

EIGHT REASONS WHY SENDING OUT “THE DOCUMENTS”
WAS NOT SLANDEROUS BUT NECESSARY
JANUARY 3, 2012

Introduction

I’ve written six blog posts on this critical subject at BrentDetwiler.com. I’ve now combined them into this single document for easy access and continuity of thought. When I sent *The Documents* to the SGM pastors on July 6, 2011 it was for good reason. Eight reasons to be exact. Critics may disagree with my action but I believe it was necessary and in keeping with Scripture. Here they are.

1. C.J.’s deceitful explanation for his leave of absence
2. The favoritism shown C.J. by the Sovereign Grace Board
3. The failure of the Covenant Life Pastors to enforce 1 Timothy 5:19-21
4. Being made out to be the only witness against C.J.
5. The necessity of telling the Church (Matthew 18:15-17)
6. The denial of sin problems in Sovereign Grace Ministries
7. The deceit of Dave Harvey and the Sovereign Grace Board
8. The need to speak against evil

Since sending them out, Sovereign Grace Ministries has done all in their power to prevent people from reading *The Documents*. In particular, they’ve attacked their credibility by labeling them “gossip” and “slander.” Several well-known evangelical leaders have followed their example. But due to the Providence of God, they have been unsuccessful in keeping my appeal for change from getting out.

I have always desired the reform of Sovereign Grace Ministries, never its demise. That goal is clear in each of my documents. But for the reasons explicated here it was necessary to inform the pastors of SGM of the issues at hand hoping their collective appeal would bring C.J. and others to repentance. That continues to be my redemptively hope and earnest prayer

Reason 1: C.J.’s Deceitful Explanation for His Leave of Absence

My Thoughts on C.J.’s Leave of Absence
Friday, August 5, 2011 at 5:10 PM
Brent Detwiler

On Wednesday, July 6, C.J. rocked the Sovereign Grace world when he announced an indefinite leave of absence in order to consider serious charges against him. Since then

11 more statements have been issued on the SGM blog. Here are the titles, dates and links.

1. Why I'm taking a leave of absence - July 6, 2011 by C.J. Mahaney
2. A note on C.J. Mahaney's leave of absence - July 7, 2011 by Dave Harvey
3. C.J. Mahaney's comments at Covenant Life Church yesterday - July 11, 2011 by Dave Harvey
4. A letter from Larry Tomczak on his reconciliation with C.J. Mahaney - July 11, 2011 by Dave Harvey
5. Sovereign Grace Ministries Board of Directors announcement regarding C.J. Mahaney - July 13, 2011 by Dave Harvey
6. A note from Joshua Harris and our board - July 14, 2011 by Dave Harvey
7. Where we differ, and where we agree - July 14, 2011 by Dave Harvey
8. An honest take on a difficult week - July 15, 2011 by Dave Harvey
9. Listening - July 18, 2011 by Dave Harvey
10. God at work! - July 22, 2011 by Dave Harvey
11. Reflections on the board's retreat - July 29, 2011 by Dave Harvey
12. Findings from our preliminary panel - August 2, 2011 by Dave Harvey

Starting with C.J.'s initial announcement, "Why I am taking a leave of absence," I will comment on these blogs and the Covenant Life Church members' meetings held on July 10, 17, and 24. I'll do this progressively and chronologically. My comments will not be exhaustive. They will focus on specific statements or questions/answers of interest. You are encouraged to read the entire blog to see the surrounding context of those statements I excerpt for the sake of brevity. My purpose is to help Sovereign Grace Ministries "listen" to themselves and also help people at large understand what they are saying or not saying.

C.J. gave the following explanation for his leave of absence.

Over the last few years some former pastors and leaders in Sovereign Grace have made charges against me and informed me about offenses they have with me as well as other leaders in Sovereign Grace. These charges are serious and they have been very grieving to read. These charges are not related to any immorality or financial impropriety, but this doesn't minimize their serious nature, which include various expressions of pride, unentreatability, deceit, sinful judgment, and hypocrisy.

I will always remember reading the first line that Wednesday afternoon in early July. There were a growing number of reasons for sending out my documents to the pastors in SGM but this statement clinched it for me. I felt I had little choice. While it was a true statement, it was a woefully incomplete statement. I could not allow the misleading nature of it to stand. It wasn't the whole truth.

The formal “charges” against C.J. went back 10 years, not a few years, and they did not come from “former pastors and leaders” who were offended, they came from friends like Dave Harvey, Steve Shank and me and then Joshua Harris, Grant Laymen, Kenneth Maresco, and Bob Kauflin (see Part 1: Response Regarding Friendship & Doctrine, pp. 5-25). In fact, many others have raised the same kind of concerns over the last thirty years.

You would never know this from C.J.’s announcement which gives the clear impression that only recently some former pastors and leaders expressed concerns for his pride, unentreatability, deceit, sinful judgment, and hypocrisy. The facts clearly show otherwise.

C.J. says these five “charges are serious” and of a “serious nature.” He does not say his sins are serious, only the charges. He cites the charges but he does not express agreement with them.

In a similar fashion, Kevin DeYoung, Ray Ortlund Jr., and Carl Trueman see no evidence of serious sin in C.J.’s life and ministry that would dishonor the Lord. Here’s what they said on Tuesday.

The question is whether there are disqualifying sins impeding C.J. Mahaney’s ministry of the gospel. We do not see a pattern of egregious sins which would dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ should C.J. Mahaney continue to minister. We believe his Christian walk, though flawed (as is the case with all Christians), is still a model for others to follow.

C.J. continues his announcement by saying the following.

I believe God is kindly disciplining me through this. I believe I have by the grace of God perceived a degree of my sin, and I have been grieved by my sin and its effects on others. Even with the charges I disagree with it has been beneficial to examine my soul and ask for the observation of others. And I am resolved to take responsibility for my sin and every way my leadership has been deficient, and this would include making any appropriate confessions, public or private. So here is what I am going to do. I’ve asked to take a leave of absence in order to give time to considering these charges, examine my heart, and receive the appropriate help from others.

C.J. says he has perceived a degree of his sin but he also says he disagrees with some of the charges. Therefore, it is impossible to know which charges if any (i.e., pride, unentreatability, deceit, sinful judgment and hypocrisy) he agrees with and which he disagrees with. He does not reveal anything specific. He also mentions he has been grieved by the “effects” of his sins on others but gives no indication what those effects entail.

So right now he is “considering these charges” but not agreeing with the charges. In the future he is resolved to make “appropriate confessions” in public. Of course, the big question will be who determines what is appropriate or inappropriate. C.J.? The SGM Board? Or members and former members of SG churches? (see Part 3: Concluding Remarks, pages 172-179 for a discussion of this issue).

He continues.

I have become increasingly aware of certain deficiencies in my leadership that have contributed to deficiencies in Sovereign Grace Ministries' structure and governance, the lack of a clear and consistent process of conflict resolution and pastoral evaluation, and the number of former Sovereign Grace pastors who are offended with me/SGM.... But beyond this, there are still issues that need to be addressed and fixed in our family of churches.... So during this leave of absence I will not only devote all the appropriate and necessary time to the independent panel and the charges but also to doing what I can to identify where I have failed to lead us effectively in relation to pastoral evaluation and conflict resolution.

These are all good and necessary things to address but they will not be corrected without identifying the root causes. Please read “No One You Know Has Sinned” on pages 123-126 in Part 2: A Final Appeal. The “deficiencies in leadership” in Sovereign Grace Ministries are due to the deficiencies in character. Here is what I wrote C.J. in Part 1: Response Regarding Friendship and Doctrine.

I'd love to see our friendship restored. I'd love to see some acknowledgment of wrongdoing. I'd love to see issues from the past resolved. I'd love to be in good standing with Sovereign Grace Ministries. But all of these hopes and desires are very secondary!

Primarily, I hope and desire to see a restoration of integrity, truth telling and justice in Sovereign Grace so there is no lying, spin, manipulation, lording, cover-up, or partiality. I am concerned for the movement. Some men have followed sinful aspects of your example and leadership – the kind referenced in this response. These men have acted deceitfully, judgmentally, unbiblically, and hypocritically. Their example in turn, has harmed others and been corrosive in its effect. (RRF&D, p. 128)

Finally from C.J.

My friends, though my soul can be easily overwhelmed as I contemplate my sin and its effects on others, I am also resolved to examine my heart, address the past, and play my role in preparing SGM for a future of planting and serving churches. And given the mercy of God portrayed in the gospel my heart is filled with hope that his good purpose for us will come to pass and cannot be frustrated. I trust there will be much grace to tell you of at the end of this process.

We don't know what sin or effects of sin he is overwhelmed by; but we must nevertheless hold C.J. up in prayer and look forward to the day when "there will much grace to tell you of at the end of this process."

Reason 2: The Favoritism Shown C.J. by the Sovereign Grace Board

Why Sending Out "The Documents" Was Not Slanderous But Necessary
Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 2:45 PM
Brent Detwiler

On July 13, 2011, Dave Harvey posted Sovereign Grace Ministries Board of Directors announcement regarding C.J. Mahaney. I will deal with this entire blog post at a later date. For now, I want to address the specific charge of public slander. I will write several posts laying out my reasons for sending *The Documents* (i.e., RRF&D, AFA, CR, TUS) to the SGM pastors on July 6, 2011. I believe my action was required and did not constitute slander. I will put forward my case and you can decide based upon the information presented and the teaching of Scripture. Here are the comments regarding slander.

The board of Sovereign Grace has made the following resolutions.... That Brent Detwiler's distribution of written accusations against C.J. Mahaney to all Sovereign Grace pastors constitutes the public slander of Mahaney's reputation...the public defamation of his character.

The SGM Board expressed no concerns for my motives or the accuracy of *The Documents*. The charge of slander was leveled because I distributed my documents to the SGM pastors.

Typically, slander is comprised of three parts: 1) evil motives or malicious intent; 2) false charges known to be bogus or inaccurate; 3) the distribution of damaging information that is unwarranted.

Al Mohler accused me of number one when he told a Louisville newspaper that I had "an obvious vendetta" against C.J. and that was the reason I sent out *The Documents*.

Ligon Duncan accused me of number one and two when he said on his blog, "It would have been very easy for the leadership of SGM to ignore and dismiss these charges, because so many of them are so evidently self-serving [motive] and spurious [false] accusations."

The SGM Board, however, makes no mention of numbers one or two. They accused me of slandering C.J. for distributing the documents. They say nothing about my motives

or the accuracy of my writings. Therefore, let me give seven reasons why I believe sending out *The Documents* was just, necessary and redemptive.

During my 16 months of appeals to C.J. (March 2010-June 2011) and after 600 pages of writing,¹ the old SGM Board² took no disciplinary action against C.J., expressed no concern he might not be above reproach, required no public confession of any kind, and failed to hold C.J. accountable to his word to produce a through response to my writings.

A new SGM Board³ was announced on Thursday, July 7, 2011. Six days later in the same blog post sighted above they declared, "The board of Sovereign Grace Ministries has reviewed Brent Detwiler's documents...and finds no reason at this time to deem him [C.J.] unfit for ministry... C.J. Mahaney is a qualified minister of the gospel and this board approves his pastoral and teaching ministry in Sovereign Grace and the wider body of Christ." The new Board followed the inaction of the old Board but went further.

In less than a week, they claimed to have reviewed my 600 plus pages of documentation and nothing I wrote gave them any pause regarding C.J.'s qualifications for ministry or whether he was above reproach. Joshua Harris was the only exception. This was a new development. He didn't sign the July 13 blog post and resigned from the Board of Directors the next day. Joshua felt a determination regarding C.J.'s fitness should await an outside, third party, objective panel of evaluators with no history with SGM. He thought it unwise and premature for the SGM Board to declare C.J. fit for ministry.

From the crucial meeting on August 20, 2004⁴ until July 6, 2011 when I sent out *The Documents*, C.J. was consistently treated with partiality and shown favoritism. The standards applied to other leaders in SGM over the decades were not applied to him. C.J. was permitted to conceal his sins and suffer no consequences. This was unprecedented in the history of Sovereign Grace Ministries. That is one reason I decided to send out *The Documents* to the SGM pastors. This preferential treatment needed to be exposed so the truth about C.J. (and others) could be weighed by all the pastors in light of Scripture and SGM practice.

Reasons 3: The Failure of the Covenant Life Pastors to Enforce 1 Timothy 5:19-21

¹ "Response Regarding Friendship & Doctrine" (RRF&D), "A Final Appeal" (AFA), "Concluding Remarks" (CR), and "The Untold Story" (TUS)

² Dave Harvey, Joshua Harris, Jeff Purswell, and Pat Ennis (Pat resigned on Feb 28, 2011 but signed the March 11, 2011 board letter (see RRF&D, pp. 50-56).

³ Dave Harvey, Jeff Purswell, Craig Cabaniss, Mickey Connolly, Rick Gamache, Pete Greasley, John Loftness, Aron Osborne, Mark Prater, and Steve Shank.

⁴ See RRF&D, pp. 16-28.

Why Sending Out “The Documents” Was Not Slanderous But Necessary
Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 2:45 PM
Brent Detwiler

On June 8, 2011, I sent C.J. and the SGM Board (Dave, Joshua, Jeff) my third document, “Concluding Remarks.” I said the following in the final section entitled, “Brent Sharing His Concerns with the Sovereign Grace Pastors.”

