



**Articles and Sermons :: Someone is Wrong on the Internet**

**Someone is Wrong on the Internet, on: 2012/5/2 8:54**

Boy I gotta tell ya folks, I read this in Table Talk magazine and got really convicted. Especially about this forum.

I pray you all read this and consider what is being said.

Krispy

Someone is Wrong on the Internet  
by R.C. Sproul Jr.

It takes two to tango, and that doesn't even include the band. Our choices, our behaviors, are rarely as discreet as we think they are. Not only do our decisions bleed into our other decisions, they touch on other people's lives, more often than not. No man is an island; neither is any man a peninsula.

First, consider gossip. If gossip is spoken in the woods and no one hears, does it still make a mess? Guarding our tongues is important. But we need to guard our ears as well. Without an audience, gossip dies on the vine. It isn't gossip when I know something you don't. It isn't gossip when you find out what I knew first. It's only gossip when I get to be the one telling you. Ego and pride drive the tongue and open the ear.

The same is true of controversy. In the prototypical schoolyard fight, there is typically the victim, the bully, and the cowards. While we rightly cheer for the victim and hiss at the bully, the cowards, too, deserve our opprobrium. They haven't even the willingness to risk what the bully has, and worse still, they provide the audience he craves.

The Internet has not helped. Cyber-bullies hide behind proxy servers and false names. Victims slowly learn that fighting back only encourages them. And there is no vice principal patrolling the hallways and breaking things up. Then there are the cowards. They create the page views, and some even input their own comments, usually anonymously, yelling, "Fight, fight," while they sit three rows back. They create the audience that is the real raison d'être of the controversy to begin with.

Internet controversy gives us the liberty to play theological video games. That is, it is vicarious, faux drama, exciting enough to keep us tapping away at our keyboards but not so exciting that we lose sleep. We read an attack site (discernment blog, as they like to call themselves), and find that the kingdom is crumbling because Joel Osteen's book is being carried in some LifeWay store somewhere, or because a guy in our camp invited a guy in their camp to speak at a conference. We head over to our favorite guru's blog to get the straight skinny on just what the respectable ones are saying about this issue or that.

In all this reading, all this key-stroking, what we are really stroking is our egos. We think that by keeping up with the controversy we are really fighting the battle. And because of all the Internet play it is getting, we know it is the battle for the ages. We think we are fighting off Suleiman's Muslim assault on Vienna, preserving Western Christianity, when all we are really doing is playing with toy soldiers. Like those who fought in the Saint Crispin's Day battle, we can then go to our beds thinking ourselves fine fellows for having been in the fight. We, in short, aim far and miss far.

There are true, important, eternity-in-the-balance controversies going on all around us. There are fights we are called not merely to egg on from the sidelines but to join. The calculus for the importance of any particular battle, in terms of its lasting impact on the great war between the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent, is simple enough. First, we need to know how large is the teaching ministry of the principals involved in the battle. We need to know how many unique visits this guy's website gets. We need to know how many people recognize his name. The higher those numbers, the less important the battle.

The real battles are these: Will I speak graciously to my children today? Will I have a grateful and cheerful heart about my neighbors, my fellow employees, those with whom I worship? Will I go to war against gossip, not by pointing out the gossip of others but by tending my own garden? Whether some evangelical superstar embraces some mystical prayer form is less important to the kingdom's future than whether I will pray faithfully for that little girl with the brain tumor.

It is true that the world out there matters. There are controversies that count. Martin Luther changed the world, facing bullies like David before Goliath. But when his beloved wife, Katie, trusted in the finished work of Christ alone, that changed eternity.

Not many of us worry about what we will eat or what we will wear. Sadly, that's not because we're so spiritual; rather, it is because we are so prosperous. Having been freed from such worries, do we then focus on pursuing the kingdom of God and His righteousness, or do we instead worry about the future of this theological coalition or the direction of that shared blog? Pursue the kingdom by pursuing His righteousness. And then all these things will be added to you. Stop your fretting. The future does not depend on you. It depends on the One on whom you depend.

