

TEXARKANA, Texas -- A Texarkana pastor's myriad convictions for child sex crimes and multiple life sentences were affirmed by a Texas appellate court last week.

The 6th Court of Appeals in Texarkana issued an opinion Thursday upholding Logan Wesley III's convictions for five counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, nine counts of sexual assault of a child and two counts of indecency with a child by contact.

Wesley, 58, was sentenced in July 2020 to five life sentences plus 220 years at the end of a jury trial before 202nd District Judge John Tidwell in Bowie County. Tidwell ordered the terms to run consecutively.

Wesley was convicted of sexually abusing three women, all in their 30s at trial, who testified they were children when Wesley used his position as pastor of Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ in Texarkana, Arkansas, to molest them and pressure them into keeping quiet.

On appeal, Wesley argued that the instructions given to the jury in the guilt or innocence phase of the trial were so flawed as to warrant a new trial.

"Wesley contends that the trial court's failure to include a specific unanimity instruction requiring the jury to unanimously agree on what specific conduct constituted each specific count caused egregious harm," the opinion states.

The higher court agreed with Wesley that the instructions should have told jurors that they had to agree on which specific instance of abuse constituted which crime but that the error wasn't enough for a new trial.

The opinion notes that Wesley testified at the trial and denied any sexual misconduct, leaving the jury with a "he said, she said" situation and an "all or nothing decision" to make. Either Wesley was telling the truth or he is guilty of the conduct described by the state's witnesses.

"The jury would have acquitted Wesley if they had believed his version of the events," the opinion states.

Wesley is currently being held in the Michael Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Tennessee Colony, Texas.