

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: My Grief over this forum....time to close?**

**My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by Heydave (), on: 2012/1/13 3:58**

I don't think I am the only one here, but my spirit is deeply grieved (and I believe the Holy Spirit of God is grieved) over what has been posted recently on various topics.

Over the last week or so we have had postings that call those who call sin what it is 'legalists'; we have had a total disregard for what scripture teaches us about the difference between men and women in favor of 'experience' or 'what feels right' and now we have posts that deny the very Word of God!

I am not interested in debating any of these subjects any more with you on this thread, so don't even start.

I can accept there are legitimate points that can be discussed around each of these topics, but this is not what I read. What I read is an undermining of the very foundations of our faith. The enemy is at work and where are those who are supposed to be 'moderating' this site??

This website has been a blessing to many (including me) over the years, but maybe it is time to close down at least this forum? It is not glorifying to God and does not 'promote' Christ-centred revival.

May God have mercy on all these attacks on His word (yes HIS word) and grant repentance, without which there is no hope of any revival in the USA or Europe if this is the standard of the Christian church here.

I'm not sure I will continue to participate on this site, it is just too grievous to me!

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/1/13 6:59**

Dear brother, I appreciate your concern. Surely these forums have always experienced challenges over the years making them difficult to moderate at times. There is only a limited amount of time we can spend policing here. This is why Gregg has asked repeatedly for prayer and asked that everyone follow the community rules. These forums are not the place to bring an agenda and many posters have been counseled with and unfortunately some have been banned in times past. Sadly, some reregister under a different name and try to post their agenda again when afforded opportunity. They get caught and are banned again, etc.

The solution for abuse is not non-use it is right-use. If the enemy attacks something it is because he sees it as a high value target. Prayer, perseverance and diligence are in order. Where sin abounded grace did much more abound. I think the same can be said here. The forums are useful for good. I will post the rules again for those new to the site. God Bless. Robert

Welcome to SermonIndex

You are about to enter a vast resource, a continuing expansion of thought from a variety of past saints, many who have since passed through the trial of death and have been preserved and resurrected here to speak once again to us all. SermonIndex desires to be an expression of the apostolic church found in Scriptures. It is an intra-denominational ministry with 100's of different denominations and ministries involved. Biblical truth and desire for revival is the emphasis which is foundational for the ministry. A general statement of faith can be read below.

**Statement Of Faith**

Being undenominational, we seek to minister to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity (Eph. 6:24), and to love all who love Him (John 15:12; 1 John 4:20-21). By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:35). We hold to the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, as the inspired word of God. We believe in the New Birth, and that Salvation is a free gift of God through Jesus Christ to all who will repent, and believe the Gospel (Mark 1:15; John 3:16). We believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:14; John 3:16; Acts 13:16-41; 1 John 4:1-15). We believe in the deity of God the Father, the deity of Jesus, the Son of God, and the deity of the Holy Spirit. We believe that, while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ

shed His precious Blood on the cross, and died, that we might have life, and have it more abundantly (Rom. 5:8; John 10:10). We believe that Jesus rose again from the dead (1 Thess. 4:14; Luke 24:1-8; Acts 10:34-41; Luke 24:33-46). We believe that Jesus, some days after His resurrection from the dead, ascended to God in heaven (Acts 1:1-10; Eph. 1:15-23). We believe in the personal return of Jesus with power and great glory (Luke 21:27), and that His return is an event for which we should look forward to with great expectation and with constant watchfulness and prayer (Luke 21:34-36; 1 John 3:2-3). We believe that this same Jesus, which was taken up from the apostles into heaven, shall so come in like manner as they saw Him go into heaven (Acts 1:1-11). We believe it is the privilege and duty of every Christian--to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to live a holy life, and to be always ready for the return of Jesus, and that, in the meantime, each Christian should occupy (keep busy in His will, and in His service) till the Lord's return (John 7:37-39; Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:18; Matt. 24:44; Luke 19:13; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Peter 1:13-19).

#### The Forum

Since its inception, the forum here has been many things. A great fellowship, a fellowship of sorts while in its unorthodox form and fashion often resembling both a battleground and a hospital. This can be both edifying as well as divisive. We hope to address a few of the misconceptions and concerns at the outset so that everyone will be on the same level footing as to what is acceptable and that which is not.

#### What it is not

It is not a 'chat room'.

It is not a place to bring an agenda regardless of intentions.

It is not a place for promotion of one's self, website or wares.

It is not 'denominational' while gleaned from many.

It is neither legalistic nor 'anything goes'.

It is not a place for politics, politicians, policy's nor particular support thereof. More on this below.\*

#### What it is

It is first and foremost a privilege.

It is a gathering of saints now throughout the world. And that alone may be the most important factor to keep in mind at all times.

It is a place to share, discuss, listen, think and grow into all things in Jesus Christ.

It is bible based.

It is in aim and undergirding Revival. A Revival of God's thought. Of others and lastly, ourselves.