Well, we have reached the end of the road. It is now time for me to share my concerns with the Sovereign Grace pastors. For the longest time, I never entertained this course of action. It was inconceivable. But we are at a different place today. You [C.J.] have refused to address or acknowledge many sins of a serious nature and the Board of Directors has taken insufficient action in its correction and discipline of you. Others [e.g., Dave Harvey, Bob Kauflin, Gene Emerson and Steve Shank] have gone unaddressed as well.

C.J., I rejoice in the “thirty-fold” fruit that has been born in your life as a result of this ten year process. I am glad that friends have finally spoken the truth to you in love. But the most serious issues I’ve brought to your attention have been ignored, repudiated or denied. Things like deceit, lying, covering-up, hypocrisy, lording, and favoritism. I take no delight in saying this, but you and Sovereign Grace Ministries cannot be trusted until these things are acknowledged. I do not mean to imply the ministry is corrupt or completely untrustworthy. It isn’t. There are many outstanding people of high moral integrity that work for Sovereign Grace Ministries and serve as pastors in Sovereign Grace churches. But given a certain set of temptations related to the love of reputation and self-preservation, I have no confidence you, or those around you, will walk in the light, be truthful, or handle people properly. I’ve said this from the beginning. (“Concluding Remarks,” p. 201)

Because the SGM Board failed to deal openly, honestly, and righteously with C.J., I turned to the Covenant Life pastors. I sent them RRF&D, AFA, CR, and TUS on June 17, 2011. I asked them to implement 1 Timothy 5:19-21 as C.J.’s God ordained pastors. In this regard, I wrote and also sent “Part 5: In Need of a Corporate Rebuke - An Appeal to the Covenant Life Elders” (available at BrentDetwiler.com). Instead of going to all the SGM pastors as indicated in “Concluding Remarks” on June 8, I held back and decided to appeal to the CLC pastors first. Here is part of what I said to them.

Scripture requires the action I am taking when a leader continues in sin and I am under its authority. I wish it were not necessary but I trust in the wisdom of God. It is for C.J.’s good, the good of the movement, and the good of the gospel. I have avoided any public admonition of C.J. among all the elders of

Sovereign Grace Ministries over the past 10 years. I have painstakingly sought to protect his reputation and cover his sin. But further action is required now. As an intermediate step I am appealing to you, the Covenant Life Church elders. C.J. and the [SGM] Board are in need of your admonition which may lead them to repentance. You should also require C.J. to acknowledge his sins publically. Anything less is pure favoritism.

A week later on June 24, Joshua Harris wrote me the following.

Because of your concern about the process to date, you have indicated that you plan to send these documents to a broader group of leaders. Would you be willing to postpone that action until we have time to process this fully with CJ and question him directly regarding the specific charges and allegation you are bringing to him? Thank you for your demonstrated commitment to resolving this process as shown by your restraint in not sending these documents out already.

Joshua's response encouraged my heart. I thought the CLC pastors might deal with C.J. forthrightly, provide him a rebuke, make a determination regarding his fitness for ministry, and require a public confession. I had already delayed sending out *The Documents* to the SGM pastors. I was glad to postpone further action in the hope the CLC pastors would take strong and decisive action. Tragically, this did not happen. I asked for the official minutes from their upcoming time with C.J. on June 30 but I was denied access.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 8:41 AM
To: Harris, Joshua
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL - Mtg. with C.J.

What day do you meet with C.J.? Will you record the meeting and provide a transcript to everyone? Or will you ask someone to take official minutes? I'd appreciate a copy of either record.

From: Joshua Harris
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 12:41 AM
To: Brent Detwiler
Subject: Re: CONFIDENTIAL - The Future

...The meeting with CJ is tomorrow and we'll have someone takes minutes from the meeting. At this point I don't feel it would be appropriate to send the minutes to you, but we will happily submit them to the panel. And the pastoral

team will also send you a follow-up that will summarize our thoughts from the meeting...

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Joshua Harris
Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL - The Future

[You said,] "I know you understand how damaging to trust it can be when there isn't open communication." That is why I need you to be open and honest with me. I need you to answer my questions, share your perspective and keep me informed.

You should provide me a copy of the minutes from [tomorrow's] meeting. I can uniquely provide you important feedback based upon your interaction with C.J. regarding my documents. I tire of the word "inappropriate." Confessions are inappropriate, providing vital information is inappropriate, involving others is inappropriate. Everything is inappropriate...

I wanted to hear a good report, a detailed report, and an honest report from the Covenant Life pastors because I did not want to send out the documents. I hoped the pastors would come through unlike the SGM Board. Instead, I was left hanging. Joshua sent me a general report but refused to provide any details or the official minutes. As a result, I couldn't tell if the pastors formally rebuked C.J. or not; and I could not determine how C.J. responded. From what I could tell, the CLC elders did not reprove C.J. except for the blackmail of Larry Tomczak. They questioned him about other matters but there is no evidence in my possession that they corrected him on anything else. If they did they were not willing to share it with me.

After this meeting with C.J. the CLC pastors ceased communicating with me. They decided to turn everything over to outside evaluators. I believe this constituted a clear dereliction of duty. The CLC pastors, not outsiders, have the responsibility to assess and discipline C.J. Since they refused to follow 1 Timothy 5:19-21, their abdication of responsibility left me with little choice. I expressed my disagreement to Joshua.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:31 AM
To: Joshua Harris
Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL - The Future

...Whatever role the independent panel plays must be secondary. They are not elders. They don't know us. They don't know C.J. They don't have a history

with us or a future with us. They have not been anointed by God to lead in Covenant Life Church. You must not expect them to do your job for you or make the hard decisions.... Keep the ball in your court and lead.

Joshua wrote me back. The pastors did not want to deal with C.J. Any decisions they made regarding C.J.'s future would be based upon the results or findings of an outside panel. This irresponsible action was disappointing, but far worse, Joshua presented me as the only one with concerns for C.J.

From: Joshua Harris
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2011 12:01 PM
To: Brent Detwiler
Subject: Re: Update

...You asked me about the issue of [C.J.'s] resignation based on what I see. I don't think that would be right at this time. The results of the panel could change that. But right now, I think a leave of absence is more appropriate. The challenge I face is that all of this documentation is coming from just one witness (you)...

I know the independent panel can't take the place of us leading. But I feel that as a movement we're so weak in certain areas, we need outside help to enable us to see things clearly and address all the relevant issues. So I want to urge you again to participate in this independent panel. I think it will be significantly weakened if they only have your documents to work with...

From my perspective, the CLC pastors stopped leading. They turned over their responsibilities to Ambassadors of Reconciliation. As a result the Sovereign Grace Board was able to reassert itself, manipulate the process and break their often stated commitment to use an independent panel to evaluate C.J. and SGM.

Once again it is up to the CLC pastors to lead. They must stand up to the SGM Board and C.J. Their lack of leadership in relation to C.J. over the last seven years has been inexcusable. They were assigned the responsibility of caring for C.J. and holding him accountable to change on August 20, 2004 (see RRF&D, pp. 27-28). Unfortunately, the Covenant Life pastors have never been willing to deal with C.J. I hope and think that is changing.

Because of their unwillingness to be open with me and fulfill 1 Timothy 5:19-21, I was forced to consider afresh my original plan. "Well, we have reached the end of the road. It is now time for me to share my concerns with the Sovereign Grace pastors." It was hard to see how I could refrain from further action or postpone communicating with the SGM pastors. The intermediate step with the CLC pastors failed.

Reason 4: Being Made Out to be the Only Witness⁵ Against C.J.

Why Sending Out “The Documents” Was Not Slanderous But Necessary (Part 2)

Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 5:44 PM

Brent Detwiler

I was deeply troubled by Joshua’s unwillingness to fill me in on the Covenant Life pastors’ time with C.J. on June 30. But I was even more disturbed by Joshua’s assertion that “the challenge I [Josh] face is that all of this documentation is coming from just one witness [Brent].”

I was now ostracized and relegated to the role of singular witness against C.J. Joshua was distancing himself by making me out to be the only eyewitness with concerns for C.J. His language was clear. The use of “witness” was purposeful as in “two or three witnesses.” Joshua and the pastors could take no action against C.J. because no one supposedly “witnessed” any of the events or sin patterns I raised in *The Documents*.

I was on my own. It was back to me against C.J. I felt extremely abandoned by Joshua. It is hard to count how many times I’ve seen men compromise their integrity around C.J. by refusing to speak up and be honest with him. They are afraid of him, crave his approval, and worry about job security. Once again, I was made out to be the only witness in the universe with evidence against C.J. I wrote Joshua and shared my honest thoughts.

Friday, July 1, 2011

Joshua,

I am deeply discouraged by your response!

I should have received the minutes from [yesterday’s meeting with C.J.] immediately as an expression of trust, a willingness to walk in the light, and a humble desire to benefit from my feedback. C.J. should also have requested they be given to me so I could provide my perspective.

Since pulling back my appeal to the churches, I’ve sought to talk to you and work with you. I’ve held nothing back. I’ve put everything out in the open.... Therefore, it is deeply distressing that you are continuing the same patterns of

⁵ 1 Tim 5:19 (ESV) Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

containment and concealment [as C.J., Dave, and Jeff].... This ongoing lack of transparency affects me deeply. It troubles me greatly. It is another reason not to trust on top of a thousand reasons I already have.

I have no commitment to a panel of mediators. My commitment was to you. I was hoping you'd be transparent. But clearly your commitment is not to me. If it were you'd zealously desire my observations on your meeting with C.J. knowing he has slandered me, misrepresented me, repeatedly judged me, forgotten events, misquoted my writings, withheld information, and gotten all manner of "facts" wrong....

Your suggestion that I am the only witness against C.J. is preposterous. Mooresville is irrelevant. I've not built my case against C.J. using material in "The Untold Story." You need to deal with the material in RRF&D, AFA, and CR. Mooresville is another "straw man" argument. I cannot believe you are pinning the case against C.J. on me. What I have said most of you [the CLC pastors] know to be true. You were there. You were part. You contributed. You agreed. You expressed the same concerns. You saw the same behavior. You corrected him. You experienced mistreatment. You observed his abuse of others. You knew about Larry [Tomczak]. You participated on August 20, 2004 and following. You closed circle around him [C.J.]. You covered up. You heard his lies. Experienced his deceit. Observed his hypocrisy.

I am distressed. I have much more to say.

Brent

A couple of days later I wrote the following note to C.J. but copied Dave, Jeff, and Joshua. It appeared the SGM Board and the CLC pastors planned to put me forth to outside evaluators as the only witness against C.J. I felt betrayed by all the men because I knew some of them shared my concerns. How could I allow this attempt to label me as the only witness be propagated? It was another reason I contemplated the need to send out *The Documents*. I was exasperated!

From: Brent Detwiler

Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2011 1:38 PM

To: C. J. Mahaney; Dave Harvey; Jeff Purswell; Joshua Harris

Subject: "Am I Qualified?"

...I've had to build a case using 600 pages of documentation and telling you [C.J.] of my imminent appeal to all the SGM elders before getting any substantial response.... And now, Joshua is presenting me as the one and only witness against you. He said, "The challenge I face is that all of this

documentation [i.e., RRF&D, AFA, CR, TUS] is coming from just one witness (you).” Holy Hanna! We can’t find a second or third witness anywhere! Well drop all charges against C.J. immediately! We are transgressing God’s Word! We are forbidden to proceed. Stop!!! The Scripture says, “Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses” (1 Tim 5:19)

May I make a request? Can I ask a favor? Would you do me a service? Shoot that dam witness and put him out of his misery! I mean, “Dear Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” Is this the strategy the Board is taking with the evaluators? It appears so and also with the CLC elders last week. From Joshua’s report to me, it does not appear you were rebuked in keeping with 1 Timothy 5:20. They only asked “hard” and “serious” questions. And recommend your resignation, God forbid, that appears to be is the job of the independent evaluators. I know all of this is new for some of the elders, but not for many of them.

So now I am the only witness against you. Well, that brings back a lot of bad memories. But it is nothing new. Since Dave bailed, no one has stood with me. No one has listened to me. No one has supported me. I suspect there will be many secret (oops, I’m sorry, I mean confidential) conversations with the mediators where all of you bludgeon me again.

Contrary to Joshua’s assertion, *The Documents* make it clear many people were witnesses against C.J. including Joshua. I could not allow the SGM Board or CLC pastors frame the case as Brent against C.J. alone. For thirty years, I kept the sin issues with C.J. confidential. For ten years no one knew about our confidential dealings with C.J. as an apostolic team. His sins were the best kept secret in the movement. Now I was having to consider a new course of action that I didn’t want to take, revealing the truth about my friend (and others) to the pastors of Sovereign Grace Ministries because others were not willing to redemptively witness against him.

Well, now I have my answer to the question, “Is this the strategy the Board is taking with the evaluators? It appears so.” The case against C.J. has been reduced to one witness. The official report by Ambassadors of Reconciliation reads, “The parties in the case should be C.J. Mahaney as the respondent (or accused) and Brent Detwiler as the complainant (or accuser).”⁶ There is nothing new under the sun.

