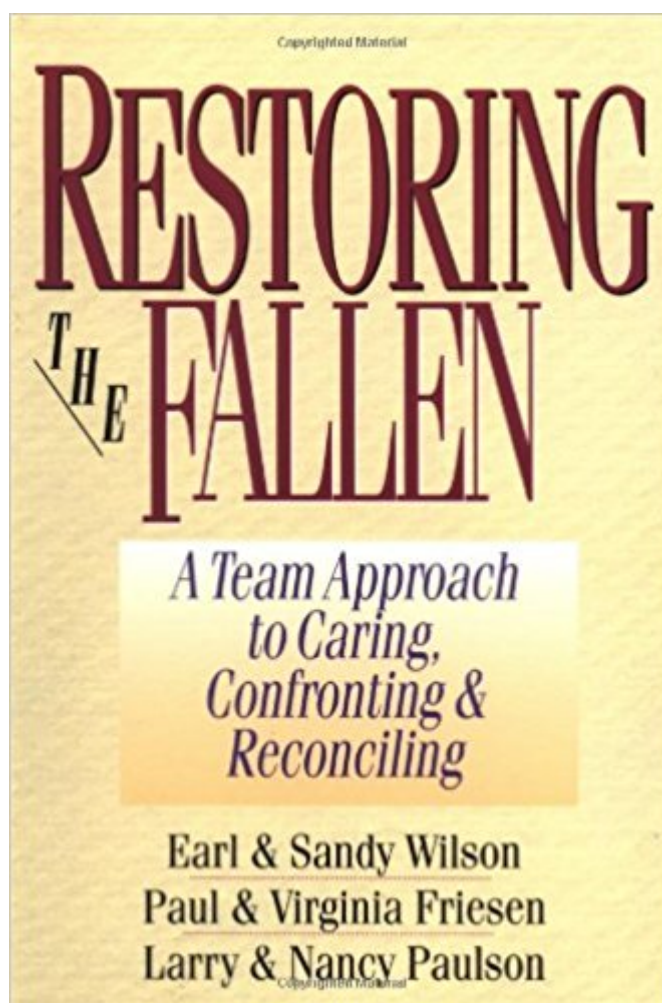


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# Restoring The Fallen: A Team Approach To Caring, Confronting & Reconciling



## Synopsis

When brothers and sisters in Christ fall into sin, how should the church respond? Very often, Christians stumble in their attempt to address this issue. Either they ignore the wrongdoing or they banish the wrongdoer. The authors of this groundbreaking book advocate another way: the spiritual care team. A spiritual care team is a small group of mature Christians who voluntarily commit themselves to support and guide another through the process of repentance and restoration. This community-based and community-oriented approach emphasizes the importance of acknowledging sin, making repentance complete and reestablishing personal spiritual discipline. *Restoring the Fallen* offers practical guidance on how to form a spiritual care team, as well as how to support the spouse and family of the one working through the process of restoration, how professional helpers and the whole church body might contribute to restoration, and how to provide ongoing care after the main work of the spiritual care team is complete. It is an essential book for pastors, counselors and church leaders.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In these pages you will find practical guidance on how to form a spiritual care team, how to support the spouse and family of the person being restored, how to integrate professional helpers and the church into the process, and how to provide ongoing care when the main work of the team is complete.

Wilson, Ph.D., is a psychologist and counselor in private practice. An experienced conference speaker on issues of addiction and restoration, he has also previously taught part-time at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia (Canada). Wilson, M.A., is a counselor, conference speaker and instructor of counseling at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. Friesen (M.A., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) was for nine years director of men's and family ministry at Grace Chapel in Lexington, Massachusetts. Currently he is president and founder of Home Improvement Ministries, an organization devoted to equipping and encouraging local churches, families, couples and individuals to experience hope and joy as they live according to God's relational design. In addition, he is summer director of family ministry for InterVarsity's Campus by the Sea on Catalina Island in Southern California. Friesen speaks at seminars and conferences and also counsels couples and individuals on relational issues. With his wife, Virginia, and two other couples, he is an author of *Restoring the Fallen*. Friesen co-directed family ministry at Grace Chapel in Lexington, Massachusetts (working alongside her husband, Paul). She was also involved there in leadership of "Mom to Mom" ministry. Currently she is vice president of Home Improvement Ministries, an organization devoted to equipping and encouraging local churches, families, couples and individuals to experience hope and joy as they live according to God's relational design. On her own and in collaboration with Paul, she speaks at seminars and conferences and also counsels individuals and couples. With Paul and two other couples, she is an author of *Restoring the Fallen*. Nancy Paulson, R.N., who passed away in January 2007, was an author, teacher and conference speaker. Larry Paulson, J.D., is a lawyer, church leader and brigadier general in the Oregon Air National Guard. Nancy Paulson, R.N., is an author, teacher and conference speaker. Larry Paulson, J.D., is a lawyer, church leader and brigadier general in the Oregon Air National Guard.

