

**LIGONIER MINISTRIES COVERS-UP THE TRUTH ABOUT R.C. SPROUL JR.'S "VISIT"  
TO ASHLEY MADISON DESPITE MANY APPEALS**

**BY BRENT DETWILER  
APRIL 8, 2016**

**Preface**

This is a lengthy story but important story. It begins with this introduction.

On August 31, 2015, R.C. Jr. posted a confession on his website titled "Judgement and Grace" because he feared being exposed by hackers for having an account with Ashley Madison – a perverse website used to arrange illicit relationships for the purpose of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and lesbianism. He needed to get ahead of the information being made public. His statement was brilliant but bogus. It misled the public and was full of deceit.

Here is my initial 11-page letter to R.C. Jr. from October 19, 2015 appealing for his repentance.

The story ends with this exhortation to Chris Larson, president and CEO of Ligonier Ministries.

I [Brent] immediately noticed that "suspended" was added and linked in both listings. I felt some elation thinking you [Chris Larson] were finally giving a truthful explanation for R.C. Jr.'s suspension. I clicked and to my utter dismay it connected to "Judgment and Grace." I was stunned beyond belief! I couldn't believe you were directing people to a statement you knew contained false and misleading information. In that moment, I realized you, and I must assume Dr. R.C. Sproul Sr. and the Ligonier Board, were committed to covering up for R.C. Jr. by promulgating his false narrative!

Chris, I invite you to repent by the grace of Christ. Then I hope you will be used of God to lead R.C. Jr. to repentance along with all the related parties who have covered up for him. By "covered up" I mean not exposing his false narrative but instead promoting it. The evidence of repentance will be a public confession by R.C. Jr., you and the Ligonier Board.

I'd encourage you to read the entire story from beginning to end. Unfortunately, all my private efforts for good over the past six months have come to nothing. Scripture now commands, "tell it to the church" (Matt 18:17). I hope leaders across the evangelical divide will appeal to R.C. Jr. and Ligonier Ministries and not remain silent. I pray repentance is forthcoming.

Lastly, Together for the Gospel is next week. The leaders participating in the conference continue to cover up for C.J. Mahaney despite his unrepentant past and ongoing developments. For example, Susan Burke, the lawyer for the plaintiffs, has indicated a new lawsuit will be filed in Virginia presumably against C.J., Sovereign Grace Ministries and Sovereign Grace Church of Fairfax in the coming months. Victims of sexual abuse in the church, who are not prevented by the statute of limitations, are bringing the suit.

Or for example, [Covenant Life Member & Children's Ministry Worker, Larry Ellis Caffery, Arrested on Nine Counts of Child Sex Abuse & Two Counts of False Imprisonment](#) (March 26, 2016).

You can also read about this development in WORLD magazine.

**Covenant Life Church member arrested for abuse**

[http://www.worldmag.com/2016/04/covenant\\_life\\_church\\_member\\_arrested\\_for\\_abuse](http://www.worldmag.com/2016/04/covenant_life_church_member_arrested_for_abuse)

By Bonnie Pritchett

Posted April 7, 2016

RELIGION | The former children's ministry volunteer once wrote about his fear of becoming an abuser

Finally, C.J. is a featured speaker at T4G next week. SNAP (i.e., Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests) is organizing a protest since the conference leaders are not willing to remove him as a speaker.

SNAP is the organization featured in the award winning movie, Spotlight, for exposing the conspiracy to commit and cover up the sexual abuse of children by the Roman Catholic Church in Boston.

You can read the reasons for their protest and the letter they sent to Mark Dever, Al Mohler and Ligon Duncan at [Victims of Sexual Abuse to Protest at Huge Protestant Conference - Together for the Gospel](#)

You can also read about this development at Baptist News Global.

**Abuse survivors want conference speaker removed**

<https://baptistnews.com/2016/03/31/abuse-survivors-want-conference-speaker-removed/>

By Bob Allen

Posted March 31, 2016

With that out of the way, here is "Ligonier Ministries Covers-up the Truth about R.C. Sproul Jr.'s "Visit" to Ashley Madison Despite Many Appeals" in entirety. I hope you take the time to read it.

### **"Please Consider Amending Your Original Article" - John Smith**

On September 5, 2015, I posted [What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Visit to Ashley Madison](#). R.C. Sproul Jr. is the son of noted theologian and founder of Ligonier Ministries, R.C. Sproul Sr.

In that post, I mostly commended the confession made by R.C. Jr. for visiting the perverse website, Ashley Madison. I received the following corrective email in response to my article. The sender's real name has been removed upon request. I've replaced it with the pseudonym, John Smith.

I've added explanatory notes in brackets [ ] throughout this article. I've also added links.

**From:** [John Smith]

**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 9:15 AM

**To:** Brent Detwiler

**Subject:** What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Visit to Ashley Madison

Bro. Brent,

Thanks for all your efforts in exposing the abuses of power by Mahaney et al. It's utterly tragic how a little bit of power in the hands of some men can completely go to their heads. I so appreciate your blog's masthead statement, "Helping Christians judge righteously, think biblically and live courageously." That's seriously needed.

Unfortunately you fell short of that regarding another pastor (or rather a defrocked pastor), R.C. Sproul Jr. You're very much an expert on all things SGM, so I wouldn't expect you to be an expert on someone outside your sphere of personal exposure. "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." That's because appearances can be deceitful, particularly where it's been made by a deceitful man, which Sproul very much is.

If you go back and review the [documents of R.C. Sproul Jr's defrocking](#) [i.e., his removal from ministry in the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly in 2006], as well as the scandalous way that he handled it, you'll find much evidence of his deceit and duplicity. His recent Ashley Madison scandal is just more of the same deceit. A synopsis of that deceit can be found at

[sproul-jr.blogspot.com/2015/09/rc-sroul-jr-only-visited-ashley-madison.html](http://sproul-jr.blogspot.com/2015/09/rc-sroul-jr-only-visited-ashley-madison.html).

I can assure you that R.C. Sproul Jr is one of the most crafty and cunning “pastors” you will ever run across, and he’s the last person you’d want others to be *learning* from. He is not the kind of man to hold up as some kind of laudable example. His Ashley Madison “confession” was an utter fraud, and I think that article I linked to does a pretty good job of proving it. Please consider amending your original article and consider posting a link to it, or perhaps writing a follow up article.

In Christ,  
[John Smith]

John pointed out that I “fell short” and asked me to “Please consider amending your original article...or perhaps writing a follow up article.” He also provided a link to the article, [R.C. Sproul Jr's Ashley Madison Scandal](#). I studied it carefully and it became the basis for my subsequent investigation. The article was not written by John but he put me in touch with its author. I wrote him a note that including the following.

“Your piece, R.C. Sproul Jr’s Ashley Madison Scandal, is superb! It really helped me to see through his ‘confession.’ Thanks for all the work and effort that went into it. ... The post is excellent, thoughtful, and skillfully written.”

As in the case of C.J. Mahaney, there is a history with R.C. Jr. that has been well-documented by those who were once friends. In the future, I may share more of my correspondence with “John Smith.” For now, I will focus on the Ashley Madison scandal.

Over the past six months, I have worked long and hard in order to know the truth and present the truth in a redemptive manner to all parties concerned. My primarily motivation in this endeavor has been the righteous restoration of R.C. Sproul Jr. A secondary motivation has been making sure the good work of others was not in vain.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:43 AM  
**To:** [John Smith]  
**Subject:** Update on Process

Hi [John],

Confidential.

I've asked R.C. Jr. to make an open and honest public confession that addresses the serious issues of deceit in "Judgement and Grace." I've also asked his pastors, presbytery, and Ligonier [Ministries] to encourage this action.

I should know in the next week whether R.C. is willing to humble himself and walk in the light.

I've sought to be kind and patient with the parties above. I hope they collectively do what is right and necessary.

One way or the other, the issues will need to be addressed in public. Your work will not be in vain.

Pressing on in Christ.

Your friend,  
Brent

Tragically, R.C. Jr. has steadfastly refused to humble himself and walk in the light and those around him have covered up for him. It is C.J. Mahaney and Sovereign Grace Ministries all over again. Therefore, "the issues...need to be addressed in public." Here is the carefully documented story.

### **My Eleven Page Letter to R.C. Sproul Jr's Exposing His Deceptive Confession - October 19, 2015**

On August 31, 2015, R.C. Jr. posted a confession on his website titled "Judgement and Grace" because he feared being exposed by hackers for having an account with Ashley Madison - a perverse website used to arrange illicit relationships for the purpose of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and lesbianism. He needed to get ahead of the information being made public. His statement was brilliant but bogus. It misled the public and was full of deceit.

See <http://rcsprouljr.com/blog/general/judgment-and-grace/>

Here is my initial 11-page letter to R.C. Jr. from October 19, 2015 appealing for his repentance.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 9:33 AM  
**To:** R.C. Sproul Jr. [coramdude@gmail.com](mailto:coramdude@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Ashley Madison

Hello R.C.

We have not met but I know many of your father's friends and colleagues. I first met your father in the mid 1970's. He'd drive up from Ligonier [PA] to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to teach for The Coalition for Christian Outreach. I was doing my undergraduate work and leading a campus ministry at the time.

I am so grateful to God for the work and impact of Ligonier Ministries. Your father's writings, *Tabletalk*, the conferences, etc. have benefitted me greatly for nearly four decades.

With this in mind, I am writing to you with mercy and kindness. I want you to prosper in the Lord. You were given a much greater role in the ministry when appointed Chair of Theology and Philosophy in the Reformation Bible College [in Feb 2014]. If the Lord wills, you will return to that position after your suspension. In the future, you could replace your father as Chairman of Ligonier Ministries when it is time for him to go home to be with the Lord. And yet, now is a time of God's dealings in your life. How you respond will likely determine your future under the providence of God.

I've taken some time to review what you have written and confessed in relation to your involvement with the Ashley Madison website. In fact, I wrote a post on the subject the beginning of September [2015]. I'd recommend you read it. It was mostly complimentary.

See [What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Visit to Ashley Madison](#).

Since that post, I've taken more time to study what you have written and confessed. As a result, my concerns for you have significantly increased. I want to help if you'll allow.

For many years, I was the number two leader in Sovereign Grace Ministries after C.J. Mahaney. I helped start the ministry in 1982 and served on the Board of Directors for 25 years. For over a decade, I tried to help C.J. in private overcome sinful patterns of serious sin. Finally, I was forced to leave in 2009 and go public in 2011 because corruption and spiritual abuse in SGM had become so great under his leadership.

C.J. and SGM continue to deceive and refuse to humble themselves. See for example, [Hush Fund Set Up by Top SGM Leaders to Meet the Demands of a SGM Pastor Whose Son Was Sexually Abused](#). As a result, God's opposition

continues. SGM has been judged like Israel and Judah after the reign of Solomon. Forty churches, hundreds of leaders, thousands of members, and millions of dollars have left the organization due to its ethical and spiritual decline. In pointing this out, I am not comparing you to C.J. or Ligonier Ministries to Sovereign Grace Ministries but I think you can learn from both of them.

Therefore, let me share some observations and ask some questions.

In your "Judgement and Grace" confession on August 31, 2015, you said,

"In August 2014, in a moment of weakness, pain, and from an unhealthy curiosity, I visited Ashley Madison. My goal was not to gather research for critical commentary, but to fan the flames of my imagination."

Of course, the first question is why did you wait a full year to make this confession? You visited Ashley Madison in August 2014. You acknowledged it in August 2015 but only after hackers started releasing names in July 2015. You obviously hid this information from Ligonier Ministries and your regional presbytery until forced to reveal it a year later. In other words, you came forward because you were caught in sin, not because you were convicted of sin. That is a great concern.

As you said,

"With the revelation of the hack has come the revelation of my sin. I recently informed the board of Ligonier Ministries, which has handled the matter internally, having suspended me until July 1, 2016. I also informed my presbytery which is also handling the matter internally."

From my perspective, you should have made two things clear in your August 31 [2015] statement. One, your confession did not result from any previous conviction of sin. Two, you were not open, honest and accountable with the board and presbytery.

In Acts 20:28, elders are commanded to "pay careful attention to yourselves" (ESV), "be on guard for yourselves" (NASB), and "keep watch over yourselves" (NIV). You set up an account on a salacious website created solely for the purpose of immorality but never told your fellow elders so they could guard you, watch over you and pay close attention to you. That was serious mistake. Elders must share their sins and temptations with one another. You did the opposite.

