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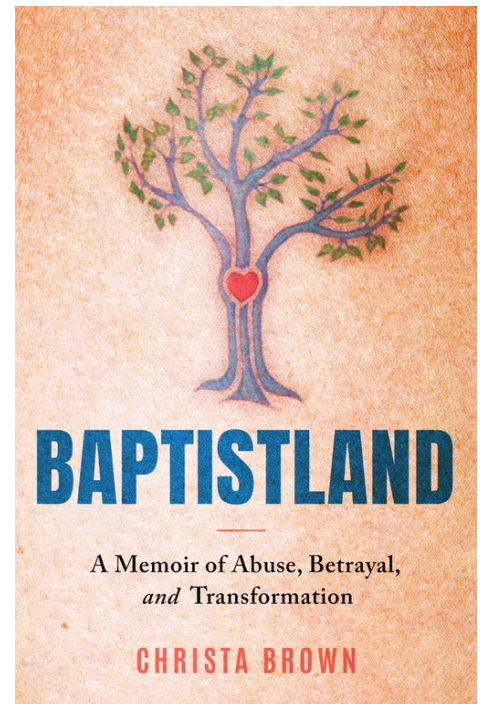
"Christa Brown is renowned as a fierce and resilient advocate, someone who has demanded truth and justice from one of the most influential church bodies in the United States...There is vulnerability and courage in these pages."

—Sarah Stankorb, author of *Disobedient Women*

It began with just wanting to tell the truth. But truth-telling has a way of snowballing. When Christa Brown first spoke out about the sexual abuse she endured in her Texas childhood church, she never imagined it would expose the ethical chasm at the core of the Southern Baptist Convention: male religious leaders so focused on institutional protection that they sacrifice the safety of children.

A book about speaking out and speaking up, *Baptistland* weaves together Christa's revealing story of hope amid Southern patriarchy and religious fundamentalism. You'll meet the young Christa who endures family dysfunction, the trauma of bodily desecration, and the death blows of a gaslighting church and faith community. Then you'll meet the Christa who finds her voice and rises above the limited expectations of her given culture, taking tiny step after tiny step that led to so much goodness.

Ultimately, Christa Brown transforms into a vivid tree of life, rooted in love, individuality, and beauty. But it was unrelenting honesty, to herself and others, that guided her to this ordinary paradise. *Baptistland* speaks to the power of truth-telling—to ourselves, our relationships, and our institutions.



Baptistland: A Memoir of Abuse, Betrayal, and Transformation

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Talking Points:

- Why is it so difficult to break harmful, long-established patterns in individuals, families, and institutions?
- What consequence should there be for religious leaders when their tactics of concealing abuse and bullying survivors come to light?
- Why does the SBC refuse to maintain a sex abuse database of offenders based on "local church autonomy?"

[Christa Brown](#), named as one of the "top 10 religion newsmakers" of 2022, has persisted for two decades in working to peel back the truth about clergy sex abuse and coverups in the nation's largest Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention. She's the author of [Baptistland: A Memoir of Abuse, Betrayal, and Transformation](#), a retired appellate attorney, a mom, a grandma, and lives with her husband in Colorado.



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