It is a longing for, praying for, a Revival of the same substance that is expressed through the many resources available here.

It is a seeking after the genuine and Sincere.

It is this foundation and focus while fostering a great freedom of discussion within some practical guidelines.

#### What you can expect

To be challenged unto growth in Christ

To be misunderstood at times.

To misunderstand others.

To be asked questions.

To be in the midst of some very experienced saints, not a handful who have walked with the Lord for many, many years.

To find like hearted Brethren as well as 'likeminded'.

You will likely at some point be offended.

You will be blessed.

You may have your theology turned inside out and upside down.

You may have yourself exposed in ways you never thought possible by your own words and thoughts as well as by those who care for your souls.

To be prayed for.

#### What we expect

Conduct, consideration and charity. As illustrative, picture yourself entering a home for the first time. You are a guest. You are polite. You wipe the mud off your shoes before entering. You make an introduction. You carry yourself with respect to your host.

Hopefully, you get the idea here. We have found that hosting a forum has all kinds of inherent difficulties.

Communicating in this manner with so many different cultures, upbringings, education and lack thereof. To add even more weight is the place anyone of us may be in this walk as disciples of the Lord, we all were spiritual 'babes' in Christ at the inception of a new birth, an important reminder that needs to be reflected on often. We must keep well in mind that expression of spiritual matters is often difficult enough, sometimes even impossible. Let us bear with one another with patience and understanding.

What is not tolerated

Slander. Ill-will. Unnecessary accusations, comments.

The issue is one of order rather than control. We allow as much patience as possible for corrections and apologies. Please make your corrections with a follow up reply, rather than by use of the edit function. There has been a misuse of this in the past where whole sections have been removed from an ongoing thread, making it now disconnected, like removing pages from a book.

\*Politics

We have found it necessary to curtail political discussion here for a variety of reasons. It is primarily out of step with the manner and thrust of Sermon Index in its intention and we have found little good to come from an allowance of things based politically into the discussions.

It is inevitable that with an allowance of items and issues effecting us all by that which is happening in this present world that attributes of a political nature will creep in, this is understood. However, we will keep a very close eye on these things and may ask you to stop midstream or lock a posting if in our discretion we feel that it is out of place in the forum.

Conspiracy and Conspiracy Theory

We believe there is certainly a conspiracy afoot, that which is present since the fall of mankind in their enmity with God. What other websites or ministries may have of a variety of present theory as it relates to what the governments of the world are doing is too much in dispute to be presented here. The New World Order and One Government system is understood in a variety of fashion. What we will not allow is unscrupulous and un-scriptural notions and ideals to foster fear and paranoia to the saints. Our trust and yours should be placed firmly in God, not in the conspiracy of the world, the flesh or the devil. We will monitor these things in our best discretion but do not bring in ministries or other agendas devoted to these mandates.

What you can do to help

Be polite. Don't be rude to others.

Keep foremost in your mind the weight of responsibility you have with what the Lord stated;

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

As well as;

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

The Lord is in our midst here and this whole resource is dependent on the Holy Spirit by those who have both brought all this forth and we hope by those who participate, first as brethren and as guests\members.

Please, pray.

Pray before you post.

Pray as you write in response.  
Pray, and ask the question of the Lord;  
"Should I?"  
Listen, give yourself a minute.  
Pray one last time and pause before you submit.

Try and think of the ramifications of your thoughts and comments. Some things need not to be said. Some things can wait. Some things just as well do need to be addressed, but the manner may add more of a problem than be a help towards correction.

You may find it best to save some things that you have spent a considerable amount of time writing to a file to be brought forth at a different time.

There is a great deal more than could be said. These are all guidelines to make matters beneficial to all. It is a warm welcome we afford to all within these parameters. Make yourself comfortable, but keep your feet off the table. :)

Lastly

Ask questions and do your best to answer questions. Keep well in mind that often times a question is not necessarily pointed, but is truly a question. Just as well, it is especially frowned on to be jostling with each other by way of accusation towards each others intents and motives. Be forthright and honest.

"Play the ball and not the man."

Which translates to the issue being discussed. Keep to this and away from what we may assume someone is thinking. Again, ask a question rather than making an accusation.

A note about personal effrontery and offendedness. We have found since the inception of this site that many any item is misconstrued by accusation and presupposition upon motive and intent. It is far better to assume nothing by way of suspicion nor to accuse without factual information. Better to not accuse at all but in points of biblical doctrine a challenge may be forwarded to our interpretations, do not take it personally and do not make it personal. Control your emotions and keep before you the mandate of humility.

Do keep in mind that the moderators will do their best to discern where and when to intervene and more so that they are your fellow pilgrims and servants, just as fallible as each of us here. "Moderate" your own self and leave the moderating beyond that to those appointed to do so. If you find something that is out of place, that is divisive amongst the brethren, bring it to their attention and they will do their best to address it.