You said in your confession, "The grace of God's judgment bore its fruit, and by His grace I repented of my sin [and] received His forgiveness" but you never

went on to identify your sin in biblical terms or categories. All you acknowledged was "I visited Ashely Madison...to fan the flames of my imagination."

In fact, you excused your sin ("in a moment of weakness"), justified your sin ("in a moment of...pain"), relegated your motive ("an unhealthy curiosity") and hedged your goal ("to fan the flames of my imagination"). I say this kindly. You need help applying the doctrine of sin to your heart and mind. These words of do not show the earmarks of biblical repentance.

I think you need to face the fact that you went to a manifestly evil and perverse website that caters to homosexuals, lesbians, fornicators and adulterers, not just adulterers. In so doing you chose to disobey countless Scriptures. I need not quote them because you know them. Yet, you confess no transgression against God's holy commands. That is the starting point for your repentance.

Furthermore, you set a terrible example in what you wrote. "Weakness" and "pain" are common excuses for viewing pornography and committing immorality and adultery. I think of Tullian Tchividjian. "Heartbroken and devastated [by his wife's adultery] ... I subsequently sought comfort in a friend and developed an inappropriate relationship myself." His "inappropriate" relationship was likewise an adulterous relationship which he hid from church leaders until confronted.

Here's the problem. Who isn't weak? Who doesn't experience pain? Does this mean sexual sin or fanning the flames of a sinful imagination are understandable when we experience "a moment of weakness, pain?" The answer is obvious. You should retract these excuses because others are led astray by them. Instead, I'd encourage you to ruthlessly deal with your excuses and reissue a clear confession of actual sin without qualification.

Furthermore, pornography, immorality and adultery are not pain killers. They are people killers. Nor, do they provide comfort. Only sinful pleasure. God the Holy Spirit is our Comforter and he brings joy in the midst of our suffering and provides strength in our perpetual state of weakness. It is not a momentary condition. "For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Therefore, weakness is never an excuse for sin in the Bible. It is the means by which we experience God's power to overcome sin and flee temptation. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." You should make this clear in a retraction. Your temptation was common (1 Cor 10:13) and his power was available to you in abundance (2 Cor. 12:9). You chose not to walk by or be led by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16, 18).



Your confession was also indistinct. You visited Ashley Madison “from an unhealthy curiosity” in order “to fan the flames of my imagination. That raises questions. About what were you curious and why did you call this curiosity “unhealthy” instead of ungodly? You don’t say.

Similarly, what were you imagining? What were you thinking about? What ideation were you fanning? Having sex with someone in a clandestine manner like Josh Duggar? That is the goal of Ashley Madison. You don’t say. Your confession was nebulous. This easily gives the impression you were simply curious about how Ashley Madison operated but had no intention of using the service. I find that hard to believe.

When you wrote “Duggar and Hastert” in June [2015], you said the following about confessing sin.

See <http://rcsprouljr.com/jce/duggar-hastert/>

“We, of all people should be the people quickest to repent, quickest to acknowledge our sins. ... I wonder if perhaps we might silence our critics...if we would instead regularly, fully, and fearlessly confess our sins. ... Beloved, we have been given the true cover for our sin. We cover that covering, however, when we seek to hide our sin from the world.”

I agree with your counsel but I don’t think you are following it. It seems you are hiding your sin rather than “fully and fearlessly” confessing your sin. What sin are you confessing, renouncing and forsaking? Jesus didn’t die for an unhealthy curiosity. He died for ungodly cravings. He didn’t die for a morally neutral imagination. He died for sinful thoughts. You get the point.

When you wrote about “Hacking Ashley Madison” in July, you also said the following about exposing and confessing sin.

See <http://rcsprouljr.com/jce/hacking-ashley-madison/>

“The irony of the gospel is that our sins are only covered in so far as we expose them. In order for them to be covered by the blood of Christ, they have to be confessed by the ones committing the sin.”

Once again, I hope you will follow your own advice.

When I wrote [What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Visit to Ashley Madison](#) in September, I qualified my compliments with this caveat.

“Thus ends my critique of R.C. Sproul Jr. because we can learn from him provided he is telling us the whole story.”

That brings to my most important point.

In your “Judgment and Grace” confession (if we can call it a confession), you said the following about the extent of your visit to Ashley Madison.

“In August 2014, in a moment of weakness, pain, and from an unhealthy curiosity, I visited Ashley Madison. ... There I found two gracious judgments. First, I felt the grace of fear. Second, I felt the grace of shame. I was there long enough to leave an old email address. And within minutes I left, never to return. I did not sign up for their service or interact with any clients.”

What do we learn from this explanation? Your visit was momentary. Fear and shame deterred you. You left in minutes. No harm, no foul. Nothing of import transpired. All you did was leave an email address - supposedly.

It is at this point that you are not “telling us the whole story.” As you know, you left far more than an email address. And in leaving an email address you agreed to the terms and conditions set by Ashley Madison and signed up for their service. This gave you access to the internal workings of how to find and hook up with fellow “clients.” All of this took and involved more than a few (implied) minutes. Your description above is terribly misleading.

Here’s what transpired in reality according to the website.

In order to register an account, you had to indicate your “relationship status.” Six options were given.

- Attached Male seeking Females
- Attached Female seeking Males
- Single Male seeking Females
- Single Female seeking Males
- Male seeking Males
- Female seeking Females

Furthermore, the seeker is seeking plural (i.e. multiple) females or males.

As you know, Ashley Madison is not limited to married couples. You imply otherwise in "Judgement and Grace" and state otherwise in "Hacking Ashley Madison." This gives the false impression the site was of no relevance to you as a single man.

You also had to "complete your profile" before you could "start searching." Therefore, you had to provide answers to all the following.

- Username
- Password
- Location
- Greeting
- Date of birth
- Limits
- Height
- Weight
- Body Type
- Ethnicity
- Email

Under "Greeting," I assume people leave an alluring message in order to attract persons of their liking (e.g. married, single or homosexual) in order to have sex with them.

Under "Limits," you had to select one of the following.

- Something Short Term
- Something Long Term
- Cyber Affair / Erotic Chat
- Whatever Excites Me
- Anything Goes
- Undecided

In your statement, you said "I was there long enough to leave an old email address." Leaving an email address was the final piece of information you were required to provide in order to open an account. It came after you answered all of the previous questions.

Lastly, you had to certify the following by agreeing with this statement.

“I acknowledge that by choosing to continue and search now, I certify I am at least 18 years old and have read and agree to the Ashley Madison Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions.”

You were also provided this notification.

“To help you have a successful affair, Ashley Madison and its affiliated entities will periodically notify you of potential matches in your area, new matches you have received, changes to the services and other services that may be of interest to you. We will never share or sell your email address to any other organization or individual.”

Having provided all the personal information necessary for arranging a “successful affair” you clicked the “I agree” button so you could “continue and search” and be notified of “potential matches,” “new matches you have received,” and “other services” by “Ashley Madison and its affiliated entities.” If this were not true, you had absolutely no reason to fear exposure by the hack because none of this information would have been transferred to Ashley Madison.

As Christianity Today pointed out in their [article](#) about you on August 31, “The Impact Team” hackers were releasing “user’s account information.”

See <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/august/ligonier-suspends-rc-sproul-jr-over-ashley-madison.html>

“Two weeks ago, a group identifying itself as ‘The Impact Team’ released 25 gigabytes of stolen data from Ashley Madison, including millions of users’ account information.”

Before this on August 21, Joseph Cox gave a more precise detailing of the “customer information” released to the public in his article, “[Ashley Madison Hackers Speak Out: ‘Nobody Was Watching.’](#)”

See <http://motherboard.vice.com/read/ashley-madison-hackers-speak-out-nobody-was-watching>.

“The hackers behind the breach, who call themselves The Impact Team, first released snippets of the data back in July. After nearly 30 days, they then [dumped 10GB](#) of customer information, shortly followed by another [20GB of internal data](#). Minutes ago, the hackers also posted a third data dump.”

You did far more than “visit Ashley Madison” in an innocuous fashion. You filled out and submitted all the information necessary for “a successful affair” including a “greeting”, your “relationship status” and your “limits.” Then you agreed to their policy, terms and conditions in order to search for “matches” and be searched by “matches.” You also signed up for “other services.”

You claimed, “I was there long enough to leave an old email address. And within minutes I left, never to return. I did not sign up for their service or interact with any clients.”

This claim includes five assertions. Three are false. Two are questionable.

1. “I was there long enough to leave an old email address.” False. You were there long enough to leave all kinds of information.
2. “And within minutes I left.” False. Registering the account and then going to the account involved more than a few minutes which is your implication.
3. “I did not sign up for their service.” False. You did sign up for their service. I hope by now you have cancelled the service.
4. “Never to return.” I hope this is true.
5. “I did not...interact with any clients.” I hope this is true.

Here’s the problem. Three false statements make it hard to believe two questionable statements. I’ve been a pastor for forty years and never come across someone as innocent as you claim to be under like circumstances. All you did was momentarily visit Ashley Madison on one occasion without intending to use the service for immoral purposes. As you said, “My goal was not to gather research for critical commentary, but to fan the flames of my imagination.”

In other words, your goal was to titillate your imagination. You were curious. That’s all. You were not a “single male seeking females.” Men I’ve counseled view pornography to fan the flames of their sinful imagination. Men who open accounts on sites like Ashley Madison do so in order to set up sexual liaisons. You claimed no such goal or aspiration. That is hard to believe.

Given the rather innocuous parameters of your confession, I don’t understand why the board of Ligonier Ministries suspended you as Chair of Theology and Philosophy for ten months or why your presbytery removed you from pastoral ministry for ten months. In my opinion, the penalty does not fit the crime if they believed your confession was wholly true and complete. The penalty seems

excessive but perhaps they knew more about the nature and extent of your sin than you are telling us.

If that is true, I wonder why they haven't corrected your statement and put out a statement of their own. To date, the board and presbytery have issued no statements regarding your sin or why you needed to be suspended. What you wrote is the one and only statement.

You posted "Hacking Ashley Madison" on July 22, 2015. You said,

"I hope, however, that my children still don't know about Ashley Madison, a website that I only recently learned about."

You posted "Judgement and Grace" on August 31, 2015. You said,

"In August 2014, in a moment of weakness, pain, and from an unhealthy curiosity, I visited Ashley Madison."

For anyone counting, the math doesn't add up. You visited Ashley Madison in August 2014, but claimed you "only recently" heard about it in July 2015. If that were true, then "recently" means 11 months ago. And yet you purposely used the adverb, "only," to emphasize chronological proximity.

Moreover, you used the word "recently" just two paragraphs later in "Hacking Ashley Madison." It didn't mean 11 months. It meant in the past week or same month.

"It [Ashley Madison] is in the news recently [the past week], not because it is a new website or a new concept; it is in the news because they have recently been hacked [the same month]."

Christianity Today pointed this out in their article. It also appears they contacted you about "this apparent misstatement" but you "provided no explanation." The obvious question is, "Why not?"

"In that July 22 [2015] post, Sproul Jr. said he had 'only recently learned about' Ashley Madison. But in his August 31 [2015] blog, he said he visited the site in August 2014. He provided no explanation for this apparent misstatement."

Just as seriously you claimed to have "learned about" and "heard of" Ashley Madison from others. They were led to believe you had no firsthand experience

with Ashley Madison. No one would ever have suspected you opened an account. That too was deceptive.

“I hope, however, that my children still don’t know about Ashley Madison, a website that I only recently learned about. Ashley Madison, in some ways, is very much like other websites that I have heard of.”  
[Hacking Ashley Madison]

You also deceived people with this statement. No one would ever think you were one of the 37 million.

“The hackers who broke into their site were able to retrieve mountains of information including millions of names of people who signed up for this website. ... They’re actually threatening that if Ashley Madison does not shut down they will publicly release all the names of those who have sought the services of Ashley Madison. I suspect that there are a lot of people privately sweating, 37 million of them, probably.” [Hacking Ashley Madison]

After these comments, you proceeded to teach and warn people about hiding their sins even though you were hiding your own sins. That was terribly hypocritical.

“The reality is that nothing that we do is private. Not because of the shocking reach of the Internet, not because of the devious skills of hackers, but rather because all that we do is known by the One who knows all things. The reality is that we all sin before the eyes of the watching God of Heaven and Earth. Not only that, but all of our sins will one day be publicly exposed. On that great day of judgment, there will be no delete; there will be no erase; there will be no way to hide all that all of us have done. It is my hope that this kind of cyber assault might wake us up to that reality.” [Hacking Ashley Madison]

Unfortunately, the cyber assault did not wake you up to that reality. You would have confessed immediately if it had. Instead you covered up your sin until after The Impact Team released all the customer information in public including your own.

