


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
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BlackSDA _ 3ABN _ 3abn?


Posted by: Eddy Oct 27 2006, 10:33 AM

I feel left out. I just found out that 3ABN was a SDA channel. What channel is it on? How can I get it? If everyone hates the founders so much, why do they still watch it? What on Earth did the Sheltons do that was so terrible that everyone hates them???? Please, help a sista out. Right now, I feel very left out of the loop. 

Posted by: simplysaved Oct 27 2006, 11:33 AM

Gurl....You don't know what you have asked.... 

QUOTE(Eddy @ Oct 27 2006, 10:33 AM)

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As to why people choose to still watch it when they have great dislike for it and Danny Shelton....it is their choice....whether or not it is a logical choice, another issue....

People stop watching = ratings go down= goes off the air..... BTJM

Posted by: Observer Oct 27 2006, 11:37 AM


Re: "I just found out that 3ABN was a SDA channel."

3-ABN is independent from the SDA church. It does have some connections to it, but it is independently governed, and the SDA denomination does not contro it.

Posted by: watchbird Oct 27 2006, 11:47 AM


QUOTE(Eddy @ Oct 27 2006, 12:33 PM)

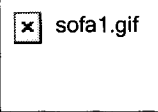
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feel very left out of the loop. 

Cheer up, Eddy. You have come to the right place ... the only place on the whole net where there is full availability for all sides to come and post their information and opinions... and their opinions of those who post information.

BUT ... do not expect it to be a quick and easy read. Start with the pinned section above.... including working your way through the "tour guide" to selected posts of the Unauthorized History threads. Don't try it all in one sitting please! It is too much for any mortal to absorb so fast! Take it slow and thoughtfully... and when you have finished with that, venture out into other threads on this site.

I won't say "enjoy"... it's not that kind of story. But relax. You are among friends. Here's a nice soft "blankie" for when the going gets rough or scary..... 


And we also have a nice couch for hiding behind if things get REALLY scary..... 

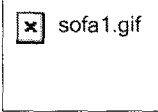
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
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
And we also have a nice couch for hiding behind if things get REALLY scary..... 

I've been reading, but I it seems like everyone talks about it from stuff they already know... However, my days are slow and dragging so I have plenty of time to read. I'll keep on keepin' on.

Posted by: sonshineonme Oct 27 2006, 02:59 PM

QUOTE(Eddy @ Oct 27 2006, 09:33 AM)


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Well, I see I have been beat to post this, but 3abn is NOT an SDA channel. You can watch Hope Channel very easily, ONLINE, or get the dish that has SDA channels on it (tv and radio) from Hope's site as well. And if you have the time to read up on the Sheltons, you will see what THEY have done to make friends and influence people 
p.s. WELCOME!!

Posted by: Lee Oct 27 2006, 03:04 PM

3ABN is a SDA channel. It just is not owned and run by the SDA Church. But the things they teach and preach are what the SDA Church believes. They are a supportive ministry of the SDA Church, just like Amazing Facts/Faith for Today/Quiet Hour and Voice of Prophecy.



Posted by: watchbird Oct 27 2006, 03:13 PM

QUOTE(Lee @ Oct 27 2006, 05:04 PM) 

3ABN is a SDA channel. It just is not owned and run by the SDA Church. But the things they teach and preach are what the SDA Church believes. They are a supportive ministry of the SDA Church.

Have you looked at their website recently? Do you see ANY place where they claim to be a "supportive ministry of the SDA Church"?

And maybe you ought to check through the posts here that discuss what they teach and preach a little more thoroughly. Do they teach and preach SOME of what the SDA church teaches and preaches?..... Yes..... Do they allow ALL of what even the fairly official church Media Center's produce to be shown on their station?..... No..... Do they play the same breadth of music styles as the SDA church teaches?..... No..... Do they teach differently than the SDA church in matters of adulation given to one man and as to what it means to be a "spokesman" for God?..... Yes..... Do they advise people to support the SDA church with their tithes and offerings?..... No.

Good try, Lee just didn't really "cut it".....  so sad..... 