There is someone wrong on the Internet. It's probably you. Log off, hug your kids, kiss your wife, and go get some of His rest. The world will not only be there when you get back, it will have been made better.

(From Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul. © Tabletalk magazine. Website: [www.ligonier.org/tabletalk](http://www.ligonier.org/tabletalk). Email: [tabletalk@ligonier.org](mailto:tabletalk@ligonier.org). Toll free: 1-800-435-4343)

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/5/2 9:00**

One of the best articles I have read in a long time. Thank you for posting that.

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet, on: 2012/5/2 9:04**

Tov Maod...which means, it's good...so now schma, which means listen.

join me, clean out that dirty shed, lets turn it into a prayer barn...quickly, time is short.

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2012/5/2 9:05**

This is a timely article for me, Krispy. Thanks.

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/5/2 9:13**

It is just the characteristics of human nature of the 'revelation' of a new thing combined with it. I don't find anything enlightening with it. Take a human nature characteristics and insert it into the next big thing or craze and you essentially have this article.

It is just as traditionalists saying the internet is evil every Christian should shut it off. Well, same was/is said of TV. Human nature gravitates towards that which is thrilling which can lead to neglect of self and family. Nothing new, just another package. It is all vanity in the end so what is the answer? Run out into the woods and hide from humanity so we don't have to be exposed to it, lol.

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/5/2 9:20**

Very good article.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/2 9:22**

Mike... when did you become a mod? Was I not paying attention or something?

Congrats!

Krispy

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet - posted by iceman9, on: 2012/5/2 9:31**

Great article; thanks for posting Krispy.

**Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2012/5/2 9:41**

You see, cutting and pasting can be a good thing.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/2 9:55**

Only when I do it... lol

Krispy

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2012/5/2 10:42**

This was excellent.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/2 11:13**

Thanks for posting this.

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2012/5/2 12:03**

Great article! It reminds me of that little comic that circulated the web a few years ago:

<http://i47.tinypic.com/30ndbuc.png>

I think that many of us have had the experience where we had to take a couple of steps back from sharing on the Internet. After all, if we aren't careful, "proving a point" can become as important to us as our responsibilities to our families.

I know one brother who literally "unplugged" his home from the internet because he had meandered to the point of seeing debates on internet discussion boards as a "ministry." He came to the conclusion that it was nothing more than a "ministry of futility." He said that it had become as much of an idol (perhaps an "idle" idol?) as other things -- like sports -- that he had given up because he had been given over to such things. His solution was to simply "unplug."

Sometimes, it might take a few steps back to collect ourselves and refocus on the Lord instead of the things that we do (or think that we do) for Him.

Thanks for posting this timely reminder!

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/5/2 12:17**

Wake up, Steve! Mike has been a mod for quite a while...mind if I ask where have you been? :-)

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet, on: 2012/5/2 12:27**

Quote:  
-----We head over to our favorite guru's blog to get the straight skinny on just what the respectable ones are saying about this issue or that.

(From Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul. © Tabletalk magazine. Website: [www.ligonier.org/tabletalk](http://www.ligonier.org/tabletalk). Email: [tabletalk@ligonier.org](mailto:tabletalk@ligonier.org). Toll free: 1-800-435-4343)

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Funny to be in the ministry that he's in and say something like that via the internet.

Who do we turn to on the internet? Who's teaching? Which guru?

Heads of ministries with names or titles - that are always contending for their view of "the faith" through radio, snail-mail newsletters, literature, books and internet 'are' seen as gurus that people turn to for answers - rather than The Word alone.

Quote:

-----There are true, important, eternity- in-the-balance controversies going on all around us. There are fights we are called not merely to egg on from the sidelines but to join. The calculus for the importance of any particular battle, in terms of its lasting impact on the great war between the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent, is simple enough. First, we need to know how large is the teaching ministry of the principals involved in the battle. We need to know how many unique visits this guy's website gets. We need to know how many people recognize his name. The higher those numbers, the less important the battle.  
-----

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Amazing how someone can intersperse truths, sandwiched between the questionable, from paragraph to paragraph and make the whole of it sound completely right.