You also gave this exhortation in “Hacking Ashley Madison.”

“My prayer is that we, even if we haven’t committed adultery, even if we haven’t flirted with committing adultery, even if we just learned

about Ashley Madison, would just recognize and embrace the biblical truth that our sins will find us out.”

This was another example of hypocrisy. You should have said, “My sins have found me out. Let me tell you about them so you can learn from my folly and disobedience.” If you had followed your own counsel, you would have confessed your sin. When we teach something we are not living, we deceive people into thinking we are practicing what we are preaching.

Lastly by way of illustration, you said,

“We are all sinners, and we are all, in ourselves, justly under the wrath of God, and we will all give an answer for all that we’ve done, all that we’ve said, all that we’ve thought, and for every website we have visited. It will all come out.” [Hacking Ashley Madison]

No one reading your post would ever have imagined you “visited” Ashley Madison. You only “heard of” it. You deceived your audience.

On August 31 when you posted “Judgement and Grace,” you also added this addendum to “Hacking Ashley Madison” from July 22.

“August 31, 2015 Update to This [July 22] Article: in light of [my public statement here](#), I believe I should have withheld comment on this matter.”

This was woefully inadequate. You should have provided an “update” that talked about your extensive deceit and hypocrisy. For example, “I mislead and deceived people in what I wrote on July 22 in the following ways... I was also a hypocrite in the following ways... I should have withheld all comment on Ashley Madison, Josh Duggar and Dennis Hastert.”

R.C., I don’t know who is caring for your soul but I hope you will get help. The matters covered in this letter must be addressed. First in private, then in public.

In “Grace and Judgement” you exclaimed, “And now the world is informed.” No, the world was not informed, it was misinformed. Actually, I fear it was deceived.

In private, I hope you will take your heart to task before God like King David in Psalm 51 and then go through the liberating steps outlined in James 4:7-10 which end with a wonderful promise.



Then it will be a small matter for you to correct your public “confession.” You will want to reveal, confess and renounce your sins so you can prosper and find mercy in the sight of God and men. That is my desire for you.

If you conceal your deceit and hypocrisy, however, you will not prosper. Most certainly you will be found out according to the teaching of God’s infallible Word.

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV) He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

I also love Proverbs 10:9. Both its promise and warning have kept me from sin on many occasions. It is so good to walk security through life knowing there is nothing hidden that will be found out. I commend it to you.

Proverbs 10:9 (NASB) He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

In “Judgement and Grace” you talked about the hack being a means of grace that caused you to seek forgiveness. I hope you see this letter in the same light. If I have judged you wrongly at any point please tell me. I hope you will do the same about those matter in which I have judged you righteously. My motive is benevolent and I have your best interests at heart.

In closing, I remind you again of your admonition in “Duggar and Hastert” from June 4.

“We, of all people should be the people quickest to repent, quickest to acknowledge our sins. I wonder if perhaps we might silence our critics...if we would instead regularly, fully, and fearlessly confess our sins. ... Beloved, we have been given the true cover for our sin. We cover that covering, however, when we seek to hide our sin from the world.”

I hope and pray this will occur quickly for God’s glory and your good. Please write me. I’d like to hear where the Holy Spirit brings conviction and how you are going to respond in private and public. Such accountability is necessary and intended to serve you.

*Coram Deo.*

Brent

## My Follow Up Letter to R.C. Sproul Jr. Appealing for His Repentance and a Public Confession - November 18, 2015

I did not hear from R.C. Jr. so I wrote him a short note again hoping he would write me back.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2015 8:08 AM  
**To:** R.C. Sproul Jr. [coramdude@gmail.com](mailto:coramdude@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Please Write

Hello R.C.

I continue to pray for you in this time of testing.

I hope you will write me this weekend.

Brent

When I did not hear from R.C. Jr., I wrote his pastors and the elders on the Regional Presbytery in his denomination on November 3. I included that correspondence in my second lengthy appeal to R.C. Jr. below on November 18 in "What Have You Decided?"

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 10:33 AM  
**To:** R.C. Sproul Jr. [coramdude@gmail.com](mailto:coramdude@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** What Have You Decided?

Hello R.C.,

Earlier this month, I contacted your fellow pastors and presbytery when I did not hear back from you. I sent them this email and attached my correspondence with you.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2015 12:34 PM  
**To:** Marion Lovett [marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org); Christopher Brenyo [cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com); Wayne Petit [wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com); C. Michael Shuman [cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com)  
**Subject:** An Appeal to the CPC Elders Regarding R.C. Sproul Jr.

To the elders of Heritage Church, Ascension Presbyterian Church and those that serve on the Regional Presbytery for the Covenant Presbyterian Church denomination.

Greetings and love in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Two weeks ago, I wrote R.C. Sproul Jr. about his August 2014 "visit" to Ashley Madison and his subsequent statement regarding the same in August 2015. I hoped to help him and hear from him. When I did not hear from him, I sent him a follow up note. I've still not heard from him. Therefore, I am forwarding my October 19 and 23 correspondence (see attached) so you can follow up with him and with me. Here is an excerpt.

"R.C., I don't know who is caring for your soul but I hope you will get help. The matters covered in this letter must be addressed. First in private, then in public.

"In 'Grace and Judgement' you exclaimed, 'And now the world is informed.' No, the world was not informed, it was misinformed. Actually, I fear it was deceived.

"In private, I hope you will take your heart to task before God like King David in Psalm 51 and then go through the liberating steps outlined in James 4:7-10 which end with a wonderful promise.

"Then it will be a small matter for you to correct your public 'confession.' You will want to reveal, confess and renounce your sins so you can prosper and find mercy in the sight of God and men. That is my desire for you. ...

"I hope and pray this will occur quickly for God's glory and your good. Please write me. I'd like to hear where the Holy Spirit brings conviction and how you are going to respond in private and public. Such accountability is necessary and intended to serve you."

I'd recommend the following actions be taken. I believe they are keeping with the teaching of Scripture.

1. Carefully review all I have written.
2. Enumerate the issues and cover them with R.C.
3. Reprove him for sin.

4. Lead him to repentance.
5. Publish a confession.
6. Indefinitely remove him from ministry.
7. Follow up with Ligonier Ministries.
8. Follow up with me.

I reference James 4:7-10 above. It ends with this wonderful promise. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

That is my hope and prayer for R.C. Jr.

God grant you grace in helping him obey this holy command with its consequent result.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Brent

R.C., I am writing again to see if you have decided to humble yourself and publish a confession that addresses the fundamental issues I covered with you in my correspondence from October 19.

This is required because you deceived the general public in an egregious manner in your blog post, "Judgement and Grace." You must repent before the Body of Christ and watching world.

In May, your father wrote an article in *Tabletalk* on "What Does "coram deo" Mean?" He said,

"To live all of life *coram Deo* is to live a life of integrity. ... Integrity is found where men and women live their lives in a pattern of consistency. It is a pattern that functions the same basic way in church and out of church. It is a life that is open before God. It is a life in which all that is done is done as to the Lord. It is a life lived by principle, not expediency; by humility before God, not defiance. It is a life lived under the tutelage of conscience that is held captive by the Word of God."

With this teaching in mind, I trust you will "live a life of integrity" and make a confession that is before God and his people. You cannot let your deceptive statement from August 31 stand. You must expose it and renounce it. That is "a life lived by principle, not expediency; by humility before God, not defiance."

This represents God's best for you.

*Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Please write me back this week. I'd like to know how you plan to proceed.

Sincerely,  
Brent

### **R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Secret Suspension from Pastoral Ministry – September 19, 2015**

Before proceeding chronologically, I need to go backwards and give more context.

After receiving the corrective letter from John Smith on September 25, 2015, I had to figure out where R.C. Jr. was pastoring. I discovered he was listed as a pastor in two churches. Heritage Church in Centerville, TN and Ascension Presbyterian Church in Longwood, FL just outside of Orlando. I wrote the pastor, Marion Lovett, at Heritage in TN.

**From:** Heritage Church <[info@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:info@heritagecenterville.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 8:39 AM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

Hello Pastor Lovett,

I'm a little confused. Could you help me out? I thought R.C. Sproul Jr. was a pastor in Orlando. Is he also a pastor at Heritage?

Thanks  
Brent

**From:** Marion Lovett [<mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 9:51 AM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

Hello Brent,

Yes, I can see how this can be confusing.

RC is attached to our [local] session [or eldership] as an elder ministering "out-of-bounds" as he works with Ligonier [Ministries in Orlando]. Then Ascension

[Presbyterian Church] was started as a mission work, so while he is an elder in Orlando, he is still attached to our session [in TN] until the mission church [the new church] becomes an established church [in FL].

The bottom line is that he is in Orlando. I hope that helps.

Marion

This was a confusing form of church government to me. R.C. Jr. was a pastor/elder in two different churches. One in Centerville, Tennessee; the other in Longwood, Florida. He also worked for Ligonier Ministries in Orlando, Florida. I was trying to figure out who was caring for his soul.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 10:01 AM  
**To:** Marion Lovett [marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org)  
**Subject:** RE: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

Thanks for the explanation. Does that mean he is being pastored by the men in the mission church during his suspension from Ligonier?

If I may ask, how do you feel about his continuation as a pastor during this season?

Brent

The email above was sent on October 5, 2015. At that point in time, R.C. Jr. was still listed as a pastor/elder in both of the churches on their websites. There was absolutely no indication he had been suspended from pastoral ministry. I was therefore surprised by Marion's response to me.

**From:** Marion Lovett [<mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 10:36 AM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

He is not currently pastoring.

His [regional] presbytery met over the issue [on September 19, 2015] in addition to Ligonier and have censured him with suspension from his elder's duties until next June.

Currently, Pastor Christopher Brenyo is pastoring the work in Orlando.

Blessings,  
Marion

This was news to me and to everyone else. The only thing people knew about a suspension came from R.C. Jr.'s statement on his blog on August 31, 2015 and it only pertained to Ligonier Ministries. Nothing more was said until I got involved. His removal from pastoral ministry was being covered up.

"With the revelation of the hack has come the revelation of my sin. I recently informed the board of Ligonier Ministries, which has handled the matter internally, having suspended me until July 1, 2016. I also informed my [regional] presbytery which is also handling the matter internally. And now the world is informed." (R.C. Sproul, Jr., "Judgement & Grace," Aug 31, 2015)

Ligonier Ministries suspended him from his responsibilities with the ministry though the board never issued any kind of statement to that effect. They did not want any additional information getting out to the public. More on this later.

A few weeks after "Judgement and Grace," the regional presbytery for the denomination over the two churches met and suspended R.C. Jr. from pastoral ministry on September 19. They did not announce the suspension however. In fact, both churches continued to list him as a pastor/elder on their websites. This was deceptive. I wrote Marion about it.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 10:59 AM  
**To:** Marion Lovett [marionlovet@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovet@heritagecenterville.org)  
**Subject:** RE: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

Thank you Marion. I appreciate your response.

I just looked at the website for Ascension Presbyterian Church and they list him as a pastor. Will they clarify he is currently not a pastor? Or that he was suspended from his elder's duties until next June? I guess the same question applies for Heritage [Church].

I'm sure everyone has their hands full in Orlando but I'd recommend they announce the suspension on their website as soon as possible. A lot of people think RC is still functioning as a pastor/elder even though he was suspended by Ligonier. They believe a double standard is being applied by the church/presbytery. That has resulted in considerable confusion and questions.

Thanks for your help.  
Brent

People were confused. R.C. Jr. had been suspended from his Ligonier Ministries responsibilities but it appeared he was still a pastor in good standing.

**From:** Marion Lovett [<mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 11:11 AM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

Thank you for your feedback. All good points and ones with which I agree.

I have contacted presbytery regarding some of the same issues regarding communications.

I will pass on your thoughts.

Thanks again.

Marion

I appreciated Marion's response. He realized things were not above board.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [<mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 11:14 AM  
**To:** Marion Lovett <[marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: HeritageCenterville.org Contact Page

I respect you for that and thanks for forwarding to them.

Brent

Marion agreed with all my points. In fact, he had raised "some of the same issues regarding communications" with the presbytery.