Confession

Yes! We welcome it and desire it. It is not embarrassment to admit when we have faulted or sinned, caused a disturbance, been mean-spirited, proud, but an extreme blessing to the community and before the Lord. No one will be shamed into anything here nor manipulated, but forgiven without equivocation upon repentance. Remember it is not to us that you are owing this when it is warranted but to the Lord first and foremost and then by extension those you have trespassed upon. Admittedly and unfortunately it is a rare thing to hear in these parts and we could but pray for more forthcoming on practical honesty, it builds character and exposes our pride, that most sinister of sins.

Summary

Jesus is Lord.  
'We' do hold to a high view of His Majesty.  
'We' have no particular creed other than that He be exalted above all.

\*\*\*\*\*

Community Rules

1. Ensure that your new topics are in the correct forum.

- If your new topic doesn't fit with the description of the forum you're in, do not post it there.
- Posting new topics in the correct forums helps keep the Community organized and helps to keep topics easier to find.
- Topics posted in the wrong forum (as determined by the Moderator Team) will be moved to the appropriate forum.

2. Post guidelines:

- If you're replying to a post, stay on topic as much as possible.
- If you're posting a new topic, do not post something that has been discussed numerous times. Browse the forums first or use the Search function.
- Do not link to outside media including SERMONS and VIDEOS from other websites, the main reason for the inclusion of this rule is abuse of it in posting audio sermons that have false doctrine or false emphasis.
- Do not flame other users; this includes derogatory comments based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, etc. You will be banned immediately for this offense.

3. Advertising:

- Do not advertise your own site unless it's a personal site that you wish to share or you're trying to help someone find something they're looking for.
- "Spam" (advertising) Illegal/inappropriate content and flooding will be deleted.

4. Do not overuse:

- Emoticons (i.e., :#, :), or :8 )
- Line breaks or CAPITALS
- Nested quotes

5. Language:

- Do not swear.
- Do your best to use proper, easy to understand English. Not everyone's primary language is English, so we must try to make it easy for those who know English as a secondary language.
- Avoid slang, including "phat," "LOL" or "BRB," "i c u," and so on. Slang shouldn't be a part of the Christian's vocabulary; the Bible's written in a very majestic language, but so many nowadays degrade themselves to "Yo, 'sup?" or "homie."

6. Do not harass users on the Community, through Private Messages, or e-mail You can be banned for this.

7. Signatures

- Signatures should be kept brief, easy to read, and unobtrusive. You may only have 1 weblink url in it. If the link is inappropriate moderators may remove this ability from the member. And please keep the signatures short within 4-6 lines of text.

8. Avatars

- Avatars can be chosen from the list of over 100 images, you cannot upload your own.

9. Arguing with the Moderator Team over the enforcement of these rules will get you no where.

- We will not contend nor dispute with the unruly.
- If you're told to change the way you're behaving here, you must comply or leave.
- Repeat offenders will be banned
- We ask you to respect the moderators and the site you are visiting.

10. If you have any problems, contact the Administrator by email: [sermonindex@gmail.com](mailto:sermonindex@gmail.com) or make a post in an appropriate forum asking for help. Someone surely will be glad to help you.

11. Please recognize that we are here to serve you and are fallible, unprofitable servants. Do not mistake patience for

xity, we may appear to allow more than is warranted at times in the prayerful hope that some admonishments might take hold. We would lord over no one by legality or a multiplicity of rules while yet maintaining some control over the many that have come here to find meat in due season. We do have lives apart from this forum and cannot possibly be omnipresent, we ask that you keep Him who is ever present always before your thoughts and mind as you conduct yourself here as guest\members.

About all brother and sisters let us love one another in word and deed. And prefer each other better than ourselves by the Power of Christ.

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by Compton (), on: 2012/1/13 7:13**

Hello Heydave,

I certainly can relate to your grief over recent topics. It sometimes seems that people are more interested in deconstruction than in building up!

Sermon Index attempts to maintain a welcoming posture towards fellow believers from various denominations and cultures around the world. In this context, it might surprise people to know that the moderators aren't here to regulate everyone's doctrine, but to simply keep conversation civil. This posture is not without its trade offs. For instance, on a personal note, although I visit the forum repeatedly throughout any given day, I refrain from participating in most discussions, specifically because of my role as a moderator.

This posture is also not without its risks. Over the years, this forum has seen conservatives and liberals, evangelicals and emergents, spirit filled and atheists engage one another...and often with frustrating, trying results. Yet, in the end, those who are more concerned with provoking and challenging, rather than encouraging and feeding, tend to grow distracted and move on.

And along the way, in spite of the ebb and flow of discouraging conversations that can arise here, there are some really good conversations. And along the way, I've met some truly encouraging saints...many of whom I am truly humbled to be friends with:)

Blessings,

Mike

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/1/13 7:26**

Brother Dave,

SI and the Forum are HUGE in content, this being said I would say why read the threads that you don't like to read? There is plenty of other things to read, I found many of the Devotional Thoughts threads are neglected while the controversial ones you are pointing to seem to get the attention. If you don't appreciate the topic ignore them no one is forcing them upon you. Better yet start up a thread with the Godly topic you desire to discuss.