But dare we question that?

{eta}Oops, forgot to leave a smile at the end of this. :)

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/5/2 15:51**

There were a few lines that really struck me from this article and have just been on my heart and mind since I read it.

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"Our choices, our behaviors, are rarely as discreet as we think they are. Not only do our decisions bleed into our other decisions, they touch on other people's lives, more often than not. No man is an island; neither is any man a peninsula."

---

I think this is on my heart so much because of the very real and deep truth in those few words. What we do, say and live really does matter and it does have such a huge impact on others. All the more reason to be in prayer, to guard my thoughts, and tongue to be careful that the actions that I take are not ones filled with self but rather are walked out by HIS direction. JESUS did what the FATHER instructed HIM to be doing. HE is my example so I have to ask myself, is what I am doing what the FATHER would have me be doing...am I following that example? If not what possible excuse could there be for me not too...

God Bless  
maryjane

**Re: , on: 2012/5/2 17:00**

Jesus-is-God... the ministry he is in?? You may wish to educate yourself with the Sprouls and Ligonier before you say things like that. They are a teaching ministry. They teach, that's what they do.

No different in that respect than any of the teachers that are readily available here on SI.

And it was a fantastic article.

Krispy

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet - posted by givensdj, on: 2012/5/2 17:47**

Wow, wonderful article.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/2 20:34**

Hi Krispy. I'm very well aware of Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul and all that they teach. That's why I quoted what I did. It could have been any other 'respectable' man and I would have had those same 2 quotes pop out at me.

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/5/2 23:37**

I find this article troubling, very troubling. And I suppose I will risk my head for saying so.

What troubles me? R.C. Sproul makes excellent points about debating, etc...

But...

What troubles me is his reference to Martin Luther as a great man. True, he seemed to spearhead the Reformation but he was one who was instrumental in the persecuting/killing of the Anabaptists. Is God so partial he will allow unrepentant folks into heaven because they were great theologians? Perhaps God will also allow present day unrepentant abortionists into heaven because they are great men in their community - people who are active in civic affairs, give handsomely to their church... Hey, these guys exist and not live all that far from me (or at least he used to). Do you understand what I am saying?

Does Jesus have anything to say about honoring people who do not teach according to his WORD? Matthew 5:19.

I am troubled and as such, I cannot take this article as seriously as others do on here. Sorry....

Krispy, my reluctance to appreciate this article has nothing to do with you as a person, please understand that.

Now, I will refuse to debate my position. Just remember this article troubles me because there is a lot of good but the questionable spoils the rest for me.

Blessings.

**Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/5/3 0:08**

hi, i feel like r.c. expressed my exact views well. i wish i wernt so dumb.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 0:43**

Quote:  
-----What troubles me is his reference to Martin Luther as a great man. True, he seemed to spearhead the Reformation but he was one who was instrumental in the persecuting/killing of the Anabaptists. Is God so partial he will allow unrepentant folks into heaven because they were great theologians? Perhaps God will also allow present day unrepentant abortionists into heaven because they are great men in their community - people who are active in civic affairs, give handsomely to their church... Hey, these guys exist and not live all that far from me (or at least he used to). Do you understand what I am saying?  
-----

Yup loud and clear, you are planning on kicking Luther out of heaven.

Another angle of the story

[http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/were\\_anabaptists\\_persecuted\\_for%20\\_faith.htm](http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/were_anabaptists_persecuted_for%20_faith.htm)

OJ

**Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2012/5/3 1:09**

Hi sister Ginnyrose,

I would like to add that I appreciated the article regardless of any anecdote about Martin Luther. I appreciated the article because of the essence of what the writer was saying about being given over to controversy via the internet.

I hope this clarifies why I appreciated about this article.