The presbytery had suspended R.C. Jr. but they did not want the public to know. They put out no statement and allowed him to be listed as a pastor/elder even though he had been removed by them. This was not the first time R.C. Jr. had been removed or defrocked from ministry. See Public Documents Concerning the Defrocking of R.C. Sproul, Jr and the Saint Peter Presbyterian Church Session at [http://hushmoney.org/RC\\_Sproul\\_Jr-defrocking-docs.htm](http://hushmoney.org/RC_Sproul_Jr-defrocking-docs.htm)



As a result of my contact, the suspension was quietly noted on their respective websites the next day. It seems readily apparent the presbytery agreed to a statement out of fear that I would expose them for concealing his suspension

Marion Lovett from Heritage Church added the following on their website's Leadership page under Ministries. "R.C. has been suspended from his pastoral duties until June 2016." You can see it here. <https://heritagecenterville.org/leadership/profile/rc-sproul-jr>

Christopher Brenyo from Ascension Presbyterian Church added the following on their website's Announcement page under Resources. It is in an obscure location for such an important statement.

See <http://www.ascensionpresbyterian.com/2015/10/announcement-rcjr-suspended/>

**Announcement from Presbytery  
October 5, 2015**

The Covenant Presbyterian Church presbytery has issued the following statement: "On September 19, 2015, R.C. Sproul Jr. was suspended by the Presbytery from his duties as an elder until June 2016."

The name of the small denomination is Covenant Presbyterian Church. The presbytery or governing body for the denomination gave no explanation for the suspension. Nor did they provide a link to additional information including R.C. Jr.'s statement about Ashley Madison or his suspension by Ligonier Ministries.

In fact, this suspension announcement doesn't even appear on the denomination's website. They "issued" a formal statement but never posted it. That is a contradiction of terms. You can't issue a statement unless you publish the statement.

The denomination also promotes articles by R.C. Jr. including one on "Sexual Destruction." Bottom line, you'd never know the Covenant Presbyterian Church denomination made a statement regarding the suspension of R.C. Jr. In fact, he still leads Ascension Presbyterian Church in Longmont, FL and is a co-pastor at Heritage Church in Centerville, TN according to the website (which will probably be changed the moment I post this article)! That is bizarre. They promote him as a pastor even though they removed him as a pastor. That too is deceptive.

See <http://www.covenant-presbyterian.org/articles/>

See <http://www.covenant-presbyterian.org/>

See <http://www.covenant-presbyterian.org/churches/>

R.C. Jr. is by far the best known leader in the denomination. He is their claim to fame. They have done nothing to inform the public. You will find no information anywhere about his suspension from pastoral ministry except for the extremely brief and vague notices on two church websites. All of this amounts to a cover up by the denomination.

**Push Back from Michael Shuman of Ascension Presbyterian Church and Michael Elliot of Covenant Presbyterian Church**

See <http://www.ascensionpresbyterian.com/people/c-michael-shuman/>

See <https://montrosepc.wordpress.com/about-3/>

In ways reminiscent of Sovereign Grace Ministries, Michael Shuman was solely concerned for my submission to the authority of men. Michael Elliot was solely concerned for me. Neither were concerned for the authority of Scripture or the serious issues I was raising with them concerning R.C. Jr.

**From:** C Michael Shuman [<mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:40 AM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Christopher Brenyo <[cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com)>; Wayne Petit <[wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com)>; Steve Walker <[stevewend@hotmail.com](mailto:stevewend@hotmail.com)>; Peter Lindstrom <[lindstrom.redeemer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindstrom.redeemer@sbcglobal.net)>; Roger Erber <[roger@christchurchcapron.com](mailto:roger@christchurchcapron.com)>; Michael Elliot <[gospelinzion@gmail.com](mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com)>; Norman Patterson <[nhpatterson@charter.net](mailto:nhpatterson@charter.net)>; Garry Mayes <[covenantkeeper@verizon.net](mailto:covenantkeeper@verizon.net)>; Peter Allison <[pastor@crowncovenantchurch.org](mailto:pastor@crowncovenantchurch.org)>; Phillip Kayser <[office@dominioncovenantchurch.com](mailto:office@dominioncovenantchurch.com)>; Matthew Clark <[covenantfamallergy@mac.com](mailto:covenantfamallergy@mac.com)>; Mark Robinette <[mark22@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mark22@columbus.rr.com)>; Marion Lovett <[marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org)>; Tom Penning <[penningvalleycenter@gmail.com](mailto:penningvalleycenter@gmail.com)>; James McDonald <[pastormcdonald@providencepeoria.org](mailto:pastormcdonald@providencepeoria.org)>; George Vander Dussen <[kerygma1517@gmail.com](mailto:kerygma1517@gmail.com)>; Rick Bianchi <[saintsinphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:saintsinphoenix@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

Good Morning, Brent.

Would you please provide me with contact information for the elders whose authority you are under?

C. Michael Shuman  
912.288.9840

Sent from my iPhone

This is a completely inappropriate response. Shuman should have expressed some kind of concern for R.C. Jr.'s actions. The only thing on his mind was contacting the elders in authority over me. That is a red flag.

Anyone familiar with authoritarian leaders know this is a common approach in seeking to control individuals who are raising concerns. Instead of focusing on concerns being raised, they focus on the person bringing them! Often, there is only one question that matters, "Whose authority are you under?" That authority is then used to control the person bringing the concern, just accusation or reproof. It leads to spiritual abuse and lording.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:10 AM  
**To:** C Michael Shuman [cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

There is only one question that needs to be answered. Are you going to obey Scripture in relation to R.C.? It is our final authority.

In a hypocritical fashion, Shuman is not concerned about his submission to the Bible. He is only concerned about my submission to men.

**From:** C Michael Shuman [mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:22 AM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

Brent,

Are you under the authority of elders of a local church? If so, could you provide me with their contact information?

Thanks.  
Michael

Shuman misses the mark again. He is only concerned about getting the names of my elders so he can contact them. Why? So he can talk to them in hopes they will stop me and control me in all likelihood. This is the same way C.J. Mahaney operates. Ignore the message and confront, control and discredit the messenger. Spiritually abusive systems exalt the authority of men above the authority of Christ and Scripture even though they believe the exact opposite. In so doing, they are often covering up for themselves.

**From:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 12:54:27 PM EST  
**To:** Christopher Brenyo <[cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com)>, Wayne Petit <[wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com)>, C. Michael Shuman <[cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com)>, Steve Walker <[stewend@hotmail.com](mailto:stewend@hotmail.com)>, Peter Lindstrom <[lindstrom.redeemer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindstrom.redeemer@sbcglobal.net)>, Roger Erber <[roger@christchurchcapron.com](mailto:roger@christchurchcapron.com)>, Michael Elliot <[gospelinzion@gmail.com](mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com)>, Norman Patterson <[nhpatterson@charter.net](mailto:nhpatterson@charter.net)>, Garry Mayes <[covenantkeeper@verizon.net](mailto:covenantkeeper@verizon.net)>, Peter Allison <[pastor@crowncovenantchurch.org](mailto:pastor@crowncovenantchurch.org)>, Phillip Kayser <[office@dominioncovenantchurch.com](mailto:office@dominioncovenantchurch.com)>, Matthew Clark <[covenantfamallergy@mac.com](mailto:covenantfamallergy@mac.com)>, Mark Robinette <[mark22@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mark22@columbus.rr.com)>, Marion Lovett <[marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org)>, Tom Penning <[penningvalleycenter@gmail.com](mailto:penningvalleycenter@gmail.com)>, James McDonald <[pastormcdonald@providencepeoria.org](mailto:pastormcdonald@providencepeoria.org)>, George Vander Dussen <[kerygma1517@gmail.com](mailto:kerygma1517@gmail.com)>, Rick Bianchi <[saintsinphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:saintsinphoenix@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

Michael [Shuman],

Are you under the authority of Scripture? That is the question and the answer is clearly no. You are not going to obey Scripture in relation to R.C. Jr. because you are not willing to live under its authority. It doesn't matter that you believe in *sola Scriptura* if you don't practice it. You are like the Pharisees in Matthew 23:3.

Michael, your focus should be on R.C. and helping him to repent, not on me. I am faithfully following the teaching of Scripture. I have repeatedly come to R.C., you and others; yet no one is willing to do what is right in the sight of the Lord and commanded in Scripture. Everyone has covered up for R.C. That includes you! It is reprehensible.

As a pastoral intern at Ascension, you have known about R.C.'s deception for a long time. He was suspended from pastoral ministry on September 19 and yet you continued to list him on the church website as a pastor until I brought the matter to your attention on October 5. This was not due to an oversight on your part. Marion Lovett had already brought the same concern to your attention. Nevertheless, it was only after my contact that you posted a vague one sentence notice about his suspension on an obscure part of the website where almost no one would see it. You were covering up then and you are covering up now.

Furthermore, I wrote you and all the governing elders on November 3. I included my correspondence with R.C. I asked that he “publish a confession” correcting Judgement and Grace. It didn’t happen. Judgement and Grace remained on his website as the official statement explaining his “visit” to Ashley Madison and no confession was forthcoming. You are to blame. That too amounted to a cover up. It continues.

Moreover, it is remarkable to me that R.C. Jr. is still listed as a pastor in Heritage Church and Ascension Presbyterian Church on the denomination’s website. The regional presbytery removed him [suspended him from ministry] but you would never know it reading the [Covenant Presbyterian Church website](#). That is unacceptable. His name should be removed immediately and a clear statement regarding the reason for his removal should be added.

See <http://www.covenant-presbyterian.org/churches/>

Michael, your focus should also be on your sin. Yet your focus is on me which is typical of spiritually abusive leadership cultures. Jesus’s words apply. “You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel” (Matt 23:24). The camel in the room is R.C.’s deception and the cover up by Ascension Presbyterian Church, the regional presbytery of Covenant Presbyterian Church and Ligonier Ministries that has followed.

R.C. Jr. lied and continues to lie to the Body of Christ in Judgement and Grace. You endorse this deception by allowing it to stand. Michael, I hope you will repent and I hope Ascension, CPC and Ligonier change direction and deal with R.C. Jr. in integrity. You must require he return to the Body of Christ against whom he has sinned.

To this end, I would love to meet with all of you including R.C. Sr., R.C. Jr. and Chris Larson to talk about a righteous way forward. I’d appreciate if you requested such a meeting. I’ll bring some fellow elders of national stature to observe the meeting so there is appropriate accountability. Please set it up. I am serious.

Lastly, if you have offense with me, obey Scripture and come to me in private (Matt 18:15). Don’t try to go around me to my elders – that is manipulative and cowardly. I’d be glad to talk with you, record our conversation and give them a copy. Whatever you want to say to them, you must say to me first. That is the teaching of Scripture. That is why I went to R.C. Jr. in private before approaching you as elders.

This was altogether meaningless to Shuman. It did not prick his conscience. It did not convict his heart. And there was no willingness to meet or engage the issues.

**From:** C Michael Shuman [mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

Good Afternoon Brent,

Thanks for the long reply. However, I was just hoping for the contact information of your elders.

Thanks.  
Michael

C. Michael Shuman  
912.288.9840  
Sent from my iPhone

The message was loud and clear, "Just hoping for the contact information of your elders." A similar thing happened with another leader from the denomination. His name was Michael too.

**From:** M [Michael] Elliott [mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:18 PM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

Mr. Detwiler,

I am an elder in the CPC, pastoring a church out in Colorado. Would you have some time to talk on the phone today?

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:23 PM  
**To:** M Elliott [gospelinzion@gmail.com](mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

You may write me.

**From:** M Elliott [mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:28 PM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference

I think the Lord would be honored by us taking the time to converse. That is certainly the underlying meaning of the advice for conflict resolution in Matthew 5 and 18. We have the modern means of the telephone by which we can "go to each other" across many miles and speak as neighbors.

I do not desire to 'chew you out' on the phone. I'd like to talk as mature adults.

Thank you.

Michael Elliot had already written me a month earlier after I sent him and the other pastors in the denomination, "[The Sex Scandal That Devastated a Suburban Megachurch - Inside the rise and fall of Sovereign Grace Ministries](#)," that appeared in *Washingtonian* magazine. He accused me of unsavory spamming and gossip. I did not respond to him at the time. I now took the occasion to do so.

See <http://www.washingtonian.com/2016/02/14/the-sex-scandal-that-devastated-a-suburban-megachurch-sovereign-grace-ministries/>

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016  
**To:** M Elliott [gospelinzion@gmail.com](mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Appeal to Humble Yourself at Ligonier National Conference  
**Importance:** High

I'd like you to express any and all concerns you may have for me in writing. That makes for clarity and accountability. Both are necessary in this situation.

With respect to your January 21 email below, you are quite wrong. As with R.C. Jr., the issues with C.J., CLC and SGM are national issues because they have repeatedly lied to the public about a host of issues including the conspiracy to commit and cover up the sexual abuse of children. It is also a national issue because national leaders have been unwilling to study the evidence and/or call them to account.