God Bless,  
Matthew

**Re: - posted by lindi1208 (), on: 2012/1/13 7:40**

Heydave

You are not alone in feeling grieved by some of the threads on SI which have been discouraging rather than edifying. Just wanted to say that there are a few threads on here like the ones on mortification, some on devotional thoughts which have been a blessing. Also the miracles that follow the plow and current events are good threads to follow or read as they allow us to serve one another through prayers.

I agree with Mike that where sin abounds grace abounds much more. We need to pray and ask for wisdom and discernment from above so as to be able to hold fast to what is good.

Those who are led by the spirit will be in agreement with Him and those sheep will not be led astray. They are mature and rooted in their faith they will not be moved by false teachings or heresies.

Just continue to seek the Lord and he will guide you in the right path. To fellowship with other believers is essential for every believer. We are not perfect so where ever you go you will find things that will grieve you but the joy of the Lord will be strength. Trust in Him and ask Him to help use your grief for His Glory through Spirit led intercession for the saints.

love in Christ

Lindi

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by rufnrust (), on: 2012/1/13 11:05**

Hey HeyDave. Be an overcomer and speak life as the Lord gives you grace to shine. It sounds like you have a heart for truth so speak it with life and live in the joy of the Lord!

Russell

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/1/13 11:22**

Quote:  
-----Compton.....I certainly can relate to your grief over recent topics. It sometimes seems that people are more interested in deconstruction then in building up!  
-----

I agree! I posted a thread a month ago or so, "Can We Talk About Jesus" [https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=42109&forum=35&11](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=42109&forum=35&11)

11 folks wanted to say something about Jesus, 372 did not. IMO, a lot of threads here have become agenda based, without God in mind. If you don't believe me just read some of them. I started the thread "Can We Talk About Jesus" just so we might all talk about the person that brought most of us here, 11 responses? go figure!

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/1/13 11:39**

Greetings dave

I wanted to say that if my recent post to two of the threads I believe you are speaking about caused you grief then please forgive me. It was not my intention to grieve any fellow believer. In the one thread that you created I really did think that you were not aware of the legalist thread. So again I hope I did not cause offense. I am truly sorry if I did...

God bless  
mary

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/1/13 12:22

Quote:  
----- grief  
-----

Heydey, I think I can relate. I know the experience of grief in this setting. Yet those times when my grief had flooded over , I have also received tender ministry here. Then I realize that God cares about my burdens. But he is also moving me on: Fellow Slers - even through the exasperating moments, serve as God's grace builders - God's means of strengthening my listening ability, my thinking skills, my patience, and my compassion. From that perspective, good can come out of our discussions - as stressful as it may be at times.

And oh ... if we could share a coffee at Starbucks - we may even find ourselves enjoying each other's company.

Quote:  
----- I refrain from participating in most discussions, specifically because of my role as a moderator.  
-----

I miss your words of wisdom, brother Compton!

Diane

Re: , on: 2012/1/13 12:43

HeyDave wrote ... "Over the last week or so we have had postings that call those who who call sin what it is 'legalists'; we have had a total disregard for what scripture teaches us about the difference between men and women in favor of 'experience' or 'what feels right' and now we have posts that deny the very Word of God!"

Last night I wanted to reply to this thread when I saw you post it. Now I'm glad that I didn't.

I was going to say last night, 'be encouraged' - there are Brothers defending these topics that you've mentioned and there were - but the only thread that was locked was because of one man who is a bit off in his understanding on the OLD TESTAMENT Law - or was it just his way of expressing his understanding - I'm not sure - but the topics that you mention go on and well, it seems they're going to keep in the direction that you specifically pointed out.

When bringing divisions and getting followings and getting cliches going is more important than unity and loving each other - that is the 'heart' of the problem - not merely beliefs. I don't see that to be "In Spirit and in truth".

Has The Holy Spirit indeed 'authored' these threads?, is what I also asked on the first thread that pushed the limits of going beyond anything that's written - but when other threads were opened on the other topic of our very foundation - what the Apostles were Assigned to write after His Resurrection for us - and the 'subtlety' of the wording could blind-side a new believer on these topics and deceive - I believe any good that was written by our Brothers up until yesterday has been drowned out.

Last night I felt encouraged - today is another day.  
Praying with you and the others that you mention in your opening sentence.

I know now why the LORD kept drumming "many shall be offended" into my mind a week ago - Offended "because of The Word."

The Emerging Church is budding or actually flowering.



**Re: - posted by hulsej (), on: 2012/1/13 12:46**

I'm on SI most of the time when I'm online. It's my homepage. Yet I rarely post here anymore. I've been a member of SI almost from its beginning and was a moderator at one point.

