remove the restraining order and reconcile because they believe that David has made changes and they want to get them back together. That's always their goal.
6. Of course, she refuses.
7. The process of church discipline happens for her refusing to reconcile with him.
8. It finally percolates up to John MacArthur, and as pastor he is the one who dis-fellowships or excommunicates her from the church under the last step of church discipline.
9. Then more than a year after this, David Gray is accused of sexual molestation of children during visits, supposedly monitored visits. Apparently, we're told, there's no physical evidence or witnesses of this, but he is criminally charged and prosecuted for this.
10. Both elders in the case from Grace Community Church were questioned by police. And this is important, were exonerated. It was found that they had done nothing wrong.
11. And now David Gray, as I read earlier, is in prison.

So the leap here, that Julie Roys wants everyone to believe, is to say that these elders, and then John MacArthur, knowingly sheltered or protected a child abuser, and intentionally shamed his wife just out of patriarchal spite or something, is not supported by at least anything that I've read with this case.

We don't know all the details of this case. I just gave you a lot of them right there. And Julie Roys doesn't know all the details of this case, no one knows what really happened except God in heaven. The elders, it seems, appears to me, dealt with this the best way they could. They're not omniscient, omnipresent. They're not clairvoyant about everything that is going on within the privacy of someone's home, and certainly about what someone might do sinfully in the future. Even for sake of discussion, let's just say these two elders mis-judged this case, just one of the hundreds of counseling cases that the church addresses, probably on a yearly basis. Is a secular counselor, ever deceived by a couple? Does a doctor ever miss diagnose a patient? Does a jury ever wrongly convict a person? Have you listening today, have you ever believed a lie that someone has told you? And the answer to all those questions is of course, it takes place and it could have taken place in this counseling situation at Grace Community Church.

David Gray may have deceived these elders about his repentance and been wrong all along. I don't know, that but that's certainly plausible. So you can believe whatever side you want. You can believe Julie Roys and the predetermined conclusions she wants you to arrive at. You can believe Grace Community Church and John MacArthur. What are some principles to use in discerning who to believe with these kinds of accusations: Stay tuned. That's coming up next, right here on The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton.

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### **Featured Resource: REVIVAL: The Work of God 41:11**

You pray for revival as if it must come, but you go on working as if it will not come. We must carry on witnessing for Christ, living a holy life, seeking to know Christ better, following his ways following his

path, making unity and peace among God's people wherever we can, supporting the preaching of the Word by our prayers and our encouragement, and being quite frankly, godly Christians.

That was from the film, *Revival: The Work of God*, which surveys some of the great revivals of the past 500 years. This two hour, two disc DVD documentary is our new featured resource. Normal retail is \$40 plus shipping, and for a limited time, you can order the film for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Go to [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

**Host: David Wheaton 42:18**

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, [The ChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry.

Our topic today is how Julie Roys' attempted takedown of John MacArthur, is a battle in a larger war. Before the break, we were discussing how to evaluate who to believe in these kinds of situations when accusations are being made. The first thing to consider is whose reputation and whose biblical fidelity is worthy of your trust? Is it John MacArthur who has been a pastor of Grace Community Church for 54 years? The church has over 5000 or more members. These people in church see him and his family every single week through the ups and downs of life. They interact with him and the elders of the church. Grace Community Church sends missionaries out all around the world. The master of seminaries trains scores of pastors who are sent all over the world. The Masters University, all associated with the church in some way, educate students to go out into ministry and the marketplace.

John MacArthur, there's no way he is able to hide some disqualifying sin that's going on in his life and manage cover ups in the fishbowl that he lives in within his church for the last 54 years. Surely more than one elder would have stood up or many members would rise up within the church to protest what has been taking place.

There would have been a church split if this were so bad. And this, such a commonality that took place at Grace Community Church, or even the legal system would have stepped in to determine that there have been criminal actions and cover ups. That hasn't taken place. And for all these years, there has never been any disqualifying scandal with John MacArthur.

Yet now we're to believe that Julie Roys, in Chicago, not a member of the church, not there, not involved in the inside, knows enough that John MacArthur should be cancelled. With a church and a ministry this large, there are going to be sinners who infiltrate. There are going to be misjudgments made by the elders and yes, John MacArthur, and there are going to be disgruntled people who have an axe to grind when they leave the church.

Every large ministry, every corporation, every organization has this occurring. The definition of slander is to make false and damaging statements about someone. Julie Roys considers herself an investigative journalist. She's out there to investigate what she perceives as abuse, but in reality what she has done is slander a church and a pastor that she's not even a member of. As a Matter of fact, I looked online, I couldn't find what church she is a member of.

Is she a member in good standing of a sound biblical local church? Or is she just another para church discernment blogger under no local church accountability. That would be interesting to find out. So if you asked me who I'm going to give the benefit of the doubt to between John MacArthur and the fruit of his life and ministry, versus Julie Roy's, there's no question in my mind. I'll give the benefit of the doubt that Grace Community Church followed the biblical process and that David Gray, if in fact he did do what he's been alleged to do, turned out to be a bad apple, a deceiver. But I don't even know that for sure.