**From:** M Elliott [mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 5:27 PM

**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)

**Cc:** Christopher Brenyo <cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com>; Wayne Petit <wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com>; C. Michael Shuman <cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com>; Steve Walker <stevewend@hotmail.com>; Peter Lindstrom <lindstrom.redeemer@sbcglobal.net>; Roger Erber <roger@christchurchcapron.com>; Norman Patterson <nhpatterson@charter.net>; Garry Mayes <covenantkeeper@verizon.net>; Peter Allison <pastor@crowncovenantchurch.org>; Phillip Kayser <office@dominioncovenantchurch.com>; Matthew Clark <covenantfamallergy@mac.com>; Mark Robinette <mark22@columbus.rr.com>; Marion Lovett <marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org>; R.C. Sproul Jr. <coramdude@gmail.com>; Tom Penning <penningvalleycenter@gmail.com>; James McDonald <pastormcdonald@providencepeoria.org>; George Vander Dussen <kerygma1517@gmail.com>; Rick Bianchi <saintsinphoenix@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: FW: Featured Story by Washingtonian Magazine about C.J. Mahaney, Covenant Life Church & Sovereign Grace Ministries Hits Newsstands Tomorrow

Mr Detwiler,

I am one who is inclined to agree with you on the basic gist of this issue but I find it unsavory that you are spamming us with this email. Gossip is drawing people into a situation who have no connection to the problem or its solution. Your method here is not pleasing to God -- cf. James 1.20.

The biblical definition of gossip is not "drawing people into a situation who have no connection to the problem or its solution." That is the Bill Gothard definition of gossip and he used it to silence people and avoid accountability. Now over 30 women are filing a lawsuit accusing him of sexual abuse and assault. Michael, gossip is secret slander or defaming a person behind their back. What I did was bring to your attention unrepentant sin of national consequence. I was telling it to the church at large because the sin has involved the church at large.

Given your faulty understanding of Scripture, I have little doubt you would label the prophets gossipers and slanderers, call their righteous anger, sinful anger



(that is misapply James 1:20), ridicule their writings as unsavory and spam, and declare their public rebukes displeasing to God, if they were alive today.

What is displeasing to God is your silence. You should be calling R.C. Jr., CPC [the denomination] and Ligonier to account in public in keeping with Scripture.

If you choose to write, please provide me your perspective on each of the points I raised with R.C. in my 11-page letter. I want to know if, and how, you think he sinned against the Body of Christ in Judgment and Grace.

I'd also like you to read, "[Eight Reasons Why Sending Out \*The Documents\* Was Not Slandorous but Necessary.](#)" It may change your unbiblical understanding of gossip and slander.

See

<http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/970485/15864159/1325684317060/Part+8+-+Eight+Reasons+Why+Sending+Out+the+Documents+Was+Not+Slander+But+Necessary.pdf?token=Fhwy%2FU82IQ34SaJtau%2FPBYFffPQ%3D>

Finally, I'd suggest you read "[A More In-Depth Look at 'The Sex Scandal that Devastated a Suburban Megachurch'](#) by *Washingtonian* Magazine and *TIME Magazine.*" Then I hope you will contact Dr. R.C. Sproul Sr. and Ligonier Ministries and request they withdraw their support of C.J. Mahaney and Sovereign Grace Ministries.

See <http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/brentdetwilercom/a-more-in-depth-look-at-the-sex-scandal-that-devastated-a-su.html>

I appeal to you. Speak out and stop being silent about such serious matters.

Nothing I said mattered. Elliot responded by saying I insulted him with harshness and criticism. He further said I had favorably compared myself to the Old Testament prophets and taken vengeance into my own hands.

**From:** M Elliott [mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:53 PM

**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Re: An Appeal to Speak Out and Not Be Silent

This is interesting. You don't even know me yet you quickly proceed to insults.

“Vengeance is mine” says the LORD in three places. I am neither a civil magistrate nor in a church court over SGM. I am in a court over RC Sproul Jr. and that court has acted; not as you would have liked and maybe not as I would have liked (which you wouldn’t know because you were not part of our deliberations).

It appears you can only speak to me with harshness and criticism. That is not a dialog I can join you in.

**From:** M Elliott <[gospelinzion@gmail.com](mailto:gospelinzion@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** February 26, 2016 at 12:11:03 PM EST  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: An Appeal to Speak Out and Not Be Silent

Good morning,

A thought for you to consider:

You compare yourself favorably to the Old Testament prophets who brought rebuke and warned Israel. You suggest that for me to not act according to your desires is akin to the sinful Israelites who refused the Prophets’ message.

I’d caution you against seeing yourself in that divine office. You are not infallible; neither are the church courts nor the civil magistrate. We are God’s fallible means to His perfect ends. Your role is to appeal for justice to God’s ministers (ministers of the state regarding crimes and ministers in the church regarding sins) and to pray (“making your appeal known to God” Phil 4.6). You’ve done the former and some progress has been made. Not the progress you’d like. Continue to make your appeals to Him and in faith wait for Him to act. He might act through the aforementioned ministers or he might act directly. But your job is to appeal for His vengeance upon criminality & sin not to take vengeance into your hands (i.e. your fingers pressed against the keyboard).

May God bless you with the peace promised in Phil 4.7 and bless his church with the purity that comes from proper church discipline.

I include these emails not to shame Elliot but to illustrate the spiritual abuse at work commensurate with the cover up of R.C. Jr.’s sin.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2016 10:20 AM

**To:** Christopher Brenyo <cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com>; Wayne Petit <wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com>; C. Michael Shuman <cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com>; Steve Walker <stevewend@hotmail.com>; Peter Lindstrom <lindstrom.redeemer@sbcglobal.net>; Roger Erber <roger@christchurchcapron.com>; Michael Elliot <gospelinzion@gmail.com>; Norman Patterson <nhpatterson@charter.net>; Garry Mayes <covenantkeeper@verizon.net>; Peter Allison <pastor@crowncovenantchurch.org>; Phillip Kayser <office@dominioncovenantchurch.com>; Matthew Clark <covenantfamallergy@mac.com>; Mark Robinette <mark22@columbus.rr.com>; Marion Lovett <marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org>; R.C. Sproul Jr. <coramdude@gmail.com>; Tom Penning <penningvalleycenter@gmail.com>; James McDonald <pastormcdonald@providencepeoria.org>; George Vander Dussen <kerygma1517@gmail.com>; Rick Bianchi <saintsinphoenix@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: An Appeal to Speak Out and Not Be Silent

Michael Elliot,

I mildly corrected you from Scripture but like the mocker in Proverbs you pridefully reacted by labeling my input nothing but “insults...harshness and criticism.” That is the response of Lady Folly, not Lady Wisdom (Prov. 9:1-18). That concerns me.

You charge, “But your job is to appeal for His vengeance upon criminality & sin not to take vengeance into your hands (i.e. your fingers pressed against the keyboard).” In contacting you and the presbytery, I am not taking vengeance into my hands, I am appealing that you obey Scripture. You have covered up for R.C. Jr. and allowed him to deceive the Body of Christ.

Paul the apostle tells us “the spiritual person judges [discerns, evaluates, assesses, critiques] all things” (1 Cor. 2:15). He continues, “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you’” (1 Cor. 5:12-13). When we fail to judge, we fail to love and we fail to be holy. This passage has nothing to do with sinful vengeance. In this context, to judge (Gr. *krino*) means to righteously assess and justly punish.

You charge,

“You compare yourself favorably to the Old Testament prophets who brought rebuke and warned Israel. You suggest that for me to not act according to your desires is akin to the sinful Israelites who refused the Prophets’ message. I’d caution you against seeing yourself in that divine office. You are not infallible.”

I smiled when I read this paragraph because I anticipated these accusations. That is why I said:

“Given your faulty understanding of Scripture, I have little doubt you would label the prophets gossipers and slanderers, call their righteous anger, sinful anger (that is misapply James 1:20), ridicule their writings as unsavory and spam, and declare their public rebukes displeasing to God, if they were alive today.”

My critique was based upon your faulty understanding of Scripture. In other words, you would respond to the OT prophets the way you responded to me because you don’t understand the teaching of Scripture on gossip, righteous anger, the need for public rebuke, or what pleases God in the face of unrepentant sin and corruption. Spiritually abusive leaders always discredit those who correct them and misuse Scripture in order to silence them. Your response to me contains many of the indicia of authoritarian leadership.

Having said that, let me go further. It is not only your faulty understanding of Scripture that concerns me; it is your willingness to disobey Scripture. You are refusing to act according to the rebukes and warnings of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16), not my whims. If you won’t obey the Bible, there is no reason to believe you would obey a canonical prophet like Isaiah if he returned from the dead.

In any case, I am not a prophet and I am not infallible. I am, however, called to “speak forth” (Gr. *propheteou*) the written word of God as are all Christians. I am not suggesting you act according to my desires; I am exhorting you to act according to the teaching of Scripture. It is the final *exousia*.

Michael, you know R.C.’s narrative in Judgement and Grace is a false narrative but you are unwilling to expose his deception. Every moment you are silent; you sanction his lies. In contrast, Peter the apostle exposed the deception of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). Now there’s an idea. Act like an apostle.

It doesn’t matter if you believe in *sola Scriptura* when you are unwilling to follow *sola Scriptura*. You have put the faulty ruling of a church court above holy

Scripture. That is Romanism, not Protestantism. Why do you content yourself with evil? Why are you not speaking out? Why are you hiding behind a church court? Listen to Peter and the apostles, "We must obey God rather than men" (cf. Acts 5:29).

Moreover, imitate the likes of Huss, Wycliffe, Luther and Calvin. State your perspective on each of the points I raised with R.C. in my 11-page letter like Luther's stated his perspective on indulgences in his 95 theses. Act like a Reformer. Protest the corruption around you. These are not insults. These are admonitions.

Once again, I appeal to you. Speak out and stop being silent about such serious matters. Firmly and redemptively call R.C. Jr., Covenant Presbyterian Church and Ligonier Ministries to account for the glory of God and the good of Christ's Church. Don't be a hearer of God's word, be a doer (James 1:22).

I didn't hear from Michael Elliot again. All my appeals to R.C. Sproul Jr., his personal pastors, his Regional Presbytery and denominational pastors, fell on deaf ears.

### **My Appeals to Chris Larson, President and CEO of Ligonier Ministries**

I also appealed to Chris Larson, president and CEO of Ligonier Ministries. At first, I was simply concerned for the confusion created by the fact that Ligonier had not put out a statement about R.C. Jr.'s suspension from the ministry after his "confession" in "Judgement and Grace" on August 31.

See <http://www.ligonier.org/about/who-we-are/leadership-team/>

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2015 9:59 AM

**To:** Chris Larson [clarson@ligonier.org](mailto:clarson@ligonier.org)

**Subject:** Help Regarding a Couple Questions

**Importance:** High

Hello Dr. Larson,

We have not met but we have many mutual acquaintances.

I first met R.C. in the mid 70's. I was doing my undergraduate studies at Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania which is 50 minutes north of Ligonier. He would come up to speak for The Coalition for Christian Outreach.

Anyway, I love Ligonier Ministries. I had dinner with Burk [Parsons, editor of Tabletalk magazine] several years ago. I told him then, I thought TT was the best “periodical” resource available for the study of Scripture and Christian doctrine. I’ve been reading it for decades and benefitted immensely. You are advancing that work at The Reformation Bible College.

I am sure this is a difficult time for you given the suspension of R.C. Jr. In that regard, I am being asked a lot of questions and I could use your help in answering them.

In his August 31 confession, R.C. Jr. said “I recently informed the board of Ligonier Ministries, which has handled the matter internally, having suspended me until July 1, 2016.” Is that a true statement? I assume so but I’ve not found any statement put out by Ligonier Ministries confirming its accuracy. Could you please point me in the right direction? I’d like to provide people with an official statement from you or the ministry.

I’ve also been asked if R.C. Jr. was suspended with full pay, reduced pay or no pay. I don’t know the answer to that question. Could you help me? Some people are concerned he is effectively getting a 10 month paid vacation. I’d like to disabuse them of that concern.

Unrelated to the issues above, I recently wrote “What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.’s Visit to Ashley Madison.” You may find it of interest.

<http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/brentdetwilercom/what-cj-mahaney-gene-emerson-can-learn-from-rc-sproul-jrs-vi.html>

Thanks for your time and assistance in answering my questions. I don’t want a vacuum of communication to be filled with unnecessary speculation that undermines the credibility of Ligonier.

God’s grace to you in the good work He has called you to in Christ!