Reason 5: The Necessity of Telling the Church (Matthew 18:15-17)

**Why Sending Out “The Documents” Was Not Slanderous But Necessary
Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 5:44 PM**

⁶ “Consultation Report for SGM Board of Directors,” August 24, 2011, p. 19.

Brent Detwiler

1 Timothy 5:19-21 must be understood in light of 1 Timothy 3:1-7. An overseer who is rebuked by his fellow-elders because witnesses have observed serious sin or patterns of sin is no longer above reproach (3:1).⁷ He is no longer qualified to be an elder, overseer, or pastor. This disqualification may be permanent, temporary or probationary. When this occurs the church should be told.

The local church should also be told about the sins of an individual member when repentance does not occur after due process has been followed and the truthfulness of witnesses against the erring member is confirmed in private meetings. In such a case, the person's sins are shared with the church and the church appeals for their repentance. The private becomes public and the confidential is communicated openly but redemptively. This does not constitute slander.

I've been asked by a lot of people if I followed Matthew 18:15-17 with C.J. The answer is yes. I have gone to C.J. many times "in private" but he did not listen. Then, I've gone many times with "the testimony of two or three witnesses" but he also refused to listen. These two steps have been repeated time and again over the last decade and longer; more than with any leader we have ever disciplined or removed from ministry. It was due to our cowardice and favoritism that we never took the third step which says we must "tell it [his sins] to the church."

1 Timothy 5:19 says, "Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses." I understand this to be the same step outlined in Matthew 18:16, "But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'" These passages describe the second step of discipline to be taken when bonafide, not false, witnesses exist. In the case of an erring elder, the disciplinary action is greater than that required for an erring member. All the elders are called to assemble and rebuke the sinning elder. 1 Timothy 5:20, "Those [elders] who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others [elders] may take warning."

We informally practiced this "second step" with C.J. for the first time during our December 2000 retreat.⁸ It was repeated on many subsequent occasions. 1 Timothy 5:20 formally occurred with C.J. on August 20, 2004.⁹ Dave, Steve and I asked for a public confession to all the CLC pastors. This was shut down by C.J., Joshua, Grant Layman, Kenneth Maresco and Bob Kauflin.¹⁰ After the August 20 meeting, C.J. continued in the same patterns of sin as witnessed to before and during the meeting.

⁷ See "Part 6: Is C.J. Above Reproach?" at BrentDetwiler.com under "Files" on the right side of page.

⁸ See RRF&D, pp. 5-7.

⁹ See RRF&D, pp. 16-28.

¹⁰ See RRF&D, pp. 27-31.

I think the intense efforts of the past 18 months have born some fruit in C.J.'s life but I am uncertain because it appears he is reverting back to his old ways again.¹¹ In any case, the fruits of repentance have been limited in scope and serious issues have gone unaddressed. That is why I added the endnotes to RRF&D and AFA on June 8, 2011 for the SGM Board. These additional comments had no apparent impact upon the SGM Board. As a matter of fact, they sent out a secret letter three days later to all the SGM pastors discrediting me and *The Documents* (more on this in my next blog post). That aside, I wrote the following assessment of C.J. on June 8.

C.J., I rejoice in the "thirty-fold" fruit that has been born in your life as a result of this ten year process. I am glad that friends have finally spoken the truth to you in love. But the most serious issues I've brought to your attention have been ignored, repudiated or denied. Things like deceit, lying, covering-up, hypocrisy, lording, and favoritism. I take no delight in saying this, but you and Sovereign Grace Ministries cannot be trusted until these things are acknowledged. I do not mean to imply the ministry is corrupt or completely untrustworthy. It isn't. There are many outstanding people of high moral integrity that work for Sovereign Grace Ministries and serve as pastors in Sovereign Grace churches. But given a certain set of temptations related to the love of reputation and self-preservation, I have no confidence you, or those around you, will walk in the light, be truthful, or handle people properly. I've said this from the beginning. (Concluding Remarks, June 8, 2011, p. 201)

A couple weeks later, I followed up with C.J., Dave, Joshua, and Jeff on June 24. Whereas, I told them on June 8, "It is...time for me to share my concerns with the Sovereign Grace pastors;" now I told them "it is time to tell the churches." I said:

I've provided 521 pages of historic testimony [RRF&D, AFA, CR], all carefully documented, but it has produced no contrition, repentance, confession or restitution. Deceit, hypocrisy, self-preservation and the love of reputation remain unconfessed alongside a host of other serious sins....Therefore, it is time to tell the churches of Sovereign Grace Ministries about C.J.'s sins for their protection and his good. I hope brothers and sisters, Care Group leaders and deacons, administrators and pastors, will courageously appeal to C.J. and he will listen to their voices. To date, he has not listened to my voice, or the voice of others, on many critical matters.

At that point in time, I momentarily changed my mind and decided to tell all the churches of SGM instead of just the pastors. I was grappling with the command to

¹¹ See blog posts "Getting Rid of Speck Is Expensive" and "When Confidentiality Equals Concealment - C.J. versus Joshua" from September 15 at BrentDetwiler.com.

inform the church or movement given C.J.'s role and influence as President of the Board. I also considered telling just Covenant Life Church.

I wrote "Part 6: Tell It to the Church" on June 24 and planned on sending it out to people in the churches on June 26 but held off on doing so when I received some good news from Joshua and C.J. on June 25. Of course, they were under great duress. They did not want *The Documents* going out.

Joshua and the CLC pastors promised to meet with C.J. and C.J. promised for a third time to follow through on providing me a thorough written response to RRF&D, AFA, and CR (which he has not done). He also expressed a willingness for the first time to make a public confession to the SGM pastors at the upcoming November conference [which he did not do]. Communicating my plan to tell the SGM pastors or the SGM churches got a quick response from Joshua and C.J. Unfortunately, it did not ultimately produce any recognizable fruit.

Moreover, the SGM Board was not dealing with C.J. They were defending him. This became extremely obvious on July 13 when the ten man Board (less C.J. and Joshua) found "no reason...to deem [C.J.] unfit for ministry" in any capacity. They commended C.J. and condemned me on the SGM blog. There was no need for any rebuke, discipline or public confession. C.J. was exonerated by the Board in no uncertain terms. His sins were not serious. Nothing had changed. Moreover, the CLC pastors were not dealing with C.J. either. Both groups made me out to be the only accuser and witness against C.J.

Nevertheless, Matthew 18:15-17 stood before me. I could not remain silent. It didn't matter if no one else was willing to serve as a witness. The facts proved otherwise. The evidence overwhelming. The cover-up reprehensible. The inaction unacceptable. C.J. sins were serious and they continued. How could I not appeal to the pastors or churches in light of Matthew 18:17?

Two days ago, I wrote, "Typically, slander is comprised of three parts: 1) evil motives or malicious intent; 2) false charges known to be bogus or inaccurate; 3) the distribution of damaging information that is unwarranted."

I send out *The Documents* with a redemptive motive, the material contained was credible and the distribution was necessary. In New Testament times, you ran the risk that "telling it to the church" could be "leaked" to the community. In our time, you run the risk that information can be leaked to the internet. That cannot stop us from obeying Scripture.

C.J.'s is accountable to the SGM churches, the SGM pastors, and the body of Christ where his influence has been felt. What could have remained private became public

because he continued in sin and remained unrepentant aided and abetted by the SGM Board. The CLC pastors also failed to fulfill their biblical responsibilities.

Therefore, distributing *The Documents* was not an act of slander. It was a necessary and redemptive step in keeping with the teaching of Scripture.

Reason 6: The Denial of Sin Problems in Sovereign Grace Ministries

Why Sending Out “The Documents” Was Not Slanderous But Necessary

Friday, September 30, 2011 at 9:42 PM

Brent Detwiler

At the end of my first document, “Response Regarding Friendship and Doctrine,” I said the following to C.J.

I’d love to see our friendship restored. I’d love to see some acknowledgment of wrong-doing. I’d love to see issues from the past resolved. I’d love to be in good standing with Sovereign Grace Ministries. But all of these hopes and desires are very secondary! Primarily, I hope and desire to see a restoration of integrity, truth telling and justice in Sovereign Grace so there is no lying, spin, manipulation, lording, cover-up, or partiality. I am concerned for the movement. Some men have followed sinful aspects of your example and leadership – the kind referenced in this response. These men have acted deceitfully, judgmentally, unbiblically, and hypocritically. Their example in turn, has harmed others and been corrosive in its effect. These things are not pervasive in their lives, your life or the movement but they are serious. I know you value integrity but when you feel judged or sinned against it is often subterfuged in your life. When you become resentful, bitter and angry – grace and integrity often get left behind. These are fueled by the idols of self-preservation and love of reputation. As the movement has grown, so has temptation and sin. (RRF&D, p. 128)

In my second document, “A Final Appeal,” I followed up on these concerns.

I wrote RRF&D with you in mind. I did not elaborate on concerns for others. I purposely limited the scope of my writing because change in those around you must begin with change in you. By that I mean, there is little hope you can effectively help Dave, Steve, Bob, Gene, et al. apart from personal illumination and reformation. They are a reflection of you. (AFA, p. 75)

You refused to address these concerns in writing. I followed up on June 21 and asked, “Do you believe there is a need for “a restoration of integrity, truth

telling and justice in Sovereign Grace so there is no lying, spin, manipulation, lording, cover-up, or partiality?" You briefly answered on July 2 and said, "Brent, I don't think Sovereign Grace in general or anyone I know in particular is "lying, covering up, manipulating, lording, etc." I found this statement extremely helpful. It conveyed your perspective with clarity and conviction. There was no ambiguity or obtuseness, no doubt or reserve, no hemming or hawing. Your meaning was clear and that was refreshing. Let me clarify one point. My concern has been for "some men," not all men or most men (i.e., the pastors) in the movement. Those men I am most concerned about, however, are significant leaders whose example and actions have harmed and injured others. They are numbered among your inner circle and close friends. Though I carry concerns for the movement, these concerns are grounded in particular concerns for particular individuals. But in contradistinction, you don't know anyone who is guilty of duplicity, dishonesty, injustice, lying, spin, manipulation, lording, cover-up, partiality, deceit, sinful judging, unbiblical actions, or hypocrisy. All these were included under your "etc." (lit., "and other things" or "and so on"). This assertion is alarming. It is a carte blanche dismissal of each and every one of my concerns. In other words, no one you know has sinned in any of these ways. Especially not Dave, Bob, Gene, Mickey, Larry M. and Eric K. This goes to show how far apart we are on the fundamental issues that separate us. You are totally unconcerned for my main concerns. I'm afraid we live in different galaxies separated by light years. I hope this can be remedied in the future. (AFA, p. 124)

Justice serves alongside righteousness as the "the foundation of his throne" (Psa 89:14; 97:2). Like love it rejoices when people are 1) treated fairly and 2) afforded due process. It 3) shuns hypocrisy and 4) despises partiality. It 5) plays no favorites and 6) shows no bias. It 7) holds people accountable and 8) presses for truth. Yet its 9) judgments are equitable and 10) based on evidence. It 11) does not turn a blind eye to wrong doing. It 12) hates the manipulation of others and 13) does not cover up iniquity. It 14) treats all people the same. It has 15) no double standards. It is 16) integrity in heart and 17) truth in action. (AFA, p. 163)

I sent my third document, "Concluding Remarks," to C.J., Dave, Jeff and Joshua on June 8, 2011. I also included newly added footnotes to RRF&D and AFA. In reference to the paragraph above about justice, here is footnote 175 from AFA.

This 17 part definition of justice sums up my concerns for you and some key leaders in Sovereign Grace Ministries. This may be the most important paragraph I have written in either document. But it is of no relevance to you and receives no comment from you. Why, because you have little awareness of injustice in your life or the lives of leaders you know in Sovereign Grace

Ministries. How can I say this? What is the basis for such a statement? Well it's simple. At no point in your Dec. 16, 2010 and Mar. 11, 2011 responses to RRF&D and AFA, do you express the slightest degree of concern for injustice (except sinful judging by you). Should one conclude then that there is no unjust treatment or the denial of due process for critics; no hypocrisy or partiality by leaders; no favoritism between leaders towards those who are liked/well-connected or bias against those who are disliked/less influential; no lack of accountability for senior leaders; no indifference to the truth and its application in leaders lives; no sinful judgments of people bringing correction based upon hearsay evidence; no unwillingness to correct fellow leaders for wrong doing; no spin or love of reputation; no cover up, no preferential treatment of leaders based upon position or social status; no reduction in standards for some well-liked/well positioned leaders; and no lack of integrity or honesty in word or action by you and key leaders in your service? Of course, I realize you wouldn't rule out in entirety the possibility of these sins, but they are not a concern to you. As you've said before, you don't know anyone who is guilty of these sins.

Lastly, here is a summary comment I made at the end of "Concluding Remarks."

