



BOUNDARY CAUTIONS

1. *when a particular parishioner is overly affectionate, admiring, etc.*
(Are you enjoying the pedestal upon which someone has placed you?)
2. *when you are asked for advice on sensitive subjects, especially regarding sexual activity*
(Instead of focusing on your pastoral role, are you enjoying the juiciness of the discussion?)
3. *when you are easily touched by another's tears*
(Are you aroused by powerful feelings of sympathy and wishes to bring comfort?)
4. *when a parishioner continually exhibits fragility or helplessness or highly dramatic "crises"*
(How are you colluding with the drama?)
5. *when a parishioner longs so much for a loving relationship of any kind that he/she makes no demands on you and is constantly there to serve*
(Have you allowed a relationship to become enmeshed?)
6. *when a parishioner has a personality disorder*
(Are you educated on the traits of high-functioning adults suffering from psychological damage?)

AT RISK PERSONALITIES

1. Avoidant Personality Traits

exhibits a diminished ability to experience pleasure but are very sensitive to psychological pain, experiences life as a series of frustrations with few rewards and has "shrinking personal networks"

2. Dependent Personality Traits

fears rejection and disapproval, fails to keep personal and professional issues in perspective; allows others to manipulate his/her time and energy through intermittent praises and withdrawal of approval

3. Narcissistic Personality Traits

focuses on personal ego needs, is often arrogant, socially exploitive, and has a sense of entitlement, may take on belief in personal invincibility

4. Antisocial Personality Traits

has learned early that she/he cannot depend on or trust others, may thrive on revenge and retaliation for those who have wounded or crossed her/him, may appear void of conscience, becoming manipulative and vindictive

5. Passive-Aggressive Personality Traits

vacillates between adaptive and defiant behavior, has not learned to take responsibility and does not deal constructively with anger

6. Compulsive Personality Traits

displays interpersonal respect and social compliance, often in internal conflict fearing punishment if he/she expresses and asserts personal needs and wishes (this fear leads to a certain psychological rigidity and over-control)

Summarized from Raymond T. Brock and Horace C. Luken, Jr.'s "Affair Prevention in the Ministry" in the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, vol. 8, no. 4, pages 44-55.

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