Brent

I was concerned for the good of Ligonier Ministries. That is why I wrote. Chris wrote me back.

**From:** Chris Larson [mailto:clarson@ligonier.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2015 6:12 PM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Help Regarding a Couple Questions

Brent,

I've been in meetings all day in Chicago. My apologies for the delay.

In short, yes, everything RC Jr. reported was accurate. And the way in which it was picked up by Christianity Today and other news outlets, we felt the information spread sufficiently did not require a public statement from Ligonier.

The board did reduce his compensation during this period of suspension. He has not been given full pay.

As you know, Ligonier Ministries has always sought to proclaim the holiness of God and sin stands in stark relief against that background. Our only hope is in Jesus Christ and His perfect righteousness. Through Christ, we are looking to the holy God who hears the cries of repentant sinners and is eager to bestow grace on those who seek Him.

Would ask for your prayers for RC Jr., his children, and his parents. Most importantly, please pray that God will glorify Himself and His truth through this difficult time.

Chris

Chris Larson  
President & CEO  
Ligonier Ministries

I appreciated Chris getting back to me. I wrote him back and used the occasion to share an observation with him regarding R.C. Jr. needing help applying the doctrine of sin to his heart. This was before I figured out how bogus R.C.'s confession was in "Judgement and Grace."

See <http://rcsprouljr.com/blog/general/judgment-and-grace/>

I also provided Chris with my post about the "hush fund" set up by top SGM leaders. I asked him to forward it to R.C. Sproul Sr. and the board. I further asked that they withdraw their support of C.J. in light of it.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2015 12:46 PM  
**To:** Chris Larson [clarson@ligonier.org](mailto:clarson@ligonier.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Help Regarding a Couple Questions

Hello Chris,

Thanks for getting back to me on my questions. I appreciate it and certainly understand your delay. No apology necessary.

I respect the action you have taken and pray for a successful outcome. I also understand that R.C. Jr. has been suspended from pastoral ministry by his regional presbytery. I am sincerely praying for him and the family but whole heartedly agree with your prayer priorities. "Most importantly, please pray that God will glorify Himself and His truth through this difficult time."

In [What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Visit to Ashley Madison](#)," I expressed considerable appreciation for R.C.'s confession but I also provided a brief critique as follows.

**What C.J. Mahaney & Gene Emerson Can Learn from R.C. Sproul Jr.'s Visit to Ashley Madison**  
**Saturday, September 5, 2015 at 12:18 PM**  
**Brent Detwiler**

R.C. Sproul Jr. (not his distinguished father) acknowledged the following on Monday.

"I visited Ashley Madison...to fan the flames of my imagination...in a moment of weakness, pain, and from an unhealthy curiosity."

He should have left out all the excuses (weakness, pain, curiosity) and made a confession without qualification. For example,

"I went to Ashley Madison to fan the flames of my sinful imagination tempted by sexual lust in my heart and with a degree of intentionality (not unhealthy curiosity) because I was on the site long enough to leave an old email address."

He also said, "In light of [my public statement here](#), I believe I should have withheld comment on this matter" referring to his blog commentary about the evil nature of Ashley Madison before he came



forward. This too is weak. He should have said, "I should have withheld comment on this matter because to do so was an expression of hypocrisy."

Thus ends my critique of R.C. Sproul Jr. because we can learn from him provided he is telling us the whole story.

I don't know who is caring for R.C. Jr.'s soul but I think he needs help applying the doctrine of sin to his heart so he can see the root issues of lust, intentionality, and hypocrisy more clearly. I think that kind of illumination by the Holy Spirit would result in deeper repentance, alter his confession and bring it more in line with Scripture, and effect greater change in his life and thinking.

I know this is your desire and aspiration. "Through Christ, we are looking to the holy God who hears the cries of repentant sinners and is eager to bestow grace on those who seek Him." Amen. I am praying with you to this end.

There is one other matter I'd like to raise with you. I am increasingly concerned for R.C. Sproul Sr.'s support of C.J. Mahaney as illustrated by his participation with C.J. in Together for the Gospel 2016.

In the post I reference above, I made the following comment.

"Sproul 'left, never to return.' Mahaney and associates have repeatedly returned to their sin like a dog returns to its vomit (Prov 26:11). They continue to lie, deceive, and cover up. That includes Mark Prater (Executive Director), Paul Buckley, (Chairman of the Board) and Tommy Hill (Director of Administration & Finance). See [Hush Fund Set Up by Top SGM Leaders to Meet the Demands of a SGM Pastor Whose Son Was Sexually Abused.](#)"

This may sound like an extreme comment but it is supported by the evidence. There is a carefully documented history of lying, deceiving and covering up for those willing to study it.

In particular, I referenced a post I wrote in March about the use of a "hush fund" to silence the family of a sex abuse victim. There is nothing hearsay about the evidence it contains. All of it comes from primary sources and serves as a vivid example of the corruption that characterizes Sovereign Grace Ministries. Nor is it an antiquated example. It stems from events that occurred in 2013 while C.J. was President of SGM.

Recently, I've been interacting with law enforcement over this matter. I wrote them the following in part.

"This 'hush fund' involved interstate fraud from my perspective. ... Monies were solicited from SGM pastors and churches across America. Therefore, I assume you will bring these matters to the attention of federal authorities like the FBI or the Internal Revenue Service. ... Furthermore, the monies paid may have constituted an illegal bribe and the binding agreements they were required to sign in exchange for the monies may have constituted coercion."

In light of this would you please read the entire post? Once you do, I'm confident you'll agree with my profound concerns. It is a serious matter. Here is the link.

<http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/brentdetwilercom/hush-fund-set-up-by-top-sgm-leaders-to-meet-the-demands-of-a.html>

Would you also do me another favor? Please forward this email to R.C. Sr. and ask him to read the piece on the "hush fund." I'm afraid he has been deceived by C.J.'s spin and pretensions for quite some time. Furthermore, his support of C.J. translates into Ligonier's support of C.J. and that is not good for Ligonier Ministries.

I'd also like to ask that the Ligonier Board be apprised of these matters and request that R.C. withdraw from participation in Together for the Gospel 2016. In making this suggestion, I have your best interests at heart.

In closing. Recently, a niece of mine from the west coast, finished up a summer internship with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association here in Charlotte. She attends Biola and heads up the logistical side of a student missions program there. Of course, we enjoyed our time with her over the summer. During our last interaction, I gave her a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary copy of *The Holiness of God*. I told her this book was the single most important book I've read besides the Bible because holiness is the fundamental fact about God and you can't begin to understand Him unless you understand His holiness. I am largely grateful to R.C. for this theological deposit in my life and teaching.

Chris, thanks again for your note. Please know I am praying for you, the Sproul's and Ligonier Ministries during this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Brent

I received this response.

**From:** Chris Larson [<mailto:clarson@ligonier.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2015 1:41 PM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Help Regarding a Couple Questions

Thank you for this information, Brent.

Chris

I wrote.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [<mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2015 1:45 PM  
**To:** Chris Larson [clarson@ligonier.org](mailto:clarson@ligonier.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Help Regarding a Couple Questions

You're certainly welcome.

This was October 7. Things were not right. I continued to research and investigate. On October 19, I wrote R.C. Sproul Jr. my 11-page letter outlining his sin and appealing for his repentance. At the time, I told no one about my private attempts to help him.

Six weeks later, I wrote Chris Larson. A lot had taken place in the meantime. The leaders from R.C. Jr.'s denomination had been in contact with Chris. I therefore asked this question. "I must also ask if you are encouraging R.C. Jr. to make an open and honest confession that addresses the issues?" in my 11-page letter.

I also asked Chris why R.C. Jr. had not been suspended from all his positions in Ligonier Ministries and I also followed up on whether the board had directed R.C. Sr. to withdraw from Together for the Gospel.

##

**From:** Brent Detwiler [<mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:52 AM  
**To:** Chris Larson [clarson@ligonier.org](mailto:clarson@ligonier.org)  
**Subject:** Follow Up on R.C. Jr. & R.C. Sr.

Hello Chris,

Marion Lovett wrote me on Saturday and said he has been in contact with you regarding my concerns for R.C. Jr.

I sent those concerns to R.C. Jr. on October 19, 2015. I forwarded those concerns to Marion and the presbytery on November 3. I've attached them for you.

Would you please forward these concerns to R.C. Sr., Vesta [his wife], the Board of Directors and other key leaders in Ligonier Ministries like Dirk Naves and Stephen Nichols? Thank you.

Yesterday, I wrote R.C. Jr. again.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 10:33 AM  
**To:** R.C. Sproul Jr. [coramdude@gmail.com](mailto:coramdude@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** What Have You Decided?

Hello R.C.,

Earlier this month, I contacted your fellow pastors and presbytery when I did not hear back from you. I sent them this email and attached my correspondence with you.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2015 12:34 PM  
**To:** Marion Lovett [marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org); Christopher Brenyo [cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cgbrenyo@ascensionpresbyterian.com); Wayne Petit [wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:wpetit@ascensionpresbyterian.com); C. Michael Shuman [cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com](mailto:cmshuman@ascensionpresbyterian.com)  
**Subject:** An Appeal to the CPC Elders Regarding R.C. Sproul Jr.

To the elders of Heritage Church, Ascension Presbyterian Church and those that serve on the Regional Presbytery for the Covenant Presbyterian Church denomination.

Greeting and love in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Two weeks ago, I wrote R.C. Sproul Jr. about his August 2014 "visit" to Ashley Madison and his subsequent statement regarding the same in August 2015. I hoped to help him and hear from him. When I did not hear from him, I sent him a follow up note. I've still not heard from him. Therefore, I am forwarding my October 19 and 23 correspondence (see attached) so you can follow up with him and with me. Here is an excerpt.

“R.C., I don’t know who is caring for your soul but I hope you will get help. The matters covered in this letter must be addressed. First in private, then in public.

“In “Grace and Judgement” you exclaimed, “And now the world is informed.” No, the world was not informed, it was misinformed. Actually, I fear it was deceived.

“In private, I hope you will take your heart to task before God like King David in Psalm 51 and then go through the liberating steps outlined in James 4:7-10 which end with a wonderful promise.

“Then it will be a small matter for you to correct your public “confession.” You will want to reveal, confess and renounce your sins so you can prosper and find mercy in the sight of God and men. That is my desire for you. ...

“I hope and pray this will occur quickly for God’s glory and your good. Please write me. I’d like to hear where the Holy Spirit brings conviction and how you are going to respond in private and public. Such accountability is necessary and intended to serve you.”

I’d recommend the following actions be taken. I believe they are keeping with the teaching of Scripture.

1. Carefully review all I have written.
2. Enumerate the issues and cover them with R.C.
3. Reprove him for sin.
4. Lead him to repentance.
5. Publish a confession.
6. Indefinitely remove him from ministry.
7. Follow up with Ligonier Ministries.
8. Follow up with me.

I reference James 4:7-10 above. It ends with this wonderful promise. “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

That is my hope and prayer for R.C. Jr.

God grant you grace in helping him obey this holy command with its consequent result.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Brent

R.C., I am writing again to see if you have decided to humble yourself and publish a confession that addresses the fundamental issues I covered with you in my correspondence from October 19.

This is required because you deceived the general public in an egregious manner in your blog post, "Judgement and Grace." You must repent before the Body of Christ and watching world.

In May, your father wrote an article in *TableTalk* on "What Does "coram deo" Mean?" He said,

"To live all of life *coram Deo* is to live a life of integrity. ... Integrity is found where men and women live their lives in a pattern of consistency. It is a pattern that functions the same basic way in church and out of church. It is a life that is open before God. It is a life in which all that is done is done as to the Lord. It is a life lived by principle, not expediency; by humility before God, not defiance. It is a life lived under the tutelage of conscience that is held captive by the Word of God."

With this teaching in mind, I trust you will "live a life of integrity" and make a confession that is before God and his people. You cannot let your deceptive statement from August 31 stand. You must expose it and renounce it. That is "a life lived by principle, not expediency; by humility before God, not defiance."

This represents God's best for you.

*Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Please write me back this week. I'd like to know how you plan to proceed.

Sincerely,  
Brent

I also wrote Marion yesterday.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 12:34 PM  
**To:** Marion Lovett [marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org](mailto:marionlovett@heritagecenterville.org)  
**Subject:** Will R.C. Jr. Make a Public Confession?

Hi Marion,

It has been a month since I wrote R.C. Jr. asking him to make a public confession for his August 31 statement regarding his visit to Ashley Madison. I followed up but heard nothing. I wrote him again today. Thus far, he has been silent.