I wish the forums reflected the heart of this site and that is the sermon archive. Sometimes I think that the most active posters never listen to the sermons and rarely venture into the sermon download section. It was that area of SI that changed the tenor of my posts. I would hope that the forums on SI were a place where folks discussed what they were listening too from the archive. It's been my wish for some time that the sermons were more predominantly displayed on the home screen and the forum less.

**Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2012/1/13 12:48**

Dear RobertW and Compton,

Thank you for your posts and I appreciate the difficult job you have in trying to moderate. I do thank God for your advice and hope that you do feel free to have more input into these discussions in future as I am sure it is not out of order for you to bring correction when it is needed. SI does have a statement of faith and as such it could be made clear, without being too heavy handed.

To the others, thank you also for your comments. I agree with MrBill that the topics that we should be discussing (e.g. Jesus Christ and Him crucified) do not get much response.

MaryJane, In no way did I think of you or anything you have posted. I appreciate your kind heart and it is obvious from your posts you do walk with the Lord.

**Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2012/1/13 12:56**

Hi Hulsej,

Just seen your post. I agree the sermons here on SI can be life changers!

Maybe somehow it could be possible to have more discussions on these sermons, that's a good suggestion.

Take care.

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 13:14**

Just to add some balance. I have come across many posts that have contained life-changing truths. Some of the latest posts, with a little patience, have been very good.

God continues to speak...in many ways. Through very good, old sermons and the lives of His children, TODAY!

I appreciate all of it. My own opinion is that if you were to make a rule that all discussion should be confined to posted sermons, then many more would leave. The Moderators would not be able to post non-sermon related posts anymore, either.

In Christ,  
Sarah

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/1/13 14:15**

I once talked over the phone to somebody who frequents these forums. Though it's been a few years, and my memory is a little fuzzy, they said something to me to the effect that they hadn't listened to more than 5 or so sermons on Sermon Index in the years they've been involved. Yet, they have frequently posted on these boards over the years, and they have even frequented the revival conferences as well. I even met them at the one and only conference I ever attended.

I have always found such very sad. While I have been a frequent contributor to SI over the years, and am always looking to be a blessing to others, I have always come primarily for the purpose of learning, and growing deeper in my faith. Some of the sermons on this site have truly touched my life in a remarkable way. And some of the contributors on these forums have touched me as much as any sermon I have ever listened to.

I have listened to several hundred messages... if not more. My life has never been the same since I discovered what is one of few Christian websites I actually visit on the web. And while I sometimes go through periods of complete absence, I always find myself being drawn back for more.

I would say that the forms do seem a little bit more rough these days though. And the absurd points of views some people hold to amaze me. But, I've posted on here long enough to know that there are as was said earlier, "ebbs and flows" in content. I hope this site or this forum never close.

And hopefully some of you send brother Greg Gordon a few bucks every now and then to ensure it never does :-)

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close?, on: 2012/1/13 15:00**

"I am not interested in debating any of these subjects any more with you on this thread, so don't even start."

Actually brother it's not just Sermon Index, it's everything.

SI is one of those places that is very much like Church to me. Oh they say in the rules that it's not a Church, regardless of that, the Church still gathers here.

What you need brother is to shut down the computer and put it away for a couple of weeks, it sounds like your battle weary more than anything.

We all get that way. Yes things get said, but that is the way of life while we are in this life. But that doesn't mean we need to put up with it, we can move away from the source of grief and get some rest.

Go get some rest from the Internet and life itself Brother.

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/1/13 15:20**

Quote:

----- Go get some rest from the Internet and life itself Brother.  
-----

And if the Lord is beckoning you into your "closet" — may he revive you with overflowing joy, hope, and love.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3: 16-19

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/1/13 15:33**

A note from somebody who has spent much time, in good and bad ways "battling" with others online, I must say, if you can master self-control and gentleness on here, you can master it in anywhere. And if you can't show it here, it's only a matter of time before you demonstrate what's in your heart in "real life." I still have much more to grow. But if I were 19 years old again, I'm pretty sure I would've been banned from Sermon Index many times over. I would've probably even been one of those creepy people who continually make new handles even though they've been sent into exile many times. God's used places like this to stretch and grow my character over the years.

**Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2012/1/13 15:53**

I do hope that God's will is done in regards to this matter - whether it be shutting the forum down, modifying it, or keeping it the same.

I'll be honest though - I, too, have felt the same way a few times over the past few yrs... But, as I said, whatever the Lord speaks to Greg, I am with that counsel.

These forums do many good things and this though - they show the hearts of many - where they are in their own walk with Christ, if, at all they are walking with Him. It has shown me even many things about my own heart, and I am thankful for that.

Many of the sermons though carry within them a heart for God, and a love for the God of the Word - and that is indeed a beautiful thing.