C.J., I rejoice in the "thirty-fold" fruit that has been born in your life as a result of this ten year process. I am glad that friends have finally spoken the truth to you in love. But the most serious issues I've brought to your attention have been ignored, repudiated or denied. Things like deceit, lying, covering-up, hypocrisy, lording, and favoritism. I take no delight in saying this, but you and Sovereign Grace Ministries cannot be trusted until these things are acknowledged. I do not mean to imply the ministry is corrupt or completely untrustworthy. It isn't. There are many outstanding people of high moral integrity that work for Sovereign Grace Ministries and serve as pastors in Sovereign Grace churches. But given a certain set of temptations related to the love of reputation and self-preservation, I have no confidence you, or those around you, will walk in the light, be truthful, or handle people properly. I've said this from the beginning. (CR, June 8, 2011, p. 201)

Three days before I sent out *The Documents* to the SGM pastors, I wrote the following to C.J., Dave, Jeff and Joshua.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2011 1:38 PM
To: C. J. Mahaney; Dave Harvey; Jeff Purswell; Joshua Harris
Subject: "Am I Qualified?"

...Back to the original subject. After all this I am supposed to trust Dave, Joshua and Jeff to determine if you are qualified. I don't trust them. They have been partial and biased since August 2004. In addition, I've addressed serious abuses by Dave, Bob, Steve, Kenneth and Gene. At no point in time, have any of these abuses been acknowledged, let alone addressed. No one has ever returned to me. Not so much as an "I'm sorry." On countless matters, these men should have beat down my door by now to ask forgiveness. But not a word. And please don't use the excuse of waiting for a final report from the "independent panel of evaluators..."

Nothing in "Response Regarding Friendship & Doctrine" (Mar 17, 2010), "A Final Appeal" (Oct 8, 2010), "Concluding Remarks" (Jun 8, 2011), "The Untold Story" (Jun 25, 2011) or other correspondence caused C.J. or the SGM Board to acknowledge any of the sin problems enumerated above. They don't exist in their worldview of SGM. C.J. continues to maintain that no one he knows is guilty of duplicity, dishonesty, injustice, lying, spin, manipulation, lording, cover-up, partiality, deceit, sinful judging, unbiblical actions, or hypocrisy. He also maintains his own innocence in all these respects except for sinful judging and one occasion of hypocrisy.

There is a fourth step in Matthew 18:15-17 that has consequences beyond the church. When the third step is successful the matter remains confidential among church members. If, however, the sinner does not listen to the church the matter goes beyond the church and the world becomes aware of the church's action against the sinning member. Additional discipline is introduced. Verse 17 says, "If he refuses to listen to them [two or three witnesses], tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." The person is put outside the church. Christian fellowship is cut off. He is treated as though an unbeliever and the world becomes aware of this action. It is no longer confined to the church.

Leaders are called to a higher and stricter standard (James 3:1). When the President of Sovereign Grace Ministries and his Board of Directors refuse to acknowledge any of these sins problems after many proofs and appeals from many people over many years; does it not become necessary to inform the leaders throughout the movement? This was another reason factoring into my decision to send out *The Documents* on July 6 to the SGM pastors. You can call it slander but I think it was time to stop covering up C.J. sins since he was unwilling to confess his sins and deal with leaders in his ranks. There were systemic problems in SGM going unaddressed. The heavy handed blog post of Dave Harvey and the SGM Board on July 13 only proved to be another example of the

sin problems they deny. After I sent out *The Documents*, they immediately attacked me with false charges and commended C.J. They still fail to realize a lot of people have been harmed and mistreated in SGM and it is not due to bad polity. It is due to bad character and it starts at the top.

Reasons 7: The Deceit of Dave Harvey and the SGM Board

The Mona Lisa of Spin by Master Harvey¹²

Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 5:27 PM

Brent Detwiler

Master Harvey surreptitiously shared his exquisite Mona Lisa of spin with the pastors of SGM on June 11, 2011. The unveiling would have made Leonardo proud. It is a brilliant masterpiece certain to be enshrined in the Sovereign Grace Museum of Art which could be moved to Philadelphia. The combination of tones, shapes, strokes, and blending create an exhilarating work of art that will dazzle patrons for perpetuity. Indeed, vertigo practically sets in when one gazes upon the intricacies of spin for too long. It is a powerful piece. The art novice cannot fully appreciate such a remarkable work. He needs the help of a curator.

And so begins my sixth reason for “Why Sending Out ‘The Documents’ Was Not Slanderous But Necessary” (see blog posts for Sept 22, 24, 30).

Dave is a master of manipulation. He has been acclaimed as such by many former church members and at least two former pastors. He has refined his craft over the years. It has not always been so evident but he now holds post graduate degrees in the fine art of spin. No one does it better in SGM. He’s even expanded his repertoire to include acting. You can check out his starring role in Video: Answering your questions from August 28, 2011 but based upon the reviews, he should probably confine himself to painting.

I find his most eminent and advanced work of spin to be his letter to the SGM pastors. May I serve as your curator in examining its contents?

I sent “Concluding Remarks” to C.J., Dave, Jeff and Joshua on June 8, 2011. It was my third major document. I said the following at the end of the manuscript. “Well, we

¹² Some Sovereign Grace leaders like Mickey Connolly expressed great offense at my use of sarcasm in this piece while expressing no concern for Dave or the Board’s lying, deceit and manipulation (see “Mickey Connolly’s Deceitful Use of Scripture and Commentaries” from November 26, 2011). I am reminded of the hypocrisy Jesus warned against in Matt 23:24, “You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”

have reached the end of the road. It is now time for me to share my concerns with the Sovereign Grace pastors” (CR, p. 201).

I also said,

If you ever produce an alternative narrative (e.g. for the SGM pastors), please let me review it before you give it out to anyone. I’ve afforded you that opportunity throughout this process. I’ve welcomed your feedback and I’ve included all of it in my documents. In other words, if you send out a critique of me or my concerns please let me provide an accompanying statement. That is only right. (p. 193)

Of course that never happened. I hope people are beginning to realize that C.J., Dave and the SGM Board don’t play by the same rules they insist upon for everyone else. They’ve learned to play down and dirty.

I’ve not shared this Mona Lisa of deceit and spin before, because I was promised the opportunity to present my concerns for Dave to an objective panel of outside evaluators. That commitment was broken when the SGM Board put forward their bogus arbitration agreement on October 1. It excluded Dave.

So let’s begin. Behind my back on June 11, Dave Harvey warned all the SGM pastors about my documents (RRF&D, AFA, CR). In so doing, he totally ignored my request from two days earlier to please allow me to review their “alternative version” and provide an “accompanying statement.” Dave told the pastors, “If you haven’t received them already, you have hundreds of pages of documentation - Brent’s concerns for CJ - coming your way.” He then proceeded to discredit me and my writings while commending C.J. for his humility.

I had no idea Dave launched this preemptive strike with laser guided missiles loaded with deadly deceit. He ended his letter by saying “Gentlemen, it ain’t pretty...but it’s a faithful narrative [i.e., Dave’s perspective] of a sad tale [i.e., my conduct and writing].”

It is one thing for Tim Challies or Ray Ortlund to claim I slandered C.J. when I sent out *The Documents*. They are ignorant of the facts. They don’t know the inner workings of Sovereign Grace Ministries. It is a completely different matter when Dave and Jeff Purswell make the same claim. It was their deceitful gossip and slander in the form of this letter that factored into my decision to send out my writings and they know it. The holier than thou Board castigated me on July 13 (see Sovereign Grace Ministries Board of Directors announcement regarding C.J. Mahaney) while they broke all the rules. Dave and the boys feel right at home speaking falsehoods while silencing those who speak truth supported by compelling evidence and then labeling them slanderers.

I found out about Dave's correspondence three weeks after the fact on July 5. Needless to say, I was shocked, troubled and heartsick by this surprise attack; and more so, because the action was hidden from me both by the SGM Board and the Covenant Life pastors.

During those three weeks (June 11-July 5), I was working with the Covenant Life pastors and appealing for them to follow 1 Timothy 5:19-21. "Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning. I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism." I was acting in good faith and intentionally holding back on sending out my documents to the SGM pastors until I received a report on their time with C.J. from June 30. I was prepared to take no further action if I was assured they were exercising disciplinary oversight in C.J.'s life.

Instead I had to write this grievous email.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Bo Lotinsky; Bob Kauflin; C. J. Mahaney; Dave Harvey; Gary Ricucci; Gene Emerson; Jeff Purswell; John Loftness; Ken Sande; Pat Ennis; Tommy Hill; Tony Reinke; Adam Malcolm; Ben Wikner; Braden Greer; Brian Chesemore; Corby Megorden; Dave Brewer; Don DeVries; Eric Sheffer; Eric Simmons; Grant Layman; Greg Somerville; Issac Hydoski; Jamie Leach; Joe Lee; Jon Smith; Joshua Harris; Kenneth Maresco; Mark Mitchell; Matt Maka; Mike Bradshaw; Robin Boisvert; Benny Phillips; David Bendinelli; Keith Jacob; Paul Palmer
Subject: Request for Mailing to SGM Pastors
Importance: High

Would some faithful and honest soul, provide me all the material Dave Harvey sent out to the SGM pastors about me around three weeks ago. Please include the cover letter and documents. Until this morning, I had absolutely no idea this was done. It was done behind my back. I called Dave. He did not answer so I left a message. I called the church office and gave the receptionist a message. I've received nothing from them as requested.

Since I could not get through to Dave, I left a voice message on his cell phone. I told him, he had become a master manipulator and it broke my heart. I also wrote the SGM Board and the CLC pastors.

From: Brent Detwiler

Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 4:03 PM

To: Bo Lotinsky; Bob Kauflin; C. J. Mahaney; Dave Harvey; Gary Ricucci; Gene Emerson; Jeff Purswell; John Loftness; Ken Sande; Pat Ennis; Tommy Hill; Tony Reinke; Adam Malcolm; Ben Wikner; Braden Greer; Brian Chesemore; Corby Megorden; Dave Brewer; Don DeVries; Eric Sheffer; Eric Simmons; Grant Layman; Greg Somerville; Issac Hydoski; Jamie Leach; Joe Lee; Jon Smith; Joshua Harris; Kenneth Maresco; Mark Mitchell; Matt Maka; Mike Bradshaw; Robin Boisvert; Benny Phillips; David Bendinelli; Keith Jacob; Paul Palmer

Subject: RE: Request for Mailing to SGM Pastors

I am sorely disappointed that none of you told me about Dave's mailing against me after I emailed you approximately two weeks later on June 25 (see below). I graciously withheld sending out my material to all the SGM pastors in hope that you would take action with C.J. in keeping with 1 Timothy 5:19-21. But now again, I find myself a fool for trusting my SGM friends.

How stupid of me. I was "relieved, grateful and glad to hold on further action" when action had already been taken against me and no one ever told me so.

Dave, Jeff and Joshua responded with lame excuses. And of course, the new and expanded Board killed the prospect of any independent evaluation that included issues like this one. The "loudest statement" turned out to be no statement. It was silenced by them. They deny seeking to attack me in the letter but you can decide by evaluating their method, understanding the context and studying the content of Dave's letter.

From: Nora Earles

Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 5:45 PM

To: Brent Detwiler

Cc: Dave Harvey; Jeff Purswell; Joshua Harris

Subject: FW: Request for Mailing to SGM Pastors

Importance: High

Dear Brent,

We're sending along the attachments that you are requesting.

We know this has upset you and we can understand why. We have struggled for months to know how to effectively communicate with you. If you believe our sending this letter was unethical or sinful, please submit that issue to the evaluation panel along with the other complaints you have against us. We welcome the opportunity to have objective eyes and minds examine all we've done so we can see our mistakes and make needed changes.

In regard to what we mailed three weeks ago, we were not seeking to attack you in that communication to the pastors. We assumed from your statements that you were sending your documents to the pastors and felt it important that they hear some explanation from us. Sending C.J.'s confession of sin and stating that you have been sinned against by CJ was an attempt to make clear that there are real issues. And the loudest statement of this was our decision to involve an independent panel.

Dave, Jeff & Josh

Attachments

1. Confession to Brent - #1 - Dec 16, 2010
2. Confession to Brent - #2 - Mar 11, 2011
3. SGM Board Letter to Brent - Mar 11, 2011
4. E-Mail from Ken Sande to Brent - Mar 29, 2011
5. Letter from Dave and Steve - Apr 1, 2011

I wrote the following because so much about Dave's letter to the SGM pastors was devious and misleading.

From: Brent Detwiler

Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 6:15 PM

To: C.J. Mahaney; Adam Malcolm; Ben Wikner; Braden Greer; Brian Chesemore; Corby Megorden; Dave Brewer; Don DeVries; Eric Sheffer; Eric Simmons; Grant Layman; Greg Somerville; Issac Hydowski; Jamie Leach; Joe Lee; Jon Smith; Joshua Harris; Kenneth Maresco; Mark Mitchell; Matt Maka; Mike Bradshaw; Robin Boisvert; Benny Phillips; David Bendinelli; Keith Jacob; Paul Palmer

Cc: Dave Harvey; Jeff Purswell; Joshua Harris

Subject: RE: Request for Mailing to SGM Pastors

Dave, Jeff and Josh,

If you were interested in justice, you would have included my responses to the documents Dave attached. In all my writings that is what I've done. I've never included just material that favors me. I've included your best arguments at every point. Dave put me in the worse possible light and C.J. in the best possible light. Dave's letter is manipulative and misrepresentative.

Yes, I am upset and the three of you should be convicted. You proceeded when I retreated. That is unethical and you don't need an evaluation panel to point it out.

