

WHY CHURCHES ARE TARGETS (KEEPING YOUR CONGREGATION SAFE)



SAM RAINER

Every church has a dual calling when it comes to the evils of the world: ensure safety and confront danger.

- Ensure safety (internally): The church must be a place where every person is protected from harm.
- **Confront danger (externally): The church is also called to send people out to preach the gospel in dangerous places.**





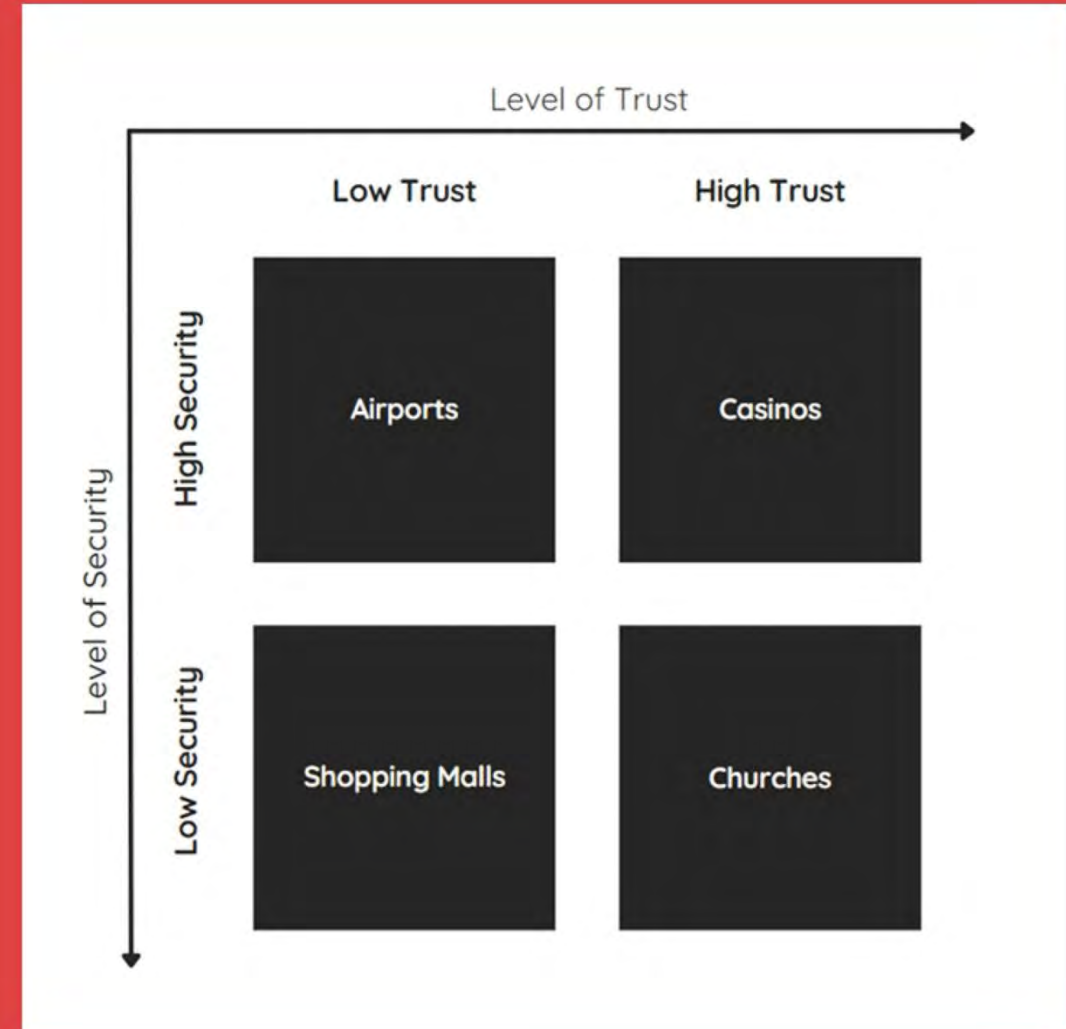
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TYPICAL AREAS OF VULNERABILITY IN A CHURCH:

- Trusting someone when warning signs are present.
- Giving authority to a leader without accountability.
- Systems involving too few people.
- Places without security, guidance, or upkeep.
- **Making exceptions for well-known congregants or leaders.**



TOP TEN BEST PRACTICES FOR CHILD SAFETY:

- ❶ Never be alone with a child who is not your own.
- ❷ Background checks for everyone, every year.
- ❸ Establish a six-month rule for all volunteers.
- ❹ One-on-one conversations with every potential volunteer.
- ❺ **Simple, and nonnegotiable, check-in and check-out procedures.**



TOP TEN BEST PRACTICES FOR CHILD SAFETY:

- ⑥ One-foot-in, one-foot-out bathroom supervision.
- ⑦ Use floaters and management-by-walking-around.
- ⑧ Install safety mechanisms such as cameras and signs.
- ⑨ Put all policies in writing.
- ⑩ **Practice ongoing training.**



THE NEW REALITIES OF CHURCH SAFETY:

- More people coming into the church means more potential for harm.
- People are more aware than in the past. Always report every reasonable suspicion.
- **Media outlets are quick to report church scandals. A coverup only exacerbates the harm of the incident.**



THE NEW REALITIES OF CHURCH SAFETY:

- Since American churches are generally unhealthy, systemic problems exist.
- Church safety is as much a spiritual issue as a practical one. Satan is looking for easy targets.
- **Internal threats are more common than external threats (predators vs. wolves).**