*Restoring the Fallen: A Team Approach to Caring, Confronting & Reconciling* This book has been a Marriage Saver for us!! A small Restoration Team was put together to try and restore our damaged marriage ( from infidelity, but works as well, for porn addictions or many other problem areas where accountability and trust need to be established and restored ) and we followed the steps outlined in this marvelous book with 2 other couples and a Minister. Our Pastor and a professional Marriage Counselor guided and oversaw all. Yes, it's painful, hard work, but a real marriage deserves the work and a good honest attempt to work through these hard areas. It is a very tough society we live in for men to maintain their integrity. We women need to understand how men think and react and this book helps so much! I wouldn't try to do it on my own, a group is needed for support and

guidance. From this intense effort, wonderful, intimate friendships have been created, trust and a greater intimacy have been restored in our marriage. It does take time. Have patience and ask our Great Lord for guidance!!

Excellent book! The insight offered in this book is very helpful to those who care to confront and reconcile those who are hurting. The church needs to utilize Spiritual Care Teams, men and women who are willing to help others walk through the hard task of changing character. The main author, Earl Wilson, walks us step by step through his story, interspersed with comments from the others. A must read!

This is a very complete treatment of the subject of helping a leader recover from moral failure. The author gives great insight into his recovery struggles and how his supporters helped him. His 3-couple support team, plus a professional counselor, worked with him for three years. The counseling professional's very valuable contributions are detailed in the book. The other team members were very dedicated and skillful, and provide much insight as to how lay Christians can help in recovery, as well as benefit themselves in the process. In my view, the team went a bit astray in not keeping the responsibility for recovery squarely on the recoverer. I believe this resulted in the recoverer not being fully weaned from dependency on support by the end of the process. Helping a person to recognize and deal with their own denial, excuse-making, lying, selfishness, blaming, and misbeliefs about God and themselves can be done without requiring the person to turn over decision-making responsibility to the team. If moral recovery requires several people investing several hours per month for several years, there is little hope that any but a select few Christian leaders can be recovered. That leaves perhaps 30% of the people in the average church unrecovered. My hope is that as time goes on, recovery discoveries and refinements will make it possible to help all who are in need of recovery. That will happen if many of us decide to stop being bystanders and get involved.

Excellent! I found this book to be full of wisdom in addressing how to deal with fellow Christians who find themselves caught up in a sinful lifestyle, in order to bring them back into right fellowship with God and the body of Christ. It brings to light the application of many scriptures coupled with God's grace, mercy, and love for the fallen believer. Total restoration is achievable when the ministry is based on the Word of God.

When a church member falls, most churches distance themselves from these people. This book provides a loving and grace filled blueprint of how the church should react when a member falls into sin. This approach will ONLY work for those people that WANT to be restored and are willing to submit to the process of restoration. I know from personal experience with several people who went through the process ... or attempted to do so. I have purchased multiple copies of this book and given them to various church leaders so they could understand this philosophy of this blueprint.

This is a very practical book for those supporting a recovering person. I should make clear that it is only for supporting those truly committed to their own recovery. The authors have experience in this area first hand as both recovering addicts & as their support team. As far as I am aware, this is the only book of it's kind. I highly recommend this book for after the initial shock of the addiction is out in the open when those involved are ready to take those next difficult steps toward getting better. My husband & I were able to share this book with our committed support team as a guideline for how best to help us reconcile. Though it was only a part of our recovery plan, this book was invaluable. Almost 4 years later, we are still in active recovery & still meeting with our recovery team on a regular basis. Huge thanks to the Wilsons for sharing their story!

This book will be very helpful for any one planning to be involved in a restoration group for someone who has fallen sexually. It reads like a case study from the perspective of the person being helped, Earl Wilson in this case. Although it has many authors listed, all but two chapters are written by Earl Wilson. The book is not very well written, but the story is compelling and some of the insights are like gold nuggets. The second appendix is an interview with Wilson's counselor, who is not a Christian, and is painful to read, but also insightful. Any church looking to use restoration groups to help those wrapped up in sexual immorality should definitely read this book.

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