And what possible excuse do you have for not telling me about the mailing to the SGM pastors when I have been acting in good faith and hoping that would not be necessary for the past three weeks. Indeed, I've been trusting the CLC elders to do their part and C.J. to do his part. That is, write up "a more thorough report" which was promised so we could meet and proceed toward reconciliation.

I have repeatedly expressed my desire and commitment to meet from the beginning and Dave deceptively makes no mention of this in his cover letter. Would you please include the cover letter from Dave. It was not provided. This kind of activity by you and C.J. is typical, paradigmatic, and systemic.

Brent

In contrast, here is the way I' always conducted myself with C.J., Dave and the Board.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 9:46 AM
To: Joshua Harris; Dave Harvey; C.J. Mahaney; Jeff Purswell
Subject: Crucial Comments

...I have done nothing behind your backs. I've been upfront about everything even when that put me at a strategic disadvantage. For example, I'll be sending RRF&D, AFA and CR to all the elders at Covenant Life Church and a few others this week....

After my appeal to the elders failed, I sent out RRF&D, AFA, CR, and TUS on July 6 and 7. Here for example is my email to the pastors in Florida. I poked fun at Dave's most famous line.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:07 AM
To: Phil Courson; Mike Gilland; Shannon Day; John Lenfestey; Wayne Brooks; Jon Morales; David Traugott; Luan Nguyen; Joe Calabello; Ed Edwards; Jerry Cisar; Steve Brunson; Ryan Carver; Daryn Kinney; Danny Jones; Chip Chew; Aaron Law; Mike Nash; Jesse Phillips; Al Pino; Corey Schmatjen; Jason Stubblefield; Brian Brookins; Adam Greenfield; Michael Rizutti; Jesse Jarvis; Tim Merwin; Alex Bowman; Chris Dunlop; Benny Phillips
Subject: A Faithful Narrative of a Sad Tale

I found out this week about Dave's email to you on June 11 regarding "a faithful narrative of a sad tale." In case you're confused, I am the sad part. Dave and the guys are the faithful part. I digress. Anyway, I'm sorry to keep you waiting. You can add this stuff to your summer reading list.

Seriously, I care deeply for my friend C.J. and count it a privilege to have served him and Sovereign Grace for so many years. I hope you find my writings helpful for the strengthening and preserving of Sovereign Grace Ministries for generations to come.

In conclusion, I present to you the Mona Lisa of spin by Master Harvey. Learn from it, but don't imitate it. And don't allow other SGM pastors to get away with cheap imitations. Granted, they are learning from the best but they must not imbibe Dave's techniques. The painting is a fake when it comes to the truth. Look for real masters who are artists of integrity and learn from them.

Finally, this slanderous letter to all the SGM pastors was another reason I decided to send out *The Documents*.

From: Dave Harvey
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2011 4:04 PM
To: Jeff Purswell; Joshua Harris; SGM Sr. Pastors
Cc: Tommy Hill
Subject: FW: Confidential - From the Sovereign Grace Board

Hey guys. I've got some family news I want to pass on, so grab a coffee or whatever cause this is going to take a few minutes. We (Jeff, Joshua & I - The SGM board) want to bring you in on a very difficult situation that has been unfolding for the last 18 months.¹³ It's an unfinished story, but I'm confident God is at work in some powerful ways. Let me explain.

Most of you know Brent Detwiler. Dear friend to some, faithful comrade to many, my first pastor - it was a sad day for all of us¹⁴ when Brent left the Sovereign Grace family in 2009. We have spent many months in pursuit of reconciliation with Brent and offering the services of any qualified outside mediator he would prefer. I'm sad to

¹³ "The "very difficult situation" had been unfolding for over a decade not 18 months. Dave did not provide the SGM pastors with the much larger context.

¹⁴ I imagine Dave is in tears as he writes. ☺ This sentence makes me laugh and cry. If it was "sad day for all us" you'd think I'd hear from the SG family including C.J. Not a chance. With very few exceptions, I heard from no one. I was cut off by long-time friends who were afraid to contact me. Given what they were hearing from C.J., Dave, Bob and Gene it was little wonder why. I was *persona non grata*.

report that our efforts appear unsuccessful¹⁵ and Brent has informed us that he now wants to share his concerns¹⁶ with the pastors in Sovereign Grace¹⁷ as well as others outside of Sovereign Grace.¹⁸ If you haven't received them already, you have hundreds of pages of documentation - Brent's concerns for CJ¹⁹ - coming your way. Perhaps a little more context on this development would help.

Some months after Brent's local leadership team asked him to resign²⁰ and the church closed down in January of 2010, CJ contacted him. The reason for this initiative was that in CJ's ongoing efforts to meet with offended parties, he discovered that Brent had unresolved offenses with him.²¹ CJ contacted Brent with the hope of meeting to discuss any concerns. But rather than meeting with CJ, Brent sent a 128-page document to convey the ways that he thought CJ had sinned as well as to call upon CJ to publicly confess.²² Brent's document arrived around March 17, 2010. In the document, Brent declined CJ's request for a meeting and instead insisted²³ that CJ respond in

¹⁵ Out of the gate, Dave puts himself and the Board in a good light and me in a bad light. They are the ones interested in reconciliation but I am not. He doesn't say why they were unsuccessful. It was due to the Board's and C.J.'s unwillingness to provide a thorough response to my documents as promised and acknowledge the need for C.J. to make a public confession.

¹⁶ Dave doesn't say why I needed to share my concerns with the SGM pastors. For instance, "But the most serious issues I've brought to your [C.J.] attention have been ignored, repudiated or denied. Things like deceit, lying, covering-up, hypocrisy, lording, and favoritism. I take no delight in saying this, but you and Sovereign Grace Ministries cannot be trusted until these things are acknowledged." (CR, p. 201)

¹⁷ Again, Dave doesn't explain the long process behind this necessary action. "Well, we have reached the end of the road. It is now time for me to share my concerns with the Sovereign Grace pastors. For the longest time, I never entertained this course of action. It was inconceivable. But we are at a different place today. You [C.J.] have refused to address or acknowledge many sins of a serious nature and the Board of Directors has taken insufficient action in its correction and discipline of you. Others [like Dave, Bob, Gene] have gone unaddressed as well." (CR, p. 201) I had to tell the pastors having exhausted every possible recourse and having kept this information confidential for three decades.

¹⁸ This "as well as others outside of SG" was slander by hype! Here's what I wrote, "I also plan to make my thoughts available to a small group of former Sovereign Grace pastors or employees. Nine to be exact: Dave Bendinelli, George Harrington, Keith Jacob, Bo Lotinsky, Dan McIntosh, Paul Palmer, Todd Twining, Dan Walsh, Steve Whitman. I'll ask everyone not to make hard copies for distribution or electronically forward any of my material" (CR, p. 201, footnote 443). Dave was trumping up charges. He tempts them to sin and think, "Can you believe it? Brent was even going to share with people outside of Sovereign Grace Ministries. I mean what a slanderous jerk!" In the end, I sent the documents to five of the nine men.

¹⁹ Concerns not only for C.J. but for the movement and other key individuals in SGM.

²⁰ This statement was one of the reasons I included "The Untold Story" in the documents I sent the SGM pastors. Otherwise, they'd have absolutely no idea what really happen in reference to my resignation and the closing of Grace Community Church in Mooresville, NC.

²¹ This is totally misleading. C.J. already knew there were offenses. Dave is putting C.J. in a positive light when the facts put him in a deceptive light. See RRF&D, pp. 1-3, 88-94.

²² How incredibly callous, unwarranted and extreme of me! Asking C.J. to make a public confession must be comparable to the unpardonable sin.

²³ "Insisted" conveys a horrible attitude on my part instead of a reasonable request.

writing.²⁴ At first CJ did not write back,²⁵ holding out hope for a personal meeting rather than the less personal and, in his and others' mind, less helpful exchanges of lengthy written documents.²⁶ But Brent was reluctant to meet, and CJ decided to accommodate Brent's request²⁷ and engage the document to see what God would say. So this is what transpired.

First CJ took the summer and fall of 2010 to meet with all the principal players involved in the various situations Brent described.²⁸ This included the Covenant Life board of elders, the Sovereign Grace leadership teams (the old one and new one), his wife, and others. In all of this, CJ's desire was to discover where Brent was remembering accurately or seeing things clearly. As CJ pursued others' perspective on Brent's concerns, he saw with greater clarity ways he had, in fact, sinned against Brent.²⁹ Moreover, there were also areas where he had exercised poor leadership.³⁰ CJ was seeing some pivotal stuff, which only strengthened his desire to meet with Brent.

Next the board moved from involvement in the process to taking over the process³¹ so that we could help evaluate Brent's concerns³² and also help CJ stand accountable for any sins he committed. In retrospect, we wished we would have done this sooner...this

²⁴ This too is completely misleading. I was eager to meet with C.J. Dave makes no mention of this. Nor does Dave explain why it was so important to me for C.J. to write in preparation for a meeting. If C.J. had written me in a thorough fashion we would have met. The reason we did not meet was C.J.'s refusal to be open and honest in print.

²⁵ "At first." This is misleading also. It took ten months of constant appeals before C.J. finally wrote me on Dec 16, 2010.

²⁶ Dave sets this up as an either/or arrangement. Either a personal meeting or lengthy written documents. Of course this was a false dichotomy and misleading one. I wanted both to happen. First writing. Second meeting. Dave leaves this out entirely and deceives his audience in so doing.

²⁷ After fighting me tooth and nail. It was only in desperation and as a last resort that C.J. wrote me because "A Final Appeal" (Oct 8, 2010) was my final appeal. I was serious about my two conditions being met.

²⁸ Dave gives credit to C.J. that is not deserved. C.J. had no choice. He had to involve others or his goose was cooked - well done for that matter! One of the major charges against C.J. was his extreme independence and blatant lack of accountability. He had no alternative but to contact others.

²⁹ And against many others like Larry Tomczak. Dave minimized the depth and breadth of C.J.'s sins. He reduced it to Brent and C.J. rather than C.J. and a very long list of people. Again he misleads the pastors. It is dishonestly by omission.

³⁰ "Poor leadership." You mean abusive leadership? You mean independent and self-sufficient leadership. You mean unaccountable leadership. Dave uses morally neutral language that doesn't begin to convey the serious issues surrounding C.J.'s failed leadership.

³¹ Dave doesn't tell the SGM pastors that the Board cut off my access to C.J. and labeled my on-going concerns for C.J. as "fruitless." They put C.J. under a gag order and didn't allow him to answer my hard questions. C.J. was able to hide behind the Board.

³² Dave only mentions "Brent's concerns." There is no indication that "Brent's concerns" were also Dave's concerns and those of many others over the past decade. Dave sets it up as Brent against C.J. and doesn't mention the scores of people who've had the same kind of experiences with C.J. including Dave himself. Spin and more spin. It makes me dizzy.

whole process is teaching us much about what it really means to be a board.³³ But regardless of our slowness,³⁴ CJ welcomed our role and the additional layer of help and accountability. Board members were also able to solicit counsel on how to proceed from leaders inside and outside of SGM.

On October 8, we then received a second document [A Final Appeal] from Brent numbering 165 pages. In it Brent was more expansive on his concerns about CJ and continued to insist upon a public confession.³⁵

Convicted of his sin and more keenly aware of his weakness, CJ wrote to Brent acknowledging and confessing sin, seeking to address the primary categories,³⁶ and appealing for a meeting so CJ could convey his heart and seek Brent's forgiveness. (This confession was sent on December 11, 2010. It is the first document attached.) However, Brent was unsatisfied with CJ's specificity³⁷ and felt CJ needed to respond in more detail to Brent's specific accusations.³⁸ Now for the record, because I was right there in all the meetings, CJ and the board were open to a public confession but we did not see the need for a broader confession³⁹ beyond those immediately affected.⁴⁰ However, before making a final decision on that, we thought, and the

³³ The real lesson the Board needed to learn was how to deal with C.J. and not treat him in a preferential manner.

³⁴ The real question is "Why was C.J. so slow in responding to me?" C.J. provided the answer. He acknowledged he kept the pressure on me for 10 months in hopes I would relinquish my two conditions for meeting. When this did not happen he finally capitulated and wrote. He tried to leverage me but I did not give in because I knew an open, honest and accountable response in writing was vital.

³⁵ Dave never explained why I felt a public confession was incumbent upon C.J. My request was not unreasonable. Throughout our history scores of men have confessed in public for far less serious sins. I needed to know if C.J. saw the serious nature of his sins and was therefore willing to confess them.

³⁶ This is entirely untrue. C.J. completely ignored 10 of the 15 categories of sin I brought to his attention. See "Concluding Remarks," pp. 88-89.

³⁷ For good reason. See "Concluding Remarks," pages 90-97.

³⁸ Why was I "unsatisfied"? Because C.J. promised to address all the issues I raised. Instead, he purposely passed over hundreds of important points, illustrations, and questions. That is why I added 400 endnotes to RRF&D and AFA and sent them to C.J., Dave, Jeff and Joshua on June 8, 2011. I didn't expect answers to all 400 but I needed to show that C.J. was being extremely evasive and unaccountable.