Could you help me out? Do you know if R.C. plans to voluntarily publish a confession that addresses the fundamental issues I raised with him in my correspondence? If not, will you and the presbytery require that action of him or make a candid statement of your own if he refuses?

R.C. grievously misled the Body of Christ and watching world. That must be remedied *coram Deo*.

Thanks  
Brent

In light of the above, I must also ask if you are encouraging R.C. Jr. to make an open and honest confession that addresses the issues?

When R.C. Jr. wrote about his "visit" to Ashley Madison, he noted his suspension by Ligonier Ministries but he did not specify from what he was suspended.

"With the revelation of the hack has come the revelation of my sin. I recently informed the board of Ligonier Ministries, which has handled the matter internally, having suspended me until July 1, 2016. I also informed my presbytery which is also handling the matter internally. And now the world is informed."

As it turns out, the board suspended him from his position as rector of theology and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Theology to which he was assigned in February 2014. He was not suspended from the faculty of Reformation Bible College. More significantly, he was not suspended as a Teaching Fellow for Ligonier Ministries and he was not suspended from the Board of Directors for Ligonier Ministries. To be honest, I don't understand why would he be suspended from his role in the Bible College but not his more significant roles in Ligonier Ministries? From my perspective, he should have been suspended from all three positions given the seriousness of his sin.

It is possible, however, you took his "confession" on August 31 at face value and didn't realize he was deceiving you and the general public. But now that you do know, why hasn't he been suspended as a Teaching Fellow and a Board of Director? I don't understand why he remains in these positions. Can you help me understand?

In my last email to you, I included an important article I wrote entitled, [Hush Fund Set Up by Top SGM Leaders to Meet the Demands of a SGM Pastor Whose Son Was Sexually Abused](#). I asked that it be forwarded to R.C. Sr. and the Board of Directors. I further asked that the board have R.C. Sr. withdraw from his participation in Together for the Gospel 2016.

"Would you also do me another favor? Please forward this email to R.C. Sr. and ask him to read the piece on the "hush fund." I'm afraid he has been deceived by C.J.'s spin and pretensions for quite some time. Furthermore, his support of C.J. translates into Ligonier's support of C.J. and that is not good for Ligonier Ministries.

"I'd also like to ask that the Ligonier Board be apprised of these matters and request that R.C. withdraw from participation in Together for the Gospel 2016. In making this suggestion, I have your best interests at heart." (Oct 7, 2015)

Would you update me please? Did R.C. Sr. and the board read the article? What did they decide with regard to his participation in T4G?

Over the past month, I've tried to help R.C. Jr. do what is right. I hope my most recent efforts prove to be effectual for his good and the good of many others including Ligonier Ministries.

I remain in prayer. God's grace to you in Christ!

Brent

##

Chris wrote back and but only answered one of my three questions. He explained that R.C. Jr. was suspended from all his positions at Ligonier. That was news to me. He did not answer my question about the need for a public confession or whether the board directed R.C. Sr. to withdraw from Together for the Gospel.

**From:** Chris Larson [mailto:clarson@ligonier.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 12:11 PM  
**To:** Brent Detwiler [abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Follow Up on R.C. Jr. & R.C. Sr.



Thank you, Brent. To clarify, the board's action to suspend Dr. Sproul Jr. included all posts within the ministry and school. He was removed as a speaker at our upcoming National Conference as well. We think of our various efforts as connected organically and assumed the suspension disclosure was sufficiently clear. I apologize if that was not clear.

We continue to soberly assess these matters and encourage proper pastoral care for Dr. Sproul Jr.'s soul.

Chris

On Nov 19, 2015, at 10:51 AM, Brent Detwiler <[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)> wrote:

As it turns out, the board suspended him from his position as rector of theology and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Theology to which he was assigned in February 2014. He was not suspended from the faculty of Reformation Bible College. More significantly, he was not suspended as a Teaching Fellow for Ligonier Ministries and he was not suspended from the Board of Directors for Ligonier Ministries. To be honest, I don't understand why would he be suspended from his role in the Bible College but not his more significant roles in Ligonier Ministries?

This surprised me but it also concerned me. No one knew that R.C. Jr. was suspended as a Teaching Fellow or from the Board of Directors. I told Chris, "I must be honest. I am concerned for obscurantism by all parties related to Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:[abrentdetwiler@gmail.com](mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 2:29 PM

**To:** Chris Larson [clarson@ligonier.org](mailto:clarson@ligonier.org)

**Subject:** RE: Follow Up on R.C. Jr. & R.C. Sr.

The "suspension disclosure" was made by Dr. Sproul Jr. on his blog in August. It was one sentence long and undefined. The only thing changed on the Ligonier Ministries website in consequence was the removal of his title as rector and chair. His other roles and responsibilities remained unchanged on your website.

Eleven weeks later, that is still the case. He is presently listed as a Faculty Member, Teaching Fellow and Board of Director.

<http://reformationbiblecollege.org/academics/>

<http://www.ligonier.org/about/who-we-are/teaching-fellows/>

<http://www.ligonier.org/about/who-we-are/board-directors/>

If he was removed from “all posts” in August, why hasn’t that been made clear by you as President and CEO of Ligonier Ministries? And why is he still listed as a Teaching Fellow and Board Member? No one but insiders know he was removed from these positions. For example, I just found out from you! And of course, the website leads donors and followers to believe the complete opposite is true. Chris, this is unacceptable.

The same thing occurred when Dr. Sproul Jr. was suspended from pastoral ministry by his regional presbytery on September 19. They continued to list him as a pastor in Heritage Church and Ascension Presbyterian Church. It was only after I contacted them regarding the matter on October 5 that they made a one sentence announcement regarding his suspension. Otherwise, people would still believe he is a pastor in good standing in all likelihood.

I must be honest. I am concerned for obscurantism by all parties related to Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr.

In any case, I hope you will promptly address the situation. You and the board should take responsibility for not making a public announcement regarding Dr. Sproul Jr.’s termination as rector and chair, Teaching Fellow, and Board of Director. And you should also take responsibility for not changing the website. An apology and explanation are needed.

Far more importantly, however, you must be honest with the public regarding Dr. Sproul Jr.’s deception.

I anticipate your ready reply to my other questions.

Thank you,  
Brent

### **An Invitation to Chris Larson and Ligonier Ministries to Repent – March 17, 2016**

I never heard back from Chris. That was November 19, 2015. Fast forward to March 17, 2016. Here is my final correspondence.

**From:** Brent Detwiler [mailto:abrentdetwiler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:36 PM  
**To:** Chris Larson [clarson@ligonier.org](mailto:clarson@ligonier.org)  
**Subject:** An Invitation to Repent

Hello Chris,

I last wrote you on November 19, 2015. Soon thereafter came Thanksgiving, Christmas, an orthopedic surgery, rehabilitation, and new developments with C.J. Mahaney and Sovereign Grace Ministries. The latter needed to be covered (see below). Only now am I able to write again. I regret the delay.

**Washingtonian magazine (online edition):**

**The Sex Scandal That Devastated a Suburban Megachurch**

Inside the rise and fall of Sovereign Grace Ministries

By Tiffany Stanley on February 14, 2016

<http://www.washingtonian.com/2016/02/14/the-sex-scandal-that-devastated-a-suburban-megachurch-sovereign-grace-ministries/>

**TIME magazine (online article):**

**Inside the Investigation into Child Sexual Abuse at Sovereign Grace Ministries**

How one reporter investigated child sex abuse at a major evangelical church

By [Elizabeth Dias](#) on February 16, 2016

<http://time.com/4226444/child-sex-abuse-evangelical-church/>

**BrentDetwiler.com:**

*Long Story by Washingtonian Magazine about C.J. Mahaney, Covenant Life Church, & Sovereign Grace Ministries Hits Newsstands Tomorrow*  
*Detailed evidence and analysis documenting the conspiracy to cover up child sex abuse.*

By Brent Detwiler on January 20, 2016

<http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/brentdetwilercom/long-story-by-washingtonian-magazine-about-cj-mahaney-covena.html>

**BrentDetwiler.com:**

**A More In-Depth Look at "The Sex Scandal That Devastated a Suburban Megachurch" by Washingtonian Magazine and TIME Magazine**

Important information regarding victims' stories not included in articles and commentary on new lawsuit and C.J. Mahaney's silence.

By Brent Detwiler on February 18, 2016

<http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/brentdetwilercom/a-more-in-depth-look-at-the-sex-scandal-that-devastated-a-su.html>

Let me provide a brief chronology of events before I proceed in making my appeal to you and Ligonier Ministries.

August 31, 2015

R.C. Jr. posts "Judgement and Grace" on his website. He says, "In August 2014, in a moment of weakness, pain, and from an unhealthy curiosity, I visited Ashley Madison. ... I recently informed the board of Ligonier Ministries, which has handled the matter internally, having suspended me until July 1, 2016."

October 5

I contact Marion Lovett to clarify where R.C. Jr. is a pastor and ask how he feels about R.C. continuing as a pastor given his suspension by Ligonier. He responds by saying R.C. is a pastor at Heritage Church in TN and Ascension Presbyterian Church in FL but informs me that he has also been suspended from pastoral ministry.

I respond by recommending both churches announce his suspension on their respective websites. As a result, they make the following statements respectively, "R.C. has been suspended from his pastoral duties until June 2016" and "On September 19, 2015, R.C. Sproul Jr. was suspended by the Presbytery from his duties as an elder until June 2016."

October 6 at 9:50

I write you for the first time and ask if R.C. Jr.'s statement about his suspension by Ligonier Ministries is true and accurate because I cannot find an official statement on the matter by you or Ligonier Ministries.

October 6 at 6:12 PM

You write back, "In short, yes, everything R.C. Jr. reported was accurate. And the way in which it was picked up by Christianity Today and other news outlets, we felt the information spread sufficiently [and] did not require a public statement from Ligonier."

October 7 at 12:46 PM

I write you back and say, "I think he needs help applying the doctrine of sin to his heart so he can see the root issues of lust, intentionality, and hypocrisy more clearly. I think that kind of illumination by the Holy Spirit would result in deeper repentance, alter his confession and bring it more in line with Scripture, and effect greater change in his life and thinking."

I also forward evidence to you regarding the conspiracy to cover up child sexual abuse in SGM and request that R.C. Sr. withdraw his support of C.J. and therefore not participate in Together for the Gospel 2016.

October 7 at 1:41 PM

You thank me for the information but that is all.

October 19

I write an 11-page letter to R.C. Jr. appealing for his repentance and offering to help him in any way possible. He doesn't respond.

October 23

I sent a note to R.C. Jr. asking him to please write me. He doesn't respond.

November 3

I sent "An Appeal to the CPC Elders Regarding R.C. Sproul Jr." and include my Oct 19 and Oct 23 correspondence. I recommend R.C. "publish a confession" and the elders "indefinitely remove him from ministry."

November 14

R.C. Jr.'s pastor, Marion Lovett writes me back on behalf of the local elders and regional Presbytery but makes no comment about having R.C. making a public confession. He says R.C. "will be reviewed by a committee of Presbytery" at the end of his suspension in June 2016.

November 18 at 10:33 AM

I write R.C. Jr. a third time "to see if you [i.e., R.C.] have decided to humble yourself and publish a confession that addresses the fundamental issues I covered with you in my correspondence from October 19." He doesn't respond.

November 18 at 12:24 PM

I write Marion and ask, "Do you know if R.C. plans to voluntarily publish a confession that addresses the fundamental issues I raised with him in my correspondence? If not, will you and the presbytery require that action of him or make a candid statement of your own if he refuses?" Marion doesn't respond.

November 19 at 10:52 AM

I write you a "Follow Up on R.C. Jr. & R.C. Sr." and inquire, "In light of the above, I must also ask if you are encouraging R.C. Jr. to make an open and honest confession that addresses the issues?" You don't respond to the question.

I also point out that according to the Ligonier website, R.C. Jr. was solely suspended from his position as rector and chair of Philosophy and Theology in

the Reformation Bible College. I point out that he was not suspended from the faculty of RBC, as a Teaching Fellow for Ligonier Ministries, or from the Board of Directors for Ligonier Ministries because there are no notices.

Finally, I ask, "Would you update me please? Did R.C. Sr. and the board read the article [i.e., [Hush Fund Set Up by Top SGM Leaders to Meet the Demands of a SGM Pastor Whose Son Was Sexually Abused](#)]? What did they decide with regard to his participation in T4G?" You don't respond.

November 19 at 12:11 PM

You respond to the matter of suspensions with this comment. "To clarify, the board's action to suspend Dr. Sproul Jr. included all posts within the ministry and school. ... We think of our various efforts as connected organically and assumed the suspension disclosure was sufficiently clear. I apologize if that was not clear."