Heydave, God be with you, working in you what is good and pleasing to Him. May you go from faith to faith, strength to strength, and grace to grace in Him.

May the Lord grant Mr Gordon wisdom and understanding even more in abundance as to these matters. May the Lord fill him with all goodness and blessedness in Christ Jesus for His Name's sake, providing him also with Godly counsel, surrounding him, his wife, and baby with brothers and sisters sold-out to God, blessing them in all spiritual and in all necessary material blessings.

Whatever it takes to build love, faith, and unity in the body - may it be done for the glory of God, and may these coming days be even richer in Christ, that we become even more a blessing to others - a great Light atop a hill, and salt with much savor - may the Lord make it ten-fold, yea 100 fold a vision of fruit of what this website is capable of doing in the hearts of the unconverted, that all comers sign off from this website with a greater passion and love for God, and say also within themselves, "I indeed sensed the Love of God amongst its members today."

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 16:10**

Quote:

-----A note from somebody who has spent much time, in good and bad ways "battling" with others online, I must say, if you can master self-control and gentleness on here, you can master it in anywhere.

That is an astounding statement in this respect.

I would think if you were mastering self-control and gentleness in real life you would have no problem online.

But you say the real test is how we do online.

I am thinking about that...

In Christ,  
Sarah

**Re: - posted by staff, on: 2012/1/13 16:34**

Hi,

I am beginning to think I am not as in tune or sensitive with the Holy Spirit as most people on this forum but I don't see the problem.

To me this forum like the rest of sermonindex has excelled.

Gordon and the moderators are walking on new ground from a Christian point of view and are doing an excellent job. Just because a thread has offended doesn't mean the teaching was wrong or even if he was that it was intentional. There are only a few issues I believe that should stop us fellowshiping together, issues like deity of Christ, Atonement, the Godhead, Grace not works, etc.

This web and forum is a blessing to those who don't attend church regularly or not at all. The sermons alone without the forum are like a body without a mouth, Yours Staff

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2012/1/13 16:34**

Quote:

-----  
I would think if you were mastering self-control and gentleness in real life you would have no problem online.  
-----

You would think. But, in "real life" people tend to have better social graces than they do online, mostly due to peer pressure and the accountability that comes with looking somebody dead in the eyes and saying what you really think. Some people are bold and outspoken online due to harboring repressed feelings in real life. In real life, they have a tendency to go with the flow and conform to the crowd.

In my opinion, it is rare to meet somebody who is exactly the same online as they are in person.

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 16:43**

Then that man's religion is vain.

You should be in Christ online or offline.

In Christ,  
Sarah

**Re: , on: 2012/1/13 17:03**

I think part of the problem can be unforgiveness and bitterness, it mostly comes from the immature. They use comments as weapons to seek justice for themselves. Yet, most of the brothers and sisters on here are people who are not judgmental, who are quick to forgive and think the best of their brothers and sisters. To me, this is one of the keys to living an authentic Christian life, a life without guile. One should be exactly the same on the forum as they are in person, for good or for bad. One of the greatest compliments a pastor or someone in ministry can receive, in my opinion, is for people to say that the guy in the pulpit is the same guy in the home and everywhere.....brother Frank

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/1/13 17:06**

Here's my take on Sarah's thoughts:

Quote:

----- I would think if you were mastering self-control and gentleness in real life you would have no problem online.

But you say the real test is how we do online.  
-----

Sarah, It seems easier to be inhospitable towards fellow Slers than to our friends - and amazingly not sense any guilt pangs. I suspect it is related to the human tendency to "objectify" people - see them less as flesh and blood people than as objects to manipulate (what we do with things). And really, that is all we see: things - typed words on a screen. So our posts talk back and forth with each other and may even engage in an enticing game of cyber war.

Yet we are real flesh and blood people, and the "one-another" exhortations apply here too. I find this particular "assignment" astronomically more difficult to fulfill. We don't have the usual clues - facial expressions, body language, tone of voice.... - never mind other aspects of one's personhood. Meanwhile our minds are going a mile a minute on some delicious topic.

Diane

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/1/13 17:45**

Myself has always found it fascinating that we tend to be drawn to participate in threads and topics that has been debated for 2000 years by much more spiritual men and women than we are, men and women that walked so close to God and they yet to find a satisfying answer to the topics we tend to dwell on...

and yet we have literally thousands of threads that has pure gold in them and zero replies, it is because in us we have a fleshly tendency to participate in that which satisfies the flesh instead of mortifying it, it is much more pleasing to our flesh to partake in a fiery discussion on calvinism vs arminianism, legalism vs grace, the sabbath, eternal security vs holiness doctrines etc.

All these are GOOD and NEEDED topics I encourage all to deeply study, but!

there is something about the human way of interaction, something of pride that draws us in, sucks us right into it, and a post in the devotional section that in heavenly ways describes the love of Christ to us or some other eternal topic too big for us to ever comprehend even a million years into eternity... these topics we skip and do not reply to.