³⁹ Finally, an answer after 16 months of asking. No public confession was necessary. I repeatedly asked C.J. and the Board if they felt public repentance was needed. C.J. never answered me and neither did the Board. I asked them time and time again but they refused to be open and honest with me. The same was true for a ton of other issues, questions, and illustrations. I was promised answers but they never provided them. That's why we didn't meet. I didn't care if they disagreed with me. I repeatedly invited their critique and asked them to defend themselves. I did all of this with a view to meeting not publishing their answers. But in the same way they refused to be honest when they saw no need for a public confession, they refused to be honest about so many other things.

⁴⁰ "Beyond those immediately affected." How many people does that include now? What is the latest count by AoR? Hundreds? This is silly. C.J. sins have affected all of Sovereign Grace Ministries and people throughout the movement have confessed publicly for far less serious sins for decades. What an example of favoritism by the Board. They give C.J. a special exemption. Even though he doesn't qualify he still gets to play. There are no penalties when C.J. breaks the rules. His sins remain secret.

counsel we received confirmed this, that a thorough, objective mediation process⁴¹ would be necessary to determine CJ's culpability and the reasonableness of Brent's demands.⁴² But Brent still refused to meet with CJ⁴³ and declined an outside mediator.⁴⁴ He indicated that he would prefer to send along another document.⁴⁵

Believing that a more thorough confession⁴⁶ might be a healthy exercise for CJ's soul while also supplying Brent with something that seemed important to him,⁴⁷ the SGM board directed CJ to create a more extensive confession.⁴⁸ This confession was sent on March 11, 2011 and is the second document attached. Along with CJ's confession, the SGM board also sent a communiqué written to (a) detail our perspective on the situation, (b) appeal for Brent to meet with CJ and any outside mediator, and (c) offer

⁴¹ That is now a joke. The adjudication process forced upon me was not "thorough" or "objective." It was extremely limited in scope. Only one issue would be examined. Is C.J. qualified to be President and Chairman of SGM. I was promised a complete evaluation of SGM including Harvey, Shank, Kauflin and Emerson. It was also extremely partial. I was promised outside evaluators. Instead, they required a SGM Board Member be put on the five man panel. That's like me putting Jim (Refuge) or Kris (Survivors) on the panel - no offense intended. Furthermore, a thorough examination of C.J. and SGM would take at least six weeks given the mountains of evidence to be presented. Not the four days presented in the proposal.

⁴² My demands were horrendous! Honest answers and acknowledging the need for confession.

⁴³ I refused but I also appealed and reiterated my desire to meet. Of course, Dave does not acknowledge this and he doesn't say why I refused. C.J. and the Board were not being open and honest with me. They would not answer my question about confession and they refused to provide me thorough and accountable answers to so much else.

⁴⁴ I wrote the following to Ken Sande the same day Dave sent this letter to SGM pastors! I could tell the SGM Board was attempting to frame me but I didn't know they were about to unveil the Mona Lisa a few hours later. "Of course, they [the SGM Board] totally misrepresent my position. I've been very desirous of meeting with them and C.J. from the beginning. I've repeatedly communicated my eagerness to talk in person and pursue reconciliation; but, I've also set two conditions (i.e., a thorough response to the issues I raised and the need for public confession). They have steadfastly refused to provide the former or agree to the later. I wish they'd be honest and just say, "Brent, your conditions are crazy. We are not going to answer your questions, address your concerns, or deal with your illustrations in print. Yes, we promised to do so but we've changed our mind. We fully realize our decision ends the possibility of moving forward with reconciliation." Instead they frame the issue in order to put me in the worse possible light. It is another example of manipulation and spin. It is part of a predictable pattern. I have lost hope. They cannot be trusted."

⁴⁵ That was "Concluding Remarks." Why? Because of C.J.'s stubbornness to follow through on his promise and the Board's unwillingness to require any kind of public confession. There was also a lot of material left to cover. That is still the case. Hundreds and hundreds of pages could be added.

⁴⁶ You can't have a "more thorough confession." That's a contradiction of terms but more importantly, it is another misleading statement. The facts show C.J.'s response on Dec 16, 2010 was far from thorough.

⁴⁷ Dave makes it sound like they were heroically going out of their way to accommodate me and "do something that seemed important" to me. "Seemed important?" Of course it was important and they knew why. All I was doing was asking C.J. to be a man of his word.

⁴⁸ This is terribly misleading also. The SGM Board did this in large measure because I was pressing them to hold C.J. accountable to follow through on his promise to provide a thorough response.

other options for meetings with various people (along with a mediator) to Brent. That document is attached as well.⁴⁹

But there was also a concern emerging for the board. We wanted to clearly acknowledge and deal with any of C.J.'s sin,⁵⁰ but it also seemed important to recognize that the entire situation was being framed by Brent's sole perspective.⁵¹ Equally important was that there seemed to be a number of areas⁵² where Brent's take on things was dramatically different than the others involved.⁵³ It seemed both biblical and logical to recognize that reconciliation doesn't come by one man presenting his interpretation and standing on it⁵⁴ as the authoritative version of reality⁵⁵ but by two parties humbly interacting over recollections with honesty⁵⁶ and love.⁵⁷ But despite that

⁴⁹ This 2½ page response by the SGM Board to my 600 plus pages conveyed no concern for any problems in the movement or with other key individuals in the movement. It acknowledged no need for a public confession and didn't address the lack of thoroughness in C.J.'s second confession. It expressed no concern for Jenny and me and what we'd been through.

⁵⁰ This is not true. Clearly acknowledge? Not to me. Not to the CLC pastors. Not to the SGM pastors. Not to CLC. Not to the movement. The SGM Board has never defined C.J.'s sins let alone made them clear to the public. Deal with C.J.'s sins? Really? By declaring him totally fit for ministry and above reproach a month later on July 13. The SGM Board has not dealt with C.J. They've coddle him. They've even expressed regret he ever took a leave of absence as President and see that decision as a mistake. Furthermore, they counseled C.J. to leave Covenant Life Church for Capitol Hill Baptist Church without ever talking to the CLC pastors. That's really dealing with C.J. and holding him accountable! Only C.J. can just pick up and leave his church and pastors without talking to them. That's an arrangement no one in the history of SGM has ever been granted.

⁵¹ This was preposterous and Dave knows it. Many people have registered concerns for C.J. and the number grows every day.

⁵² The SGM Board has yet to bring up even one area from "a number of areas." This statement discredited the documents on a wide scale basis without offering any proof. According to Dave, my version was not only different from others but "dramatically different." If so, that should be easy to prove. But where is the evidence? There is none. See "Concluding Remarks," pp. 193-198.

⁵³ I have repeatedly asked to be shown where my "my take on things was dramatically different." Except for C.J.'s denials and rebuttals which I included in CR, no one has contended with me. I am also happy to present my case against C.J. and the SGM Board in presence of all the SGM pastors and let them judge for themselves. I'd also be glad to have it streamed live on the internet for all the SGM churches. The SGM Board cannot be trusted to righteously decide C.J.'s future.

⁵⁴ This was a libelous comment about my supposed pride. Per Dave, I had the gall to stand against C.J., the Board and others. How arrogant! Again, I've repeatedly asked to be corrected with primary source material or other reliable evidence. None has been produced. I've done my best to write accurately and I am happy to be shown any errors. When shown, I'll gladly change my perspective and correct my writings.

⁵⁵ I don't think *The Documents* are infallible but they are credible, reliable, truthful and fundamentally accurate. I don't mind someone discrediting me with facts and evidence but not with sweeping statements which are utterly unsupported here or elsewhere. That is cowardly and unfair. As the saying goes, put up or shut up.

⁵⁶ I've repeatedly asked them to be perfectly honest. Instead C.J. and the SGM Board have been dishonest on many occasions. That is one reason I asked them to interact with me in print before we met. And I believe that is one reason they refused to do so.

concern, the board determined there were certain points of truth⁵⁸ in Brent's documents that CJ needed to process and confess. CJ agreed with this. So our letter to Brent acknowledged agreement with some of Brent's points and reiterated our appeal to pursue mediation.

In short, Brent would not meet. Out of concern over Brent's apparent revision of certain points of history, Steve Shank and I sent along a letter to Brent dated April 1, 2011 (attached).⁵⁹ On March 29th, Ken Sande also sent a letter to Brent⁶⁰ (attached also). In all of this, Brent refused to meet with CJ, declined a mediator, and informed us that he would begin to prepare another document.⁶¹

Yesterday Brent responded with another 199-page document. In it he informed us that he would now be conveying his concerns to the pastors of Sovereign Grace and certain others outside of SGM.⁶² So now you know why it's necessary to download all of this information⁶³ on you.

Guys, we want to reiterate something here: there were ways that CJ sinned against Brent.⁶⁴ And we believe this has hurt Brent deeply. CJ also grieves over this reality, as does the SGM board. And that's where we would counsel you not to react hastily to Brent or impulsively come to CJ's defense.⁶⁵ CJ and the SGM board are not looking for

⁵⁷ "Love?" You mean like I've experienced the past 7 years? Anyway, I asked C.J. to interact "with honesty and love" in writing. When he did so, I looked forward to interacting with him in person. If he really wanted to meet in person, he would have followed through on his word to interact in print. Even if he didn't prefer print, what harm was there in writing? I believe he was he afraid to be open, honest and accountable.

⁵⁸ Wow, after all that how kind of Dave to acknowledge there were at least "certain points of truth."

⁵⁹ If Dave were concerned about the truth he would have attached my response to his and Steve's letter (see CR, pp. 197-198). I've always included "evidence" against me in my writings. Not Dave. The same thing occurred again with their October 13 blog post, "[An update on the adjudication process.](#)" I asked them to include my statement. They didn't even mention it. You got it. Sovereign Grace Ministries...the most trusted name in Christendom...fair, balanced and unafraid.

⁶⁰ I think Ken now understands why I was unwilling to meet with C.J. until he interacted with me in print. I wonder if Ken hasn't been troubled by the actions of C.J., Dave and the Board in recent months.

⁶¹ Once again this is extremely slanted. I told C.J. and the SGM Board I would love to meet but they must agree to my two simple conditions. Dave nowhere states this in his letter.

⁶² This is a totally misleading and alarming statement that gives the wrong impression. See endnote #6 for what I actually told Dave.

⁶³ I think Dave meant to say "propaganda."

⁶⁴ My documents are not simply about how C.J. sinned against me. Far from it. They are about how he sinned against Dave Harvey, Paul Palmer, Bo Lotinsky, Larry Tomczak, Kenny Roberts, Joshua Harris, Grant Layman, Kenneth Maresco, to mention a few. This doesn't include his sins against CLC and SGM. And there are so many other individuals C.J. has sinned against that I've not included in *The Documents*.

⁶⁵ Of course, this letter had that very effect because it was so misleading. In fact, pastors in SGM refused to read *The Documents* because of this letter from Dave. Some even sent me hate mail. Many like Mickey Connolly told their churches not to read them. In the twisted world of SGM, Dave can write a letter like this one, which is genuinely deceitful and slanderous, while condemning people for reading my

vindication⁶⁶ nor do we desire to shift the focus towards Brent.⁶⁷ Our hope is for an open process of reconciliation for the good of God's glory and all involved. So if there is any identification with CJ, let it be to identify with the pursuit of humility that he has displayed throughout this process.⁶⁸ And please pray for CJ and Brent as this situation unfolds.

Now it's important that the board convey something else to you. The board has spent hundreds of hours examining these documents, meeting together, evaluating CJ⁶⁹ and attempting to persuade Brent to meet with a mediator.⁷⁰ We (the board) want you to know that CJ has submitted himself completely to the board and that submission has been evidenced by his vigorous soul-searching, his aggressive pursuit of Brent, and his overall posture of humility through careful listening and transparent confession.⁷¹ The SGM board can think of nothing more to ask of CJ in the pursuit of reconciliation with Brent.⁷² However, in order to ensure the most thorough and objective process possible,

documents which are credible and necessary given the spin, favoritism, and obstinacy of C.J., Dave, and others.

⁶⁶ C.J. and the Board are not looking for vindication? That's good to know. That means this letter from Dave has nothing to do with putting C.J. and the Board in a good light and me in a bad light.

⁶⁷ Of course not. But wait a minute. Let's re-read this letter. It sure seems like the focus is on me. Oh well, I guess it's my paranoia. And if my memory serves me right, didn't Dave do a SGM blog post on July 13 where the focus was on me? If I'm not mistaken, I was totally trashed while C.J. was totally vindicated. I thought they weren't concerned about vindication? Well, who knows? Along with my paranoia, I must be demented and schizoid and, oh no, the vertigo is setting in again! The room is beginning to spin. In fact, the whole SGM world is starting to spin. Help! If you too feel nauseated and want relief see "Sovereign Grace Ministries Board of Directors announcement regarding C.J. Mahaney" and read *The Documents* at BrentDetwiler.com for the truth. Praise God, the dizziness is back under control.

⁶⁸ C.J.'s actions have been reactive and due to external pressures. Never proactive. Dave's description of C.J.'s initiative is unfounded. The real C.J. has confessed very little, left his church, repudiated his pastors, blamed Joshua Harris, refused to walk in the light, lined up support from Christian celebrities, blocked a real evaluation by signing the bogus Adjudication Agreement, is headed to a SGM church other than CLC, and may soon come back as President from which he can continue draw a big salary, write books, get royalties, hit the speaking tour, collect honoraria, tell the world how he has been mistreated and be adored in the Reformed world.

