

## Appendix: Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Please describe the item in question as fully as you are able:

Title: Why Children Matter

Author(s): Douglas (Doug) Wilson

Format (book, recording, etc.): Book

Call number or location in library: 248.845 WILSON 2018

How was it brought to your attention?

While searching the library catalog

Please state the action you wish taken on this item:

Shelf it elsewhere

Remove from the library       Other (specify):

Why? I believe this book should be removed based on 3 elements: the author, the writing, and the library's selection criteria. Before I discuss the three elements, my request is not religious persecution. I am a member in good standing of the same church as David Ingram and teach Sunday school there. As an introduction to the author element, the American Conservative - a right-wing media outlet - has stated, "Doug Wilson's Pedophile Problem." ... [See attached page.]

Please explain how such an action would improve the library's service to the community:

There are better quality books published by reputable publishers and authored by respected, non-controversial, non-pedophile-enabling Christian Reformed pastors that could be available to the community.

Have you (read, viewed, listened) to the entire work? Yes

If not, then which parts?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ per 9, 2022

(Optional) I am acting as a spokesperson for the following group or association:

Why answer continued:

... Though it is fashionable to accuse opponents or ideas as “pedophile” or “groomer,” Douglas, or Doug as he is known, enabled a convicted pedophile to engage in actual sexual stimulation with his son, an infant at the time. Doug knew the pedophile and knew he had a long history of child molestations, yet Doug testified at the sentencing hearing for limited penalties. After the convicted pedophile was released from prison without any intervening sex offender/pedophile treatment, Doug encouraged a young woman in his congregation to marry this convicted pedophile and have children. The convicted pedophile was convicted again for his subsequent actions in the new marriage with his baby. Further, Doug encourages students at his ministry training program to live in the homes of congregational members. When a 24 year old student was arrested for child abuse and forced sexual contact of a 13 year old girl, Doug blogged publicly, blaming the father and stating that the father was neglecting his daughter because the father described the efforts by Doug’s church 1) to keep him quiet about the sexual abuse and 2) to place him under church discipline for “failing to protect his daughter.” After 4 months in prison, Doug’s church allowed the convicted student to remain in good standing at and to continue to attend church, even though he has since been charged with other sexual assaults, domestic violence, and child abuse. Doug did, however, place the victim under church discipline and withheld communion from her on the condition of her admitting that she was “at fault.” Additionally, in 2022, a leader in his church was arrested for child pornography for child abuse images on his phone depicting the sexual abuse of children under 12 years old. Though the church leader was removed from leadership, Doug categorized the reason for the leader’s removal as, “his porn habit.” These are just 3 of the many situations when Doug has enabled or excused child exploitation. There would seem to be a causal connection between Doug’s actions and his stated idea, “A man penetrates, conquers, colonizes, plants. A woman receives, surrenders, accepts.” The author’s actual actions towards children are appalling and should be disqualifying for having a book, especially about children, in the ImagineIF library.

The second element to why this book should be removed is the writing. It is poorly written. The sentence structure and grammar is below a 5th grade reading level. As such, it should not qualify as adult non-fiction.

Finally, the third element to why this book should be removed is its clear violation of library selection criteria. The Collection Development policy lists a number of criteria. I’ve already discussed the criteria “author’s reputation” and “readability.” I presume that library staff, when this item was requested by a user or selected for purchase, did not know the origin of the publisher. Canon Press was founded by Doug Wilson, was purchased by his son, and is the publisher of over 80% of Doug Wilson’s books. Of the other publishers of Doug Wilson’s books, 4% of his books were published by reputable large publishers (Crossway and Thomas Nelson). It is notable that neither of these publishers published “Why Children Matter.” Although the Collection Development policy allows for a limited number of self-published books to be in the collection in special circumstances, the library should not have a book that is self-published in this manner.