We need to ask ourselves why are we responding to the threads we do? why do we click on the thread names we know has a "provocative" headline? what IN ME makes me drawn to these threads?

instead to the "heavenly" topics....

There are sermons and articles, posted in this website that literally has had me groaning on my face down, made me weep for joy, rejoice in such ways I felt unworthy to even breathe the air God created into my sinful vessel of a body.

yet I tend still to be drawn to that which speaks to my flesh, this mortifying and daily death I need still to fight every day, and yet every day as I come to SI there is an opportunity to either engage my flesh or my spirit.

we all face that choice when we come on sermonindex.

what do you choose and more important? why?

let us judge ourselves, it is "we" that make sermonindex what it is, or what the forum is.

May God bless our every word with eternity's worth whether it be in "real" life or online.

brother christian

**Re: My Grief over this forum....time to close? - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/1/13 17:50**

I will link all to this, the problem and solution lies in the link here [https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=42710&forum=35](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=42710&forum=35)

**Re: , on: 2012/1/13 19:42**

SI sometimes is my homepage as well.

I will have it as my homepage if I am active on the site, but sometimes I get too active and I will change my homepage so I don't go there immediately when I come online. From time to time I'll change it back, right now it's not. That is one way that I curb from coming here too much. I try to moderate myself from posting too much.

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 22:04**

Quote:  
-----Yet we are real flesh and blood people, and the "one-another" exhortations apply here too. I find this particular "assignment" astronomically more difficult to fulfill. We don't have the usual clues -- facial expressions, body language, tone of voice.... -- never mind other aspects of one's personhood. Meanwhile our minds are going a mile a minute on some delicious topic.  
-----

Thank you Diane.

I wonder also if the moderators were more engaged in actual conversations if the SI environment would be the same or different? Or maybe they would see how "astronomically difficult" our "assignment" is if they suffered the same misunderstandings and troubles that some of us who are trying to communicate clearly are encountering. One can only surmise.

Communication which is made more difficult by any number of factors.

Possibly the moderators are very much like the rest of us, after all. Misunderstood. And so they don't engage as much. It can take a toll on anyone and then you just want to withdraw.

In Christ,  
Sarah

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/1/13 22:34**

Quote:  
----- sarahsdream....I wonder also if the moderators were more engaged in actual conversations if the SI environment would be the same or different?  
-----

Personally, a place like SI and the character of members that come here, we really should not even have the need for Mods. Real Christians should be able to moderate themselves.

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 22:34**

Quote:  
-----Hi,  
I am beginning to think I am not as in tune or sensitive with the Holy Spirit as most people on this forum but I don't see the problem. To me this forum like the rest of sermonindex has excelled. Gordon and the moderators are walking on new ground from a Christian point of view and are doing an excellent job. Just because a thread has offended doesn't mean the teaching was wrong or even if he was that it was intentional. There are only a few issues I believe that should stop us fellowshiping together, issues like deity of Christ, Atonement, the Godhead, Grace not works, etc.  
This web and forum is a blessing to those who don't attend church regularly or not at all. The sermons alone without the forum are like a body without a mouth, Yours Staff  
-----

Dear staff,

I am sorry I missed your post. This is what I needed to hear and I wish I saw it earlier. I thank you very much.

In Christ,  
Sarah

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/1/13 22:42**

Quote:

----- It can take a toll on anyone and then you just want to withdraw.  
-----

I can only speak for myself here, but it is true that after discussing just about every theological and historical subject one can think of over and over it does get tiring going back and rehashing it all again. Rarely do we see a unique subject brought up (unique to the discussion forums). This is why I sometimes challenge folk to do a search and read through what has been discussed in the past. There are some very edifying conversations that have taken place in the past.

Time is another problem for me, as I'm sure we can all agree. A well thought out post takes some serious time to put together. My approach is to try to help explain my view of the subjects I am familiar with. I think this can be helpful if we all take this approach so that we can all learn from one another. Agendas are what really hurt us. These individuals are not here to discuss. They will bear along until they get tired of talking and then get hostile. We see a pattern of this. I suspect sometimes folk solicit help from friends that are more knowledgeable in their subject to deal with dissent. I say that because of the radical change in tone and subject matter that can sometimes pop up from the same poster. God knoweth.

If we try to steer towards edification and historic revival, etc. we can often be a blessing here. In times past the boards would be loaded with sermons and writings from classical authors. There was a lot less fighting and a lot more sharing. Just saying.

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 22:44**

MrBillPro.

I don't have any problem with moderation. Kids need parents, the Church needs elders and forums need moderators. Of course we all need the Lord. And we are all at different levels of maturity.

It warmed my heart to see staff's vote of confidence that not all threads that offend are necessarily teaching something wrong.

I too agree with staff that SI has excelled and happy that the moderators don't get easily flustered.

In Christ,  
Sarah

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/1/13 22:46**

Sarah, as I said "should" not.  
God Bless!