⁶⁹ And coming up with practically nothing. They've had no serious concerns for C.J.

⁷⁰ While I spent far more time writing the documents and trying to persuade them to provide transparent, revealing, and clear answers in preparation for a meeting.

⁷¹ I sure hope the 18 pastors from CLC give an open and honest report of their dealings with C.J. to combat this hype.

⁷² Put yourself in my gallery seat. Dave's brush stroke is amazing. Breathtaking. Look, he's putting the final touches on the ubiquitous eyes of Mona Lisa. The SGM Board can think of nothing more to ask of C.J. Every possible remedy has been pursued. Now the portrait is complete. The Mona Lisa of spin is finished. Her eyes of deceit follow you everywhere. Master Harvey, left out the only two things I ever asked for from C.J., Dave, Jeff and Joshua. But only the most discerning critic notices what is missing in the painting. If only C.J. and the Board had agreed a public confession was good and necessary, and if only the Board had been willing to have C.J. provide a thorough response to RRF&D and AFA, reconciliation could have occurred. But the novice never notices this accent of truth is famously left out of the portrait. It is marvelous for what it doesn't include. In fact, when I re-read my first document,

the board has decided to take the additional step of engaging an independent panel of mediators (external to SGM and our relational network) who are trained to evaluate such difficult situations, taking into account all relevant information, considering all perspectives, and providing objective feedback. We feel this is the best way to bring a God-glorifying resolution to these circumstances.⁷³

As for this e-mail and the accompanying documents, please forward them no further than your pastoral team/elders/leadership team and ask them not to forward them at all.

Now I know that's a lot to process so let me just wrap up with the SGM boards commitment to you:

- 1) We will be happy to answer any questions about anything.⁷⁴ Give us a few days to consult with the regional leaders (providentially, we have a retreat next week) and figure out the best way to process any questions or feedback. If you have any immediate or pressing questions though, please contact Jeff, Josh or myself and one of us will be back in contact with you.
- 2) We will continue to appeal to Brent for conciliation and mediation with CJ.⁷⁵
- 3) We will initiate the independent review process to evaluate every piece of information relevant to this situation as referenced above.⁷⁶
- 4) We will seek to faithfully fulfill our role of providing accountability to CJ.⁷⁷
- 5) We will appropriately inform you⁷⁸ of any important developments and consider how we might use upcoming contexts like the Pastors Conference for an update.
- 6) We welcome any insights you have to offer or any counsel on how to proceed.⁷⁹

RRF&D, I am sickened by the extraordinary opportunity C.J. missed because he was unwilling to walk in the light with me and the public. So look at her eyes. In one is the love of reputation and in the other is self-preservation. Gaze in awe at Master Harvey's Mona Lisa of spin. It is a work for the ages.

⁷³ I am grateful for the AoR Group Reconciliation process but it secures absolutely nothing because the findings and results remain strictly confidential and under the control of the SGM Board. In my case, I was promised a much different process. That was the opportunity to make an open and thorough case against C.J. and others within SGM to an outside panel of evaluators with the results published online. It was promised by the old Board and killed by the new Board. The "sovereign" Board gives and takes away when self-interest is served.

⁷⁴ Of course, this is a great way to do damage control and provide talking points.

⁷⁵ They should have been appealing to C.J. to humble himself in writing and in public which would have resulted in conciliation and mediation.

⁷⁶ What a cruel joke. The SGM Board reversed themselves and is no longer doing an independent review process. Furthermore, they send me an Adjudication Agreement that did not allow a process "to evaluate every piece of information relevant to this situation." The situation referred to was my documented concerns for C.J. and other key leaders. The Board purposely confined the scope of the evaluation. It was limited to C.J. More deceit.

⁷⁷ By defending him at every turn and allowing him to flee his pastors at Covenant Life Church.

⁷⁸ That means a lot of "inappropriate" information will be concealed. I mean kept confidential.

⁷⁹ C.J. and the Board "welcome" input nowadays. It's good for public relations. They have to appear humble and teachable. But this can be a con. C.J. would often "welcome" input but then totally

7) We will continue to treasure⁸⁰ the investment that Brent made into SGM during his many years of leadership.

Gentlemen, it ain't pretty...but it's a faithful narrative of a sad tale.⁸¹ Yet we are learning much and we cherish the hope of restored fellowship with Brent in the future.⁸² Until then we labor, together, as partners, in a family, for the gospel.

On behalf of the board,

[Master] Dave

disregard it. It must go from welcoming to following input and not just the stuff you want to hear. I don't see evidence of that happening. They certainly haven't acted upon any of my input. They either headed the other direction or welcomed it initially but only to reject it later.

⁸⁰ This must be a typo. I think Dave meant to say "trash" not "treasure." Here's why. During the five years following the August 20, 2004 meeting (see RRF&D, pp. 16-28), I endured harsh criticism and rejection by C.J. and those close to him. For example, Dave told me in August 2007, I did not represent the values of SGM in my preaching, leadership, or character. And Jeff Purswell told me in January 2008, there was no need for me to teach in the Pastors College any longer (see RRF&D, pp. 122-125). Dave and Jeff, and other agents like Bob Kaufflin and Gene Emerson, spoke and acted on C.J.'s behalf. I was not treasure. I was trash. That's why I wrote C.J. on June 21, 2010 and said, "I'd love to return to Sovereign Grace Ministries but change must occur in order to restore my trust and confidence in its integrity. Nor am I currently welcome by you or acceptable to you. Gene counseled people to force my resignation before any evaluation, Bob has pronounced me unfit for ministry and in need of a lengthy rehabilitation, Dave has forbidden me from visiting all Sovereign Grace churches until I change, and you have said we cannot serve together because of your disagreements with me over doctrine and practice. I am also reminded of Dave's words to Jenny and me that I have not represented the values, leadership or doctrine of Sovereign Grace Ministries' during my years of service. As a result, a sense of belonging in Sovereign Grace Ministries escapes me."

⁸¹ This famous line summed it all up! Dave's account was a "faithful narrative." My 600 pages of documentation were a "sad tale." All the work, all the research, all the patience, all the appeals, all the documentation derided as a sad tale. I am now accustomed to this kind of ridicule by Dave but to fully appreciate his brilliance, you must contemplate the purposeful contrast. Dave's rendition was faithful to the facts. His story was true and credible. My rendition was false and spurious. And my pathetic tale was also a tall tale. It was both pitiful and false. This kind of statement revealed Dave's true state of heart. One of arrogance and self-righteousness.

⁸² Pardon me but here in North Carolina we have a lot of pig farms and this is pure hogwash. When I resigned from the apostolic team in November 2007, when my resignation as sr. pastor was unscrupulously demanded in June 2009, and when I left SGM in August 2009, nothing said or done conveyed the cherished hope of fellowship restored. This gets me laughing. Everything underscored how glad SGM was I had been fired and left the movement. Those are just the facts.

Reason 8: The Need to Speak Against Evil

A Tough Wedge & a Heavy Pike
Friday, November 4, 2011 at 1:39 PM
Brent Detwiler

Introduction

I am of German descent. My grandfather and father were both fluent in a dialect of German called "Pennsylvania Dutch." My roots are in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania which is well populated with Lutheran churches. My most beloved Lutheran pastor was Reverend Ernest Flothmeirer - how's that for a hearty German name. A mighty fortress was his God.

So it is of little surprise that my historical hero of the faith is Martin Luther.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) was fourteen years Luther's junior. He was a pale and anemic man and Luther once described him as a "scrawny shrimp." What he wasn't in body, he was in mind. He was the first systematic theologian of Protestantism and largely responsible for the Augsburg Confession, which is considered by many the most important document of the Reformation. He was a towering intellectual and could speak Latin and Greek better than his native German. He also shared a close friendship with Luther. He said, "I would rather die than be separated from Luther... Martin's welfare is dearer to me than my own life."

Luther greatly loved and valued Melanchthon but differed with him on what was necessary in addressing the corruption that existed in the Roman Catholic Church.

The little fellow [Philip Melanchthon] is a godly man, and even if he should do wrong, his intentions are not bad, but it's because he's taken captive by others. He hasn't accomplished much by his method, and he used bad judgment in dedicating his books. I think, when I reflect on the matter, that my way is still the best. I speak right out and scold my opponents like schoolboys. For a knotty stump requires a tough wedge. --Martin Luther

Philip stabs, too, but only with pins and needles. The pricks are hard to heal and they hurt. But when I stab, I do it with a heavy pike used to hunt boars. --Martin Luther

When Melanchthon died at the age of 63 in 1560, he was buried beside Luther at the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

I am no Luther, and I am not comparing myself to him, but I have drawn inspiration from his life. The Reformation would never have occurred if left to the godly Phillip Melanchthon.

The Need to Tell the Truth

Sovereign Grace Ministries is not the Roman Catholic Church and C.J. is not Pope Leo X. Nevertheless the unrepentant sin in C.J.'s life is serious and long term. So too the problems in SGM. They are widespread and deep.

I have been universally condemned and denounced as a "devil" (i.e. an accuser, a slanderer from *diabolos*) by the Sovereign Grace Board, the Covenant Life pastors, some SGM pastors, and Reformed leaders of different stripes. Curt Allen's recent description is representative. By the way, I could use a hug; but please, no more kisses from enemies.

Brent, you need a hug man. For real! The only people that would sit and listen to you for two hours saying the same old stuff, are you, a few homeless people that thought there was going to be food afterwards, and a few flunkies that actually think all this is God glorifying. Brother, you got one foot on the grave and another on a banana and you are slippin'. Cut this stuff out man. Say what you got to say at the adjudication hearing and be done with it. No matter what you say in these emails and on your blog, we are not on your team man. You brought some good things to light that gave us categories to ask questions but now this is just division homeboy. This is factious. You need Jesus Brent.

But telling the truth when SGM is covering up the truth is not slander! My accusations are not demonic assaults. They are carefully documented charges. I've asked for C.J.'s defense. He has not provided one. I asked for a hearing. He won't give me one. I believe the SGM Board and friends like Challies, Ortlund, and Purswell have torn out a third of their Bible. The section called The Prophets where kings, peoples or nations were constantly exposed in public for their public transgressions. These critics of "slander" should also throw out all their books on Church History and most of the NT epistles. On yea, the Gospels also.

Of course, nothing SGM says is slanderous but any criticism or public exposure of them is slanderous. More hypocrisy. More control. Yet they won't answer questions, don't walk in the light, refuse to acknowledge wrong-doing, won't allow for a hearing, etc. What do they expect? They don't want the truth getting out so they malign motives, attack accuracy, and dam distribution while they remain unaccountable and silent.

People are told to “believe the best” but this is used by leaders to obscure the truth or put a positive spin on everything so members remain ignorant or uninvolved. Too many people would rather hear prophets of peace. Nothing disturbing, please! But this is not how it’s done in the Bible.

Jesus “Speaks Against” Churches

“The verb ‘slander’ simply means to ‘speak against’ (Gk. *kata-lalein*) [this is a separate Greek word from *diabolos* above]. It is not necessarily a false report, just an ‘against-report.’ Non-slandering evaluation...is never ‘against-speaking.’...Passing on negative stuff always undermines love and respect. It’s never nourishing, never constructive, never timely, never grace-giving.” (“Should You Pass on Bad Reports?” by Tim Keller & David Powlison)

There are many good points in this article by Keller and Powlison, but if you mindlessly apply the “speak against” definition of slander you end up with all kinds of error. For one, you make Jesus into the world’s greatest slanderer. Read the four gospels – Jesus speaks against all kinds of people, groups, and leaders.

And listen to these examples from the book of Revelation. Jesus publicly exposes five of the seven churches in Asia Minor (but no one can expose SGM under any conditions. Jesus forgot...he should have gone to these brothers in private. He should have kept his message positive – no rotten, corrupt or unwholesome words. No “against speech.” Instead Jesus reveals the sins of these churches to John the apostle who is commanded to write them down for the church throughout history to learn from. And take note, gentle Jesus, meek and mild, uses strong language like “I’ll lay you out on a bed of affliction” or “I’ll puke you out of my mouth like vomit.” Edifying speech isn’t it?

Rev 2:4-5 Yet I hold this against you [Ephesus]: You have forsaken your first love. [5] Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Rev 2:14-16 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you [Pergamum]: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. [15] Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. [16] Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Rev 2:20-24 Nevertheless, I have this against you [Thyatira]: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. [21] I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. [22] So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who

commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. [23] I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

Rev 3:1-3 I know your deeds [Sardis]; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. [2] Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. [3] Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

Rev 3:15-19 I know your deeds [Laodicea], that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! [16] So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. [17] You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. [19] Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Bible Characters “Speak Against”

In the same way, the authors of Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles write down in detail the sins of the Judges and theocratic Kings. There is no cover up in the Bible. Even David was humble enough to write about his adultery and murder. He penned Psalm 51 for everyone to read. He wasn’t worried about his reputation.

I know what some critics will say. Well, we can’t speak like Jesus. He was God. Or we can’t speak like Jeremiah, Amos or Nathan. They were prophets. Or we can’t denounce people like John the Baptist. He was the forerunner of the Lord. Or we can’t publicly rebuke individuals or churches like Paul did. He was an apostle. When does it end? Can we do anything found in the Bible? I respect the uniqueness of these men, but they were examples for us to follow, not relegated to the annals of canonical history. They still speak to us today.