Posted by: tall73 Oct 27 2006, 04:38 PM

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Good try, Lee just didn't really "cut it".....  so sad.....  

Be that as it may I have not seen the GC renounce their joint declaration of commitment with them, and they continue to fund them by purchasing air time. So they would still technically be put under the supportive heading.

Posted by: freckleface Oct 27 2006, 05:17 PM

QUOTE(tall73 @ Oct 27 2006, 05:38 PM)

Be that as it may I have not seen the GC renounce their joint declaration of commitment with them, and they continue to fund them by purchasing air time. So they would still technically be put under the supportive heading.

As far as I know, ministries like "It Is Written" "La Voz" and other SDA programs purchase air space in secular networks.

Question, just because they buy air space from a network mean that they are "technically putting them under a supportive heading"?

Posted by: Observer Oct 27 2006, 05:35 PM

QUOTE(tall73 @ Oct 27 2006, 04:38 PM)

Be that as it may I have not seen the GC renounce their joint declaration of commitment with them, and they continue to fund them by purchasing air time. So they would still technically be put under the supportive heading.

Please document what you refer to as a "Joint Declaration."

There may be reason to believe that it is MUCH less than people claim it to have been.

QUOTE(tall73 @ Oct 27 2006, 04:38 PM)

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Stay tuned to see how long some of those ministries continue to purchase air time from 3-ABN. What what happens as contracts laspe, and see if they are renewed.

Posted by: Richard Sherwin Oct 27 2006, 07:42 PM

I do hope I'm proven wrong but I just don't believe anything is going to change with regards to Danny, 3abn or the SDA churches relationship with it. At least not anytime soon.

The only way that things can change is if we as church members can get the word out and the financial support were to dry up. I just don't foresee that happening. Sorry.

Richard

Posted by: Lee Oct 27 2006, 08:17 PM

3ABN has always been a supportive ministry--and it says so itself in their own newsletter. And they have stated it on the air. But that isn't why I believe it. I believe it because Doug Batchelor of Amazing Facts supports them as well as It is Written and other supportive ministries. It has been this way since they first started broadcasting.

A supportive ministry does not accept tithe. They encourage the tithe to be sent to the Conference. A ministry that does accept tithe is called an Independent ministry.

3ABN is a supportive ministry and always has been.

Watchbird, I'm not sure what you mean by "good try" --I'm not trying to do anything other than to say the truth. I have no other motive.

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Oct 27 2006, 09:58 PM

QUOTE(Lee @ Oct 27 2006, 06:17 PM) □

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Watchbird, I'm not sure what you mean by "good try" --I'm not trying to do anything other than to say the truth. I have no other motive.

There is a post that I have read in one of the threads by a member who, while working at 3abn, was first told to tell callers that 3abn would not accept tithe but then the word came from a manager that

they were to accept it after all. I wish I could link to that post but I don't know how to search for such specific posts.

Perhaps the original poster can confirm this for you or direct you to the post.

Posted by: sister Oct 28 2006, 06:06 AM

QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Oct 27 2006, 10:58 PM) □

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Perhaps the original poster can confirm this for you or direct you to the post.

3ABN does knowingly accept tithe money. Mollie has stated to employees that 3ABN accepts all donations, whatever the source. I know this for a fact. By Lee's definition, that makes 3ABN an Independent Ministry. I also checked with the Illinois Conference at the time and was told that they had never had tithe money sent on to them from 3ABN.

Currently 3ABN is making a big push to show it's connection to the organized SDA church and is calling itself a "supporting ministry" of the SDA church. Has donation policy changed? No.

Posted by: Chez Oct 28 2006, 07:22 AM

QUOTE(Lee @ Oct 27 2006, 09:17 PM) □

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Watchbird, I'm not sure what you mean by "good try" --I'm not trying to do anything other than to say the truth. I have no other motive.