So we're covering this not because I can get to the bottom of the truth on this, because I can't, only God knows. We're covering this topic, because we think it's important to defend the authority and the autonomy of the local church against outside subversive slanderers like Julie Roys. Julie Roys is slandering, demeaning the good name and reputation of John MacArthur, who's an imperfect man. He would be the first to admit that like all of us, but he's one who has been faithful as any pastor could be. He has strived to preach the Bible accurately, and shepherd the church he has led for 54 years as well as possible in a fallen world.

The larger war here is not about Julie Roys picking out a counseling case, where potentially Grace Community Church had got it wrong. The larger war here, is the subversion of those pastors and churches that hold to the biblical doctrine of complementarianism. What's that? That is that God has prescribed in His Word, complementary roles for men and women. They're of equal value, but that God calls men only to be pastors and elders of a church and leaders in the home. Women have a much different role. It's not a lesser role. It's a different role.

And this is the issue that is under assault within evangelicalism today. In fact, it's been the number one question on got questions.org, about whether women can be pastors and in church leadership. Because of this, doctrine is compromised, as it is being compromised right now. We see the example of Rick Warren's church, he just appointed a husband, wife, co pastor situation, and two female elders, at one of the most prominent churches in the country, it's Southern Baptist Church. If this becomes more and more popular and common, the evangelical church will end up in the social justice pursuing, gospel neglecting graveyard of the mainline Protestant denominations. You compromise on this issue, then you'll start compromising on the homosexual and transgender issue. And then it turns into universalism, that Christ isn't the only way, and the church turns into a liberal, political, social justice organization. So let's go back to the questions from the very beginning of the program.

Number 1) What are the beliefs and the goals of the accuser, Julie Roys?

Now she calls herself a, "conservative evangelical," but I do not believe that's true. She appears to reject God's clear command in Scripture for there to be only male pastors and elders in the church. And then another clear indication of where she stands is who she platforms at her own conference. Those who show sinful partiality, in other words, racism, who view white people with contempt, she skillfully spins this web so the reader gets trapped in her intended biased conclusions. She would have you believe that the qualified elders of Grace Community Church and John MacArthur lack integrity, they intentionally shelter sinfully abusive men and shame women. And I just can't buy that, especially coming from someone with her beliefs and her stated goals to take down John MacArthur, to get him cancelled.

Number 2) What are the beliefs and reputation of the accused?

The Grace Community Church elders and John MacArthur? I think their statement that they're not going to respond to this says a lot. Our churches history and congregation are the testimony. Myriads of Grace Church members, who have sought counsel at our church will testify that the counsel they receive is biblical, charitable, supportive, and liberating.

I have visited Grace Community Church several times, especially during Shepherd's Conference, which is taking place right now. All I've sensed in my interactions are people within this church who love this church, who love each other, and they love their Pastor John MacArthur. Now, of course there are going to be sinful situations that arise within any church. If there was no sin in the church, there would be no one at the church. Please don't consider me a blind loyalist. If actually confirmed evidence of wrongdoing comes up from a plurality of elders, it means more than just a couple, we will correct what we've said.

Number 3) Are conclusions being made that shouldn't be made?

I think the answer to that is yes, because there are many other plausible explanations beyond what Julie Roys would have us believe that John MacArthur and the elders are intentionally protecting abusive men and shaming women.

The men who have been in counseling, who were found out to be sinners later, could have deceived or lied to their counselors or they were sincere, but then just fell back into sin, which made their counselors look bad for trusting them in the first place.

So these conclusions that are being made by Julie Roys are demeaning a faithful preacher of the Word of God. She's really an accuser of the brethren. And I Timothy 5:19 says, *Do not receive an accusation against an elder, except on the basis of two or three witnesses.* And that's written to Timothy as pastor of the church, not for some outsider to craft a tale that fits her narrative. And finally,

Number 4), Should church outsiders hold sway over inside church matters?

Again, going back to I Timothy 5:17, *the elders who rule well, are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.*

*Verse 20. Those who continue in sin rebuke in the presence of all so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.*

Again, this is written to a pastor to treat your elders well, they're qualified to lead, they're qualified to deal with issues within the church. God designed the church to be led by qualified pastors and elders, to deal with all the issues within the church, not some outside blogger, watchdog, or parachurch organizations.

Next week, Pastor Travis Allen of Grace Church in Greeley, Colorado will join us to go beyond the details that we presented today into the biblical framework for a local church, and what the church should be, and how the church should be led from within, and not from without.

Thank you for joining us today on The Christian Worldview. In just a moment there'll be all kinds of information on this nonprofit radio ministry. Let's remember that Jesus Christ and His word are the same yesterday, and today and forever. So until next time, Think biblically, live accordingly, discern accusations and stand firm! The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end.

To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript or find out, "What must I do to be saved?" Go to [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. To make a donation, become a Christian worldview partner, order resources, subscribe to our free newsletter or contact us visit [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), call 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. That's Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Thanks for listening to The Christian Worldview.