We have such phony ways of interpreting the Bible. We say “judge not” (Matt 7:1) or “you can’t know a man’s motives” (contrary to passages like Matt 7:16-20; 15:18-19; Acts 5:3; 8:22-23; 26:20; James 2:14-25; Heb 4:12; 13:17). Sometime I think we read the Bible sitting upside down. We get it all backwards. Or we forget or cut out passages of Scripture that are distasteful by our cultural standards. Instead we highlight a few passages like Prov 17:9 – “he who conceals a transgression seeks love;” Eph 4:30 – “let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth;” 1 Cor 13:1 – “If I have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal;” 1 Cor 13:7 – “believe the best;” Philip 4:8 – “whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable – think about such things;” Eph 4:2 – “be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

These are important passages but so often we “Americanize” the meaning of the text. They don’t tell the whole story and especially not when you are dealing with systemic sin modeled by the President of an organization who remains unrepentant having only made the tiniest acknowledgement of wrong doing and now refuses to hear charges against him.

As a result, we package these passages together and effectively create a false doctrine regarding godly speech and how we respond to evil. We don’t take into account the whole the Bible and we don’t always interpret these select passages correctly or apply them accurately. Wrongly applied these verses condemn most of the biblical characters for being harsh, judgmental, not speaking in love, believing the worse about others, shamefully confronting sin, and threatening with consequences.

If fact, Jesus violates his own teachings. He should have turned the other cheek but instead he was turning over tables. The Baptist should not have called people vipers and Paul should not have confronted people in public like Peter for his hypocrisy (Gal 2:11, 14) or Euodia and Syntyche because they were fighting with each other (Philip 4:2). Shame on Jesus, John and Paul. They are hypocrites. Seriously, there are thousands, yes thousands of verses, that must inform our understanding of these seven passages that have too often been cited in this present crisis.

As a result we end up with inaction against evil, silence, little discernment, lots of ignorance, sentimentalism, naivety, positive thinking, cover-up, and false notions about humility, gentleness and patience, and injustice. We might as while have Barney, or Mr. Rodgers, for our Messiah. And Yahweh is not Norman Vincent Peale, Anthony Robbins or Zig Ziglar. We confuse “How to Win Friends and Influence People” by Dale Carnegie with the Bible.

We don’t think about other passages and these are but a small sampling.

Matt 10:34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

1 Cor 11:17-19 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. [18] For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. [19] For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

1 Cor 14:24-25 But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, [25] and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil.

1 Cor 2:55 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

Matt 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

1 Cor 4:19-21 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. [20] For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. [21] What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

Did the authors of Chronicles and Kings slander Saul, David and Solomon and the Kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms? Did the prophets err in detailing and publishing the sins of Israel, Judah and adjacent nations? Did John the Baptist sin for his "unwholesome speech" when he called people snakes? Did Jesus defame the High Priest, the Sanhedrin and Judaism for his harsh condemnations? Did Paul malign churches like the Corinthians and Galatians and individuals like Peter and John Mark? Did John the Revelator slander the churches in Asia Minor for recording Jesus' chastisement of them?

And how about Jude. I think he forgot the injunction to "judge not."

Jude 12, 13, 16 These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm – shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead. [13] They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever...[16] These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

I know he is talking about those "godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord." That is not C.J. or SGM. But C.J.'s sins and actions have adversely affected many pastors, many people and the entire movement. They should have been acknowledged a long time ago. Instead they are covered up. Jude used extreme language for the sins he outlined. Strong language is needed and appropriate for C.J. and the SGM Board.

Joshua is correct. If we had spoken up in the past the present could have been avoided.

July 1, 2011

Brent,

Your documents have helped me to face issues that I have not wanted to face. I told CJ and Dave and Jeff that I have played a part in failing to challenge CJ. If I had been more courageous 7 years ago he might not be at this same place. I feel that I have failed many people. And so I feel a great weight of regret and I know the Lord is disciplining me in this process too.

Joshua

Keith Collins, Lakeview Christian Center

Keith is the senior pastor of Lakeview Christian Center in New Orleans. Their church building was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina and the church endured a great trial but they have come through victorious by the grace of God. Lakeview may be the most evangelistic church in SGM. They are doing a great job. Recently, I answered some questions and shared my overall perspective with Keith on what has happened since 2004.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 12:53 PM
To: Keith Collins
Subject: RE: Hello

Keith,

Good to hear from you. Thanks for all the time you invested in communicating your thoughts. I appreciate it. A few brief comments. I believe in loyalty. That's why you only knew one side of C.J. and that is a wonderful side. After the meeting with C.J. In August 2004, things took a turn for the worse. The abuse began in earnest. By November 2007, I had to resign from the apostolic team as a matter of conscience. I went quietly though I suffered greatly. By August 2009, I had to leave SGM. The betrayal, cover up, and assessment evaluation by Bob Kauflin and friends was the most awful thing I've ever witnessed in 30 years of ministry. "The Untold Story" remains incomplete. I hope to finish it. I sent my first major document (RRF&D) to C.J. in March 2010. Since then the spin and deception has only intensified. I cannot believe what I am seeing.

The tone of my communication has changed but I think that is appropriate given the unrepentant state of C.J., Dave and the Board. My language is mild

compared to the Bible when addressing these kinds of habitual sins that ruin others. After a decade of appeals, I finally had to speak out on July 6, 2011. I had no choice so I sent my documents to the SGM pastors. I had exhausted every other avenue. And now the adjudication hearing has been killed. As a result, you will never hear the truth. I've been silenced by an unaccountable and unentreatable Board of Directors.

I haven't changed Keith. I am the same Brent. I still love C.J. and the movement but the problems are serious and widespread. I can't convince you or anyone else. I can only share the facts as fairly and accurately as I can. The rest is up to the Holy Spirit. I could say much more but I am too tired and it is unnecessary. God bless you and the all the brothers at Lakeview as you continue to build and preach and evangelize. Please greet them and forward this note to them if you don't mind.

Love in Christ,
Brent

Thoughts on the Future

This week I sent the following message to the SGM Board, CLC pastors, Ambassadors of Reconciliation leaders, and friends. I also responded to Jenn Grover.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 11:15 AM
To: SGM Board; Friends; Ted Kober; Ken Sande; Edgar Keinath; CLC Pastors
Subject: C.J.'s Deceit

I have two more posts to write then my work is done. I may need to post in the future depending on circumstances but I hope not. Instead, I plan to finish up a 1,000 page manuscript and write a 150 page book that is easy to read and follow. It is my sincerest prayer that C.J. and the SGM Board will stop resisting the Holy Spirit and yield to the conviction they are experiencing so they can publicly repent with fervency and depth. I have been their friend though they see me as your enemy. May the faithful wounds they have received be used for good.

From: Jenn Grover
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 11:26 AM
To: BrentDetwiler
Subject: Fwd: C.J.'s Deceit

I hope everything is alright and you are going to stop posting because you feel that you are coming to the end of what God is calling you to do.

Blessings to you.
Jenn Grover

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 11:44 AM
To: Jenn Grover
Subject: RE: C.J.'s Deceit

Of course, I don't know the future but it seems I've done what God has asked of me. There could be more and I am open. I think the future will now be shaped by people like Joshua, Mike, you, etc. My voice is hoarse. My body weakened but that is not the reason for abatement or cessation.

If SGM comes to their knees, I am happy to reengage. As it stands they remain stiff-necked and about to fracture. If I need to fight again, I certainly will but now is the time for all the SGM pastors to call for [SGM Board] accountability and change. I am convinced the vast majority of the pastors know C.J. should not be the President and Dave should not be the interim President of SGM. They must speak up.

A Closing Appeal

This appeal to Ken Sande summarizes my thoughts. They apply to every pastor in SGM not just Ken. I coming to the end of the road. I've done my part these past 11 years. My formal correction of C.J. began in December 2000 (see RRF&D, p. 5). My informal correction began in 1982 (see RRF&D, p. 4).

I am grateful to those who have been willing to speak up and out. But there is much more to do. Don't let your efforts and appeals to C.J. and the SGM Board result in cosmetic changes and nominal confessions. You should leave Sovereign Grace Ministries if there is no deep contrition. Repentance must be public. Confession must be public. Restitution must be public. Of biblical necessity, this will result in resignations from C.J., Dave, Steve and Mickey. Fear God, not man.

From: Brent Detwiler
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 5:17 PM
To: Ken Sande
Subject: RE: Appeal

They might take you and Joshua and Mark Mullery and others seriously but only if you get serious in public. Private appeals have never worked. I tried for decades. I was forced to speak out publicly because my private pleadings were largely rejected. Until now, I've been the only one willing to speak out in public. Others are slowly joining the course. I hope you are one of them...

Ken, we need prophets as much as peacemakers. AoR is not prophetic. Peacemakers is not prophetic. You were helpful in Richmond but no permanent fruit was born because things were not deal with in an open and accountable fashion. Mediation agreements prevented a proper dealing with Gene's sins as mandated in Scripture. As a result hundreds of people left the church.

The exact same thing on a much larger scale is going to happen with C.J., Dave, and the SGM Board because of the unbiblical approach taken by AoR. There is a secondary need for mediation. Fine and good. By the primary need is to bring things out into the open and rebuke C.J. in public and have him removed as President (Matt 18, 1 Tim 3, 5; Tit 1). No one has ever had the courage to stand up to him.

I'm denounced as a slanderer but it doesn't matter who or how the message is delivered. C.J., Dave and the Board would reject anyone the Lord sent to them like the religious leaders of Jesus' day. The problem is not the messenger. It is the message. If C.J. or Dave or Steve don't like the message sooner or later the messenger will be "stoned." We have a bloody history.

For decades scores of people have tried to get through to C.J. with little or no success. Now he and Carolyn are crying foul.⁸³ Labeling truth as slander. And truth speakers as slanderers. So is Dave. This is so predictable. C.J. has always acted this way. Initially, he appears responsive. Later you catch heck and are demoted, removed or corrected for pride and bitterness. There are hundreds of testimonies to this affect. You don't cross C.J. You don't cross Dave. And you don't cross their agents or you pay for it.

Now they claim to be listening but there is no repentance, confession or restitution. It is a fake and that is not a sinful judgment. There is no fruit. Guys have tried to tell their story over the years and in recent months but there is no change. People have been through hell with C.J., Dave, Steve, and Gene. They destroy lives. But it will all be covered up again. AoR will not get

⁸³ See "Getting a Foothold" by Carolyn Mahaney from October 18, 2011 on the Girl Talk blog. "When this trial dropped like a bomb on our lives this past summer, it was shocking, painful, and disorienting. Slander and false accusations flew at us from all sides, shrapnel raining down on our entire family.

to the bottom of it. Even if they do, the Board won't allow the truth to be broadcast or bring any discipline and there will be no reparations.

Take for example C.J. He has acknowledged absolutely no sin to the movement except against me and Dave in 2003-2004 and a very feeble acknowledgement about Larry Tomczak to CLC. That's it for him and nothing at all from the SGM Board. They may put on the appearance of listening but they are not hearing and they are certainly not doing. When C.J. confesses that he has repeatedly lied, abused his position, lived independently and hypocritically, then we are making some progress.

The decimation of people continues and it is only going to get worse. I wish Luther were alive. Or any of the Reformers. Or any of the greats in Church History. They would not be silent. My language is mild compared to theirs. And how about the Prophets of Scripture. We don't learn from them. We don't listen to their message. They have no relevance today. They have been torn out of our Bibles. But if they were around the SGM Board would not listen to them. Their language can be dreadful, fierce, and terrifying.

Listen, Ken, SGM must be exposed.... Practically every day they are lying, deceiving or manipulating in some way. I am dead serious. I am not making this stuff up. It has been shown. You know what is going on in SGM. You've heard from lots of people and pastors over the years that were once part of the movement. You know how bad it is. If you speak out you'll be condemned by Mohler, Ortlund, DeYoung and a host of others.... SGM needs to be exposed by heavy hitters like you. We need a Jeremiah.

Brent

Conclusion

Luther was correct. I thank God for his courage. He was not "taken captive" by the fear of man. C.J. and the SGM Board have been a knotty stump and a wild boar. They've needed a tough wedge and a heavy pike. Consider again Luther's words and then a final thought from Master Philipp.

The little fellow is a godly man, and even if he should do wrong, his intentions are not bad, but it's because he's taken captive by others. He hasn't accomplished much by his method, and he used bad judgment in dedicating his books. I think, when I reflect on the matter, that my way is still the best. I speak right out and scold my opponents like schoolboys. For a knotty stump requires a tough wedge. --Martin Luther

“Philipp stabs, too, but only with pins and needles. The pricks are hard to heal and they hurt. But when I stab, I do it with a heavy pike used to hunt boars. --
Martin Luther

Melanchthon delivered Luther's funeral oration in 1546, saying, "Some by no means evil-minded persons have complained that Luther displayed too much severity. I will not deny this. But I answer in the language of Erasmus: 'Because of the magnitude of the disorders, God gave this age a violent physician.'"