November 19, 2:29 PM

I respond, "The 'suspension disclosure' was made by Dr. Sproul Jr. on his blog in August. It was one sentence long and undefined. The only thing changed on the Ligonier Ministries website in consequence was the removal of his title as rector and chair [with no mention of any suspension]. His other roles and responsibilities remained unchanged on your website. Eleven weeks later, that is still the case. He is presently listed as a Faculty Member, Teaching Fellow and Board of Director."

I further point out, "No one but insiders know he was removed from these positions. For example, I just found out from you! And of course, the website leads donors and followers to believe the complete opposite is true. Chris, this is unacceptable."

I close by saying, "I must be honest. I am concerned for obscurantism by all parties related to Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr. ... You and the board should take responsibility for not making a public announcement regarding Dr. Sproul Jr.'s termination as rector and chair, Teaching Fellow, and Board of Director. And you should also take responsibility for not changing the website. An apology and explanation are needed. Far more importantly, however, you must be honest with the public regarding Dr. Sproul Jr.'s deception."

##

The next day, November 20, 2015, I checked the Ligonier website to see if you took responsibility for not making a public announcement, not changing the

website and not being honest with the public regarding R.C. Jr.'s deception in his post, "Judgement and Grace." Here's what I saw.

**Our Board of Directors**

Mr. James Campisi

Mrs. Pat Dizney

Dr. W. Robert Godfrey

Mr. Chris Larson (ex officio)

Dr. Steven J. Lawson

Mr. Stephen Levee

Mr. Gregory Miseyko

Dr. Archie Parrish (emeritus)

Dr. R.C. Sproul

Dr. R.C. Sproul, Jr ([suspended](#) until July 1, 2016)

Mrs. Vesta Sproul

Mr. David Stoltzfus

**R.C. Sproul Jr.**

**Teaching Fellow**

Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr. is a gifted teacher and frequent conference speaker who has served in various ministry roles both inside and outside the church. He is the author of several books, including *The Call to Wonder*, *Biblical Economics*, *Tearing Down Strongholds*, and *Believing God*. [Suspended](#) until July 1, 2016.

I immediately noticed that "suspended" was added and linked in both listings. I felt some elation thinking you were finally giving a truthful explanation for R.C. Jr.'s suspension. I clicked and to my utter dismay it connected to "Judgment and Grace." I was stunned beyond belief! I couldn't believe you were directing people to a statement you knew contained false and misleading information. In that moment, I realized you, and I must assume Dr. R.C. Sproul Sr. and the Ligonier Board, were committed to covering up for R.C. Jr. by promulgating his false narrative!

No one has ever held more positions at one time in Ligonier Ministries than R.C. Jr. Until his suspension, he was the esteemed rector and chair of Philosophy and Theology, a prestigious Teaching Fellow and a powerful Board of Director. I assume all these positions will be restored to him by the Board of Directors on July 1.

At the time of his appointment to the position of rector and chair in February 2014, R.C. Sr. and the Board said the following in their press release.

“As Reformation Bible College (RBC) continues to grow, so does our need for gifted and godly professors and administrators to carry out the vision of the school. To that end [we] are pleased to announce the promotion and appointment of Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr. to the position of rector of theology and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Theology.”

The announcement continued and explained why he was best suited for the role.

“Most importantly, his firsthand knowledge of the life and ministry of the founder of Reformation Bible College—Dr. R.C. Sproul Sr.—will provide steady guidance as the college endeavors to be faithful to Dr. Sproul Sr.’s vision to teach nothing but the historic truths of biblical Christianity as understood in the consensus of the Reformed tradition.”

As clearly stated, the most important reason for his appointment was “his firsthand knowledge of the life and ministry” of his father. Let me extrapolate. I take that to mean R.C. Jr. is also considered the best replacement for R.C. Sr. as Chairman of the Board when he goes to be with the Lord and we know that could be relatively soon.

Last month you informed Together for the Gospel that R.C. Sr. could not participate in person due to the “enormous toll on him” following the deleterious effects of his stroke from last April. You posted this explanation on their website.

See <http://theaquilareport.com/r-c-sproul-in-hospital-with-suspected-mild-stroke/>

**From Chris Larson, Ligonier Ministries (Feb. 12, 2016):**

In consultation with his medical advisors, Dr. Sproul has made the decision not to attend T4G in April in person. Though he continues to preach at Saint Andrew’s Chapel and to do some teaching for Ligonier Ministries in Florida, travel takes an enormous toll on him and drains his energy. For that reason, he regrets he must cancel this trip to which he had been looking forward. We trust God, knowing our time is His.

We have discussed with T4G leadership bringing in Dr. Sproul live via video for a time of questions and answers and hope that can happen.

Since 2006, Ligonier has happily partnered with T4G in its vital mission to serve church leaders and the rising generation of biblically faithful



pastors and theologians. Like T4G, we remain convinced that the church is in a moment of spiritual crisis.

Many of us at Ligonier look forward to meeting so many in Louisville this April, standing together for the gospel.

As an aside, I remember C.J. and I chatting with R.C. and Vesta in the dining room at T4G 2006. It was an exciting time but there were also serious and growing concerns for C.J. that R.C. and the other T4G leaders knew nothing about because C.J. was keeping our concerns from them. That pattern of lying and concealing continues to this day.

For over ten years, we appealed to C.J. in private but there was no change. In fact, his sinful patterns worsened. Finally, I sent those concerns to the SGM pastors in *The Documents* in July 2011 when C.J. lied about his reasons for taking a leave of absence. I was immediately condemned by Mark Dever, Al Mohler and Ligon Duncan for my “so evidently self-serving and spurious accusations” and “obvious vendetta” even though they had not read *The Documents* or made any attempt to talk to me. It was a malicious and extraordinary abuse of power.

See <http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/the-documents/>

I digress; but, never has a group of national leaders (e.g., Duncan, Mohler, Dever, Piper, Anyabwile, MacArthur, Platt, Chandler, DeYoung and Sproul Sr.) covered up for a celebrity colleague like they have for Mahaney. You should not be supporting Together for the Gospel so long as C.J. is a participant but I see my appeals to R.C. Sr. and the Ligonier Board have fallen upon deaf ears. Like R.C. Jr., C.J. has used deceptive confessions in order to strategically manipulate people into thinking he has “repented.” Unlike R.C., he has done this only in private settings with strategic leaders so the “confessions” are contained and therefore can’t be evaluated by people who know the truth. Only when C.J. publicly confesses to the church and the movement he divided; and then to the victims of sexual abuse in SGM he harmed because he did not report known or suspected abusers, will you know he has genuinely repented. There has been no fruit of repentance.

In your T4G statement you state the need for a “rising generation of biblically faithful pastors and theologians” because “the church is in a moment of spiritual crisis.” I completely agree! But this crisis is brought on not only by doctrinal heresy or incompetence; it is brought on by leaders who act corruptively. I believe that is what you are doing. By corrupt, I mean in this instance “having or showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for [ministry] gain.” R.C.

Jr.'s statement in "Judgement and Grace" is dishonest. Promoting it is therefore dishonest when you know it to be the case.

Chris, I really am stupefied! R.C. Jr.'s "confession" is biblically unsound, terribly deceptive, and horribly hypocritical. Read my 11-page letter again. It should have been removed by you after it was denounced by you. How can a ministry known for its teaching on the holiness of God promote something so unholy? I find it truly incredulous!

Furthermore, I see that my concerns for R.C. Jr.'s lack of integrity are not new concerns. In fact, he was once before removed from ministry in 2006 by the Westminster Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly for numerous reasons including ecclesiastical tyranny, a consistent pattern of duplicitous actions, and the fraudulent use of a Federal Employer Identification. I find the evidence compelling and the proceedings just but I would welcome your perspective.

**The Declarative Judgement of the Westminster Presbytery for the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly**

<http://hushmoney.org/RPCGA-judgment.pdf>.

**Public Documents Concerning the Defrocking of R.C. Sproul, Jr and the Saint Peter Presbyterian Church Session**

[http://hushmoney.org/RC\\_Sproul\\_Jr-defrocking-docs.htm](http://hushmoney.org/RC_Sproul_Jr-defrocking-docs.htm)

**Legal Research on the Subject of: EIN Fraud, Identity Theft and Perjury in the Case of RC Sproul, Jr.'s application to Wachovia Bank**

[http://hushmoney.org/RC\\_Sproul\\_Jr-EIN\\_Fraud.pdf](http://hushmoney.org/RC_Sproul_Jr-EIN_Fraud.pdf).

**R.C. Sproul Jr and the Paedo-Communion "Controversy"**

[http://hushmoney.org/rc\\_sproul\\_jr\\_paedocommunion.htm](http://hushmoney.org/rc_sproul_jr_paedocommunion.htm).

Chris, I invite you to repent by the grace of Christ. Then I hope you will be used of God to lead R.C. Jr. to repentance along with all the related parties who have covered up for him. By "covered up" I mean not exposing his false narrative but instead promoting it. The evidence of repentance will be a public confession by R.C. Jr., you and the Ligonier Board.

I write most sincerely and with your very best interests at heart. I look forward to hearing back from you and seeing a contrite response in public.

*Coram Deo.*

Brent

## **The Moral of the Story**

When I was going to seminary in southern California, I served as one of 25 intern pastors at the largest church in America. Every week we saw an average of 250 people make a decision to follow Christ. There was much to commend about this church as an evangelistic center. Unfortunately, the gifted evangelist leading the church was surrounded by a puppet board and timid staff. As ethical issues came up, they were either covered up or left unaddressed. The church no longer exists. It ended in disgrace.

I worked with C.J. Mahaney for thirty years. Sovereign Grace Ministries grew from an obscure entity into a national phenomenon idolized by many of the most celebrated leaders in evangelicalism. Those men include Ligon Duncan, Al Mohler, Mark Dever, John Piper, Thabiti Anyabwile, John MacArthur, David Platt, Matt Chandler, Kevin DeYoung, R.C. Sproul Sr., Russell Moore, D.A. Carson, Tim Keller, Tim Challies, Justin Taylor, Wayne Grudem, Sam Storms, Owen Strachan, Donald Whitney and others. These men have been mesmerized by Mahaney's charm and duped by his pretensions.

In some cases, they refuse to study the overwhelming evidence that clearly demonstrates Mahaney's disqualification from ministry. Instead they believe the talking points put out by Mahaney, his staff, SGM leaders and supporters like Mark Dever.

In other cases, they are familiar with the evidence but support him anyway much like they did Mark Driscoll. We've seen the results. C.J. and Mark were the darlings of the neo-Calvinist movement. They were off limits. This is the norm for high powered leaders. Don't touch God's anointed.

C.J. often told Dave Harvey, Steve Shank and me (the leadership team for SGM) that national leaders like Driscoll and others on the list above were without accountability. Their bad decisions or sinful actions went unaddressed because staffs, colleagues or boards were afraid to speak up and/or were under pressure to cover up for the sake of reputation. The same thing happens on a national level.

National leaders are afraid to follow the teaching of Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19-21 in relation to one another fearing adverse consequences like the loss of speaking engagements, book endorsements, or public acclaim. They don't want to offend powerful leaders and lose their favor or arouse their anger. Therefore, they avoid confrontation or fail to hold colleagues accountable to the qualifications of Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). This has led to scandal after scandal in the Body of Christ.

For instance, who will address R.C. Sproul Jr., Chris Larson or Ligonier Ministries. I fear no one of national ranking in Reformed circles or the neo-Calvinist movement. In fact, I suspect the wagons will circle and R.C. will be protected.

Cowardice and compromise always lead to corruption. That's why we see such injury to the church of Jesus Christ in our day. Hypocrisy is rampant among its leaders. They cannot be trusted to do what they have taught their followers to do (cf. Matt 23:3). They teach the Word, but too often they are not under the Word. This stumbles the sheep. Mahaney is a prime example. He has harmed and disillusioned tens of thousands of people.

My final thought. If scores of leaders are willing to cover up for Mahaney who sins are so evident, documented, ongoing and serious; guess what, they are surely going to cover up the same kinds of sins in one another's life. If they don't deal with Mahaney, they won't deal with each other. That is the moral of the story. We must pray.

Oh God, give us leaders who fear You, obey your Word, and refuse to show favoritism to one another!

##

### **Please Help Financially**

My efforts are designed to help Christians judge righteously, think biblically, and live courageously. Your financial support makes that possible. Please consider a gift today at <http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/please-support-aetheia-minis/>. Thank you!