In fact, I don't see a reference to Martin Luther as a "great man" either. The writer simply says that Martin Luther "faced bullies" and "changed the world." I expect that the bullies that he is alluding to were from Rome. And, regardless of Luther's views or actions, I don't know if anyone would argue that the world wasn't changed as a result of what he did.

The Lord bless you, sister!

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 2:11**

This was the rest of the paragraph that I partially quoted that made me uneasy -

Quote:  
-----"We read an attack site (discernment blog, as they like to call themselves), and find that the kingdom is crumbling because Joel Osteen's book is being carried in some LifeWay store somewhere, or because a guy in our camp invited a guy in their camp to speak at a conference."  
-----

I am very leary of those that decry discernment ministries and those that would rather we not talk about those that are teaching the young in Christ hog-wash.

This is coming from a Bible-Answer-man type and anyone who takes upon themselves to be called "teacher" - from Paul's definition - had better be able to protect the sheep from False Gospels and false teachers or they need to get out of their position.

How would the Apostles handle the examples given in this quote?

I also said in my first post that there are truths mingled in or sandwiched between some very strange comments.

If Art Katz or anyone else said these things, I'd back away just as leary as well.

A man that decrys discernment ministries has something to hide - though granted, there are a few of those sites that are a bit over the top - there are many that are keeping His lambs safe and opening their eyes to things they'd never find out about the men or even now women they've followed that are deceiving thousands. GOD Bless them!

This article starts out good and then the quotes from these two paragraphs that I've posted in two posts now, sound totally strange, coming from a big name teacher or 'guru', to coin his phrase.

No man is beyond testing and the example of Paul was to name names of those that were going off - unlike this paragraph quoted above.

There are Reformed Ministers that are going or are emergent and dominionist and I believe that is why this paragraph was added in 'when' it was - after the opening paragraphs that stated truths. That's a manipulative style of persuasion. The beginning truths get you off guard in agreement and then the controversial is thrown into the mix somewhere mingled in the middle or end, after you're already nodding your head in agreement 'against something' that is legitimately wrong. It's a tactic, sorry to say. How to take folks off guard, but through subtlety and to persuade you to lower your standards on protecting His "truth".

The other full paragraph that I quoted was saying in a convoluted way - the more followers these false teachers have, the less you should fight against them and why I put that question mark after it.

No, Paul would have never swallowed this piece. He'd see it for what it's truly saying and leading to.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 8:42**

We truly have a unique gifting here at SI... we can pick apart and debate anything!

Ginny, of course I know that your disagreement isn't with me. That goes without saying. And like it was pointed out, RC Jr did not say Luther was "great"... you added that. He simply used his experience with others as an example.

There are conflicting views on Martin Luther's relationship with anabaptists. Coming from that tradition naturally you have been taught the anabaptists slant on that history. I have read a number of books on Luther and there is compelling evidence that suggests that much of what has been taught about this topic was greatly exaggerated... by the anabaptists, and simply not true.

I don't want this to turn into a debate about Luther... that would totally miss the point of the article and distract from my original intent.

Jesus-Is-God... I simply disagree with your take on this article and your feelings about the Sprouls. By the way, RC Sproul did not write this article. His son, RC Sproul Jr did... it's noted at the bottom.

I suspect your disagreement with reformed theology colors your opinion. And there is nothing wrong with someone being in a teaching ministry. You seem to be looking down your nose on those gifted as teachers by the Holy Spirit. Why is that?

And that's ok... I love you anyway. :-)

The fact is the MESSAGE... THE MESSAGE of the article is true, good and timely! It doesn't matter who wrote it. If Benny Hinn wrote it would be no less true.

Krispy

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet, on: 2012/5/3 8:42**

Let me say first that the intentions of the poster and its contents are all good and should from time to time be brought up since someone is bound to be wrong on the Internet or let's bring it closer to home, here on SI.