**Re: - posted by sarahsdream, on: 2012/1/13 22:49**

I'm sorry Bill. I missed that.

God bless you, too.  
Sarah

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2012/1/13 22:50**

Quote:

-----I find this particular "assignment" astronomically more difficult to fulfill. We don't have the usual clues -- facial expressions, body language, tone of voice.... -- never mind other aspects of one's personhood. Meanwhile our minds are going a mile a minute on some delicious topic.  
-----

I don't think anyone here could disagree with this statement, Krispy and I would be Loved more here if yaw could see us

in person, just kidding, but I know I would be. Lol

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2012/1/14 2:50**

Quote:

-----Possibly the moderators are very much like the rest of us, afterall.  
-----

It's a distinct possibility! ;)

RobertW touched on something that might help people understand the mods...in earlier times here, we've already contributed our share of blunders, impertinence, misunderstandings, and hot-headed divisive posts. We figure we would give others a chance;)

In all seriousness, to be completely frank, I don't really relish the role of being a moderator in a place where previously I was just one of the bunch. It's not a fear of me being misunderstood...I can take that, no problem...its the concern that I might diminish or even hurt someone unintentionally. I really just want people to feel that this is a place where everyone can share, minister, or just make a difference...not just the moderators.

I hope that makes sense.

Mike

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/1/14 7:13**

Quote:

----- Communication which is made more difficult by any number of factors.  
-----

Sarah, I got thinking about one of those factors. It's the factor that has given me most misery, robbed me of peace and joy, kept me awake at night, hindered me from enjoying people, and tempted me to pull back from others.

That factor is MY EXPECTATIONS.

I have expectations for people -- especially my family and Christian associations. Rightly so. But when they fail to meet my expectations I get miserable. My mind sinks into a quagmire of "should" and "ought--to's". I grumble and try to get somebody to do something about it -- so I can be happier.

Then God points the finger at me. The problem he addresses is, not them, but me: my expectations -- or rather my idolatrous desires. I want what I cannot have, and will never have: a pure humanity in harmony with perfect, holy law and order, as I understand it. (Aren't Sler's especially sensitive to that?)

We were, after all, created for the Garden of Eden.

I find myself more content when I can accept others as they are, not the way I wish them to be. That doesn't take away the grief -- but it does free me to enjoy others - and God. I know God will fulfill his expectations and purposes for humanity.

Imagine! I don't NEED anyone or anything to change. After all, I can be all that God wants for me - just where I am planted - even on SI.

Maybe all we need is a heaping dose of contentment.

Diane



**Re: - posted by PraiseGod343 (), on: 2012/1/14 7:44**

Amen! :) I have struggled with this this recently as well. It was with great joy that a brother reminded me that it is not my responsibility to ensure the harvest, only to sow the seed. And whether we are called to be sowers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or those who water that seed, or those who reap the harvest (sometimes, if God wills it, we may engage in more than one), ..."each will be rewarded according to his own labor."

- 1 Cor. 3:8 (abbr.)

Our burden is truly light in Christ; His yoke is easy.

How mighty is our God! I must laugh when I confuse myself, and think that He actually needs me to accomplish His divine will! Praise the God of the universe, the great I Am! Jehovah-jireh, the Lord will provide!

Thank you for blessing my day with your reminder of this simple fact, Diane.

Bro. Paul

**Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2012/1/14 7:44**

I want you to know, I, too really appreciate the moderators here.

It takes so much understanding and patients, and wisdom, ..in fact, really demonstrating..

The fruit of the Spirit that we have within us....when different things come up in our lives,...it is a test,..it shows us what we are really made out of.

I too, was so concerned the other night about these matters that I had been seeing. I just began to pray for SI.

But to take some of these issues off,....I am concerned that some are vital issues, that the Lord,.. Through someone's mouth, may be able to help someone, somewhere with a Truth.

And another thing I was thinking,...about a fire.

When we open a door and we see that it is a contention or a continual fire, and there seems to be nothing we can do to help, ..and too, for the count of times revisiting the same post,....I do so to see if maybe someone may have been able to help in this matter,..then if not, I quickly close the door again. closing the door,..so as not let any draft in and don't put anymore sticks on the fire. Just thinking too,...

May SI be Blessed,

Elizabeth

**Re: , on: 2012/1/25 0:25**

You know it's a good forum when you also know that a moderator or two is clenching their teeth in opposition, but still allow the post, or thread.

Honestly, I really appreciate this spirit of tolerance, without compromise...and I realize that it is a hard tight-rope to walk sometimes.

For those who may venture out now and then into the Amazon of "free" Christian forums; Beware! there are Alligators out there! Disrespect, growling, biting and cursing are the order of the day.!

One word of advice: Don't take disagreement and rejection too seriously...as it is going to happen.....and speak your mind with respect ....and you will do well....and I would not want the moderators job here....but say Bravo!...It is a well ran forum.BT