R.C. Sproul Jr said:

Quote:  
----- The real battles are these: Will I speak graciously to my children today? Will I have a grateful and cheerful heart about my neighbors, my fellow employees, those with whom I worship? Will I go to war against gossip, not by pointing out the gossip of others but by tending my own garden?  
-----

This is a lot of work, wearily to say the least. We all want to be that gracious Mom or Dad, we all want to be grateful and cheery toward our neighbors and toward those that we work beside etc.. This is a lot of work, work that I am not willing to submit to. Sounds lazy of me doesn't it?

If it's in our heart, it will automatically be in our daily conduct. That is why the Lord said that He would write His law in our heart and CAUSE us to perform His nature. If it's not in our heart, it will be nothing but a cross-less performance on our part trying to be good. Only God is good, therefore if we desire to be good, then it's only befitting that the one who is good place good things in our heart so that goodness proceeds automatically, sometimes even without our knowledge that good is being done.

So what do we do if we realize that we are gossiping? We repent of the thing and renounce it for one thing. And then we pray that God either remove the problem or add something greater of His nature that causes that to wane in comparison and fall away. Resisting becomes easier in the hands of one who has renounced such behaviour, they become hard to resist when there still is an itch to want to do it. That itch needs to be removed. And that work is only brought about through our willingness to cooperate with the Holy Ghost.

The way I see it then, the purpose of Krispy's original post in this thread is to recognize our failings, repent and if we are serious about each conviction (if any) the Holy Ghost will go to work in changing the status quo.



**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 10:37**

Quote:  
-----I suspect your disagreement with reformed theology colors your opinion. And there is nothing wrong with someone being in a teaching ministry. You seem to be looking down your nose on those gifted as teachers by the Holy Spirit. Why is that?

And thats ok... I love you anyway. :-)

The fact is the MESSAGE... THE MESSAGE of the article is true, good and timely! It doesnt matter who wrote it. If Benny Hinn wrote it would be no less true.  
-----

You'd have to ask my Pastor that, Krispy. :)

I don't look "down my nose at gifted teachers" and sat under enough of them and look to them to PROTECT the Church.

Can you tell me what is wrong with a "Teacher" saying the following .... "This is what the Bible says is the Gospel and here are the verses to prove it out. --- And this is what Joel Olsteen or Rich Warren teaches. ---- And this is the discrepancy between what Olsteen teaches and The Word teaches. --- And this is the discrepancy between what Warren is teaching and what The Word says."

According to Sproul's article - this part of being a "teacher" is Wrong.

Where a "teacher" is not like the Apostles - most especially like Paul in defending the sheep against heresies, to that degree they are not "teaching" Biblically.

The Apostles were Apologists first and foremost - Protecting the Church from every form of error and heresy that tried to creep into the churches. And if we've ever needed teachers like That - it's Now and in the deceptive future. We need the same type of protective-shepherds desperately with what Jesus said is still yet to come. Deception like has never been seen in the history of the world.

Those are the teachers that I am praying will increase in these last days. Even if women have to protect sheep from the deceivers that are coming - so be it - GOD is allowing it on one or two "discernment ministries" - such as one such ministry by that name.

I cringe when "teachers" are not jealous For Truth.

This is not a Cal/Arm debate with me, Krispy - but if you call accepting the Olsteen and Warren gospels a "good and timely message" - well - I love you too Krispy, but I'm disappointed.

Ann

**Re: Someone is Wrong on the Internet, on: 2012/5/3 10:46**

For those of you who appear to like this article, I would like to know what you are going to do about it other than just agreeing with it?

**Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/3 11:13**

This reminds me of a pastor friend of mine who told me of a lady who was so hung up on things like Easter being a pagan holiday and that she went so far as to put a disclaimer at the bottom of the bulletin saying that she may not necessarily agree with all that was published in the bulletin. I mean it can be ridiculous because every day that you do something in particular for the Lord may be somebody else's pagan holiday and I don't really care because I am going to take every day and honor the Lord in it.

Take this article for instance I'm not going to try and dissect it and think of all the background shenanigans because the essence of the message was good and had a good point.

Ann and ginny, bless you dear sisters, the parts where you seem to have so much trouble with, maybe you missed the real point of what he was trying to convey. Sometimes people use things as examples, but that does not mean they approve



ove of everything about them.

BlessingsÂ...from brother rbanks

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 11:15**

Martin Luther was not a true Protestant, at least not the ones that came after him.

He was a Roman Catholic adherent who disagreed with a lot of issues within the Church. He wanted to bring it back to it's senses as it were.

The Reformists that rose up during that time spoke against the Roman Catholic church to which he never gave favour to doing, he was against it's corruption.

From reading his history he reminds me of David while being chased by Saul. He saw that Saul was God's anointed and refused to believe otherwise.

But Brother Luther was caught between two worlds, he discovered justification by faith once again and introduced that into the world which seemed to have lost such information, to which is why they called it the Dark Ages I suppose. He didn't want to destroy Saul rather to see Him come to his senses.

Let me say this with all certainty, Brother Martin Luther is now in heaven and as soon as our last breath is taken, we shall see him there.

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 12:10**

Brother rbanks, I'm too old to have to spit out bones, just to get a few good points, when the Bible goes down so smoothly, in and of itself.

I quoted two whole paragraphs that were negligent things for a undershepherd of His Sheep to say.

Don't ask me to compromise the young in Christ to teachers that expect you to follow them as they ignore the preachers of false gospels.

The teachers I've sat under for over 3 decades would not let any of us be deceived by false prophets or false teachers. They LOVED the sheep more than themselves and suffered persecution for being that protective of us. They took Paul's words seriously about protecting the lambs. Didn't go for this "unity at all costs, at the expense of a sound gospel". Deception is running rampant and the majority are being deceived by these that Sproul doesn't want us to talk about.

What a lax mind-set has crept in since the early 70's. This mind-set is unrecognizable compared to the teachings and diligence to sound doctrine that the Apostles kept, to the Death.

I want no part of this slipshod mind-set and it does Not compare to your lady with the Easter Bulletin. Bad comparison to the Gospel being compromised.

I get no "blessings" from non-protective of the true Gospel 'shepherds'. Calling discernment of true teachers from false is not "gossip".

It takes more 'Love' for Him to defend His Truth than to compromise His Gospel for some sweet sounding words.

Yes, I'm from the old school and will not compromise His Gospel to appear to be a 'nice' person to those that think I'm not. He died for this Gospel that this man is asking us to Not Protect.

**Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/5/3 12:32**

I get it sister Ann!

That's why I eat flounder at my brother in Christ restaurant because he fillets them and gets all the bones out and sister they are excellent. I hate spitting out bones but my dad now he eats spots and trout and just tears them things up while pulling bones out like crazy from his mouth never missing a stroke and I don't know how he does it. He is 75 years old and he just amazes me sometimes at what he is still doing in getting up sometimes 6 days a week at 3:30 in the morning working at the turkey plant. He loves the Lord and he gets out of working on Sunday most of the time and drives almost an hour and a half every other week for him and mom to come and join me in a local church service.

Blessings to you...from brother rbanks

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 12:56**

Quote:  
-----Can you tell me what is wrong with a "Teacher" saying the following .... "This is what the Bible says is the Gospel and here are the verses to prove it out. --- And this is what Joel Olsteen or Rich Warren teaches. ---- And this is the discrepancy between what Olsteen teaches and The Word teaches. --- And this is the discrepancy between what Warren is teaching and what The Word says."  
-----

I don't think that is what RC Jr was saying, Ann. I think a football analogy is in order here... in football the runningback breaks loose and begins to charge down field with the ball tucked under his arm. A linebacker for the opposing defense charges after the runningback... and lays the wood to him. He tackles the guy, and the ref blows the whistle and the play is dead. It's over.

...but 2 seconds later another linebacker jumps onto the runningback and linebacker already on the ground. Then the safety jumps on the pile... and then the defensive end...etc... until there are 11 defenders laying on top of the runningback.

In football it's called "piling on". Flags fly all over the field and the defense is penalized.

RC Jr is not saying we should not compare these guys teachings and give warning. He is saying we should avoid piling on... and getting our kicks from watching big name preachers crumble and fall and then get beat up by our favorite discernment ministry or blogger.

Krispy

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 13:00**

Amen and Amen brother rbanks. I like the way you responded: very fresh, real and alive.

I saved this post on "Someone is Wrong on the Internet" for future readings...

I am reminded of Jackie Pullinger's words about how she reached the unreached peoples of the Walled City in Hong Kong: "So I learned that it was important not to say the words that nobody could understand. Why would anyone understand the words 'Jesus loves you.' I mean, if they do not know who Jesus is and nobody has ever loved them... So, I had to be Jesus to them rather than say the words."

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 13:26**

Ah sigh, Krispy. Maybe if you read it a few more times. I'm sorry if some of us are not 'critical' but trained in deciphering what's truly being said and it does take decades to learn how words work, sentence placement, etc..

And besides, I'm still rotfl at your last comment on that elections thread. I can't stop laughing at that one, Friend.

GOD Bless you. Yep, living in Senior Housing is a trip.

Speaking of trips ... I have a practice of posting then walking away from the computer to do whatever is needed and talking to The LORD at the same time - THANK GOD HE's There to Talk to! --- Glory to GOD ... and just a minute ago, while off and doing that - I got an analogy as a mind picture of the hippie days and how it reminds me of this last few yrs in the church. I saw a glassy eyed hippie, giving the 'peace' sign with his two fingers, saying "Peace and Love" with that same lame smile that all pot smokers get.

Oy Vey - it shook me to the core - no kidding. The church is in danger from a similar spirit -- that's like an opiate state and with a counterfeit "love & peace" devoid of truth - compared to the selfless-sacrificial zeal for His Truth of the Apostles.

Yup, he was talking about Warren being given a podium by what's his name and anyone that doesn't know Warren's global agenda and involvement in that global agenda, needs to think twice about how they excuse these things.

Well, back to my rocking chair and take some Geritol.

Blessings, Friend :)

**Re: , on: 2012/5/3 13:33**

I have to admit... sometimes I do have difficulty understanding what you're saying. Probably has more to do with me than you...

Oh well... moving on. Is that your dentures in that cup over there?? lol

Krispy

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/5/3 14:08**

Saints,

I would like to say firstly after reading through the entire thread I was a little saddened by some of the the speaking against each other and so much questioning of the motives of the author of the post or the message. I believe only 1-2 brothers caught on to comment that everyone is missing the point of the thread which was to question our own communications on the internet and if we had sin in our lives. I believe R.C. Sproul Jr's comments are not just good they are needful and they hit quite close to home in my own heart.

In many ways this thread typifies the article he wrote and shows the dangerous on open forums where anyone can have a public audience with their opinions. My desire and prayer to God is that the SermonIndex forums could be a place of such love, grace, mercy, preferring others before ourselves that there would be a testimony of Christ in every post and thread.

Such posting much be thoughtful, prayerful and full of Christ's love. May God truly speak to each of our hearts. I have personally repented of many years of just slandering and speaking evil against ministries and names of which I never got to even meet those involved. We can demonize an entire ministry or minister for just one facet of belief they have for a season in their life.

May God give us a true eternal perspective on our contributions here on the site.

Also I recommend for the review of the saints here is the New 'SermonIndex Community Guiding Principles': [https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=44557&forum=35&14](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=44557&forum=35&14)

we are going to lock the thread on this subject and we ask everyone to re-read the original post and ask the Lord is there anything in this article I can work into my life by the grace of God?

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Someone is Wrong on the Internet  
by R.C. Sproul Jr.

It takes two to tango, and that doesn't even include the band. Our choices, our behaviors, are rarely as discreet as we think they are. Not only do our decisions bleed into our other decisions, they touch on other people's lives, more often than

han not. No man is an island; neither is any man a peninsula.

First, consider gossip. If gossip is spoken in the woods and no one hears, does it still make a mess? Guarding our tongues is important. But we need to guard our ears as well. Without an audience, gossip dies on the vine. It isn't gossip when I know something you don't. It isn't gossip when you find out what I knew first. It's only gossip when I get to be the one telling you. Ego and pride drive the tongue and open the ear.

The same is true of controversy. In the prototypical schoolyard fight, there is typically the victim, the bully, and the cowards. While we rightly cheer for the victim and hiss at the bully, the cowards, too, deserve our opprobrium. They haven't even the willingness to risk what the bully has, and worse still, they provide the audience he craves.

The Internet has not helped. Cyber-bullies hide behind proxy servers and false names. Victims slowly learn that fighting back only encourages them. And there is no vice principal patrolling the hallways and breaking things up. Then there are the cowards. They create the page views, and some even input their own comments, usually anonymously, yelling, "Fight, fight," while they sit three rows back. They create the audience that is the real *raison d'être* of the controversy to begin with.

Internet controversy gives us the liberty to play theological video games. That is, it is vicarious, faux drama, exciting enough to keep us tapping away at our keyboards but not so exciting that we lose sleep. We read an attack site (discernment blog, as they like to call themselves), and find that the kingdom is crumbling because Joel Osteen's book is being carried in some LifeWay store somewhere, or because a guy in our camp invited a guy in their camp to speak at a conference. We head over to our favorite guru's blog to get the straight skinny on just what the respectable ones are saying about this issue or that.

In all this reading, all this key-stroking, what we are really stroking is our egos. We think that by keeping up with the controversy we are really fighting the battle. And because of all the Internet play it is getting, we know it is the battle for the ages. We think we are fighting off Suleiman's Muslim assault on Vienna, preserving Western Christianity, when all we are really doing is playing with toy soldiers. Like those who fought in the Saint Crispin's Day battle, we can then go to our beds thinking ourselves fine fellows for having been in the fight. We, in short, aim far and miss far.

There are true, important, eternity-in-the-balance controversies going on all around us. There are fights we are called not merely to egg on from the sidelines but to join. The calculus for the importance of any particular battle, in terms of its lasting impact on the great war between the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent, is simple enough. First, we need to know how large is the teaching ministry of the principals involved in the battle. We need to know how many unique visits this guy's website gets. We need to know how many people recognize his name. The higher those numbers, the less important the battle.

The real battles are these: Will I speak graciously to my children today? Will I have a grateful and cheerful heart about my neighbors, my fellow employees, those with whom I worship? Will I go to war against gossip, not by pointing out the gossip of others but by tending my own garden? Whether some evangelical superstar embraces some mystical prayer form is less important to the kingdom's future than whether I will pray faithfully for that little girl with the brain tumor.

It is true that the world out there matters. There are controversies that count. Martin Luther changed the world, facing bullies like David before Goliath. But when his beloved wife, Katie, trusted in the finished work of Christ alone, that changed eternity.

Not many of us worry about what we will eat or what we will wear. Sadly, that's not because we're so spiritual; rather, it is because we are so prosperous. Having been freed from such worries, do we then focus on pursuing the kingdom of God and His righteousness, or do we instead worry about the future of this theological coalition or the direction of that shared blog? Pursue the kingdom by pursuing His righteousness. And then all these things will be added to you. Stop your fretting. The future does not depend on you. It depends on the One on whom you depend.

There is someone wrong on the Internet. It's probably you. Log off, hug your kids, kiss your wife, and go get some of His rest. The world will not only be there when you get back, it will have been made better.

(From Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul. © Tabletalk magazine. Website: [www.ligonier.org/tabletalk](http://www.ligonier.org/tabletalk). Email: [tabletalk@ligonier.org](mailto:tabletalk@ligonier.org). Toll free: 1-800-435-4343)

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this thread is locked.