Lee,

3ABN is suppose to be a supportive ministry, but financially, I think that is an Independent Ministry. It **does** accept tithe. That's the problem. This is why giving in the local SDA conference(s) and church (es) has decreased because people are sending their tithes and a good portion of their offerings to 3ABN. I haven't heard Danny or any of his personnel tell people not to send their tithes to 3ABN. They talk about the financial needs of 3ABN, but I have never heard them tell people to give their tithes to their local church. I have never heard them encourage people to financially support their local church. They primarily ask for money. Therefore, it is not a supportive ministry, but an independent ministry comparable to TBN.

Posted by: Richard Sherwin Oct 28 2006, 08:36 AM

I know people who do not trust the church and therefore send, quite openly, their tithes to Danny and 3abn.

Richard

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Oct 28 2006, 10:37 AM

QUOTE(Richard Sherwin @ Oct 28 2006, 07:36 AM) □

I know people who do not trust the church and therefore send, quite openly, their tithes to Danny and 3abn.

Richard

Is "the church" they don't trust the SDA church? Why would they not trust it? Do they sit in the pews on Sabbath? Do they listen to the conference-paid pastor preach from the pulpit? Do they use the quarterly Sabbath School lessons? Since God gave each of us free choice I guess we can choose what "storehouse" to bring tithes to. It just strikes me as interesting that these folks you speak of would be more comfortable putting their trust in a man. I hope they truly know him.

Just my thoughts.

PB

Posted by: Johann Oct 28 2006, 12:38 PM

QUOTE(Lee @ Oct 28 2006, 04:17 AM) □

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3ABN is a supportive ministry and always has been.

Watchbird, I'm not sure what you mean by "good try" --I'm not trying to do anything other than to say the truth. I have no other motive.

Good try, Lee, like Watchbird says. We'd like to trust that such a ministry is stating the truth. What about if what they say is a distortion of truth?

You state that It is Written is supporting 3ABN. You may still see It Is Written programs on 3ABN, but have you checked how old they are? Are they still providing 3ABN with their new productions, or do

you have to watch HOPE to see the latest? To some it looks like 3ABN is filling in the gaps with old programs they have in stock.

Posted by: Panama_Pete Oct 28 2006, 02:48 PM

QUOTE(Observer @ Oct 27 2006, 06:35 PM) □

Please document what you refer to as a "Joint Declaration."

There may be reason to believe that it is MUCH less than people claim it to have been. Stay tuned to see how long some of those ministries continue to purchase air time from 3-ABN. What what happens as contracts laspe, and see if they are renewed.

Joint Declaration of Commitment

by the

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Three Angels Broadcasting Network

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Three Angels Broadcasting Network are committed to faithfulness to God's Word and loyalty to Bible truth as formulated in the 27 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe that our common commitment to world evangelism through media compels us to seek ways to cooperate in the task of reaching the world for Christ. We believe that much more can be accomplished to hasten the Lord's return through cooperation in an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence.

As leaders of Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), we commit ourselves to:

- A. Offer our resources in accordance with 3ABN's operational policies to support the mission of, and work in cooperation with, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the proclamation of the everlasting gospel to the entire world.
- B. Proclaim the *gospel in its purity and simplicity while being sensitive to the unique cultures of people in countries around the world.*
- C. Reiterate our endorsement of the concept of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization as set forth in the book *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, Chapters 11-13, and in the writings of Ellen G. White.
- D. Recognize the local and regional constituent responsibility and leadership in administering activities and operations of the Church in their territory.
- E. Restate our support for integrating new members into the body of Christ and, more specifically, encouraging membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world.

As administrators of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, (GC) we commit ourselves to:

- A. Reaffirm the profound spiritual truth that God calls and empowers both individuals and supporting ministries who are committed to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to join with the Church, its institutions and organizations in the proclamation of the gospel.

B. Establish such official communication and planning forums, including supporting ministries such as 3ABN, with world and divisions leaders as may be appropriate.

C. Encourage General Conference departments, world divisions, and Church institutions to utilize the services of 3ABN for production and distribution of programming as may be appropriate, with the understanding that the agreements between the applicable Seventh-day Adventist organizations and 3ABN, include-at a minimum-that the financial arrangements and copyright ownership be documented in writing.

D. Encourage Seventh-day Adventist Church organizations to submit programming for distribution on 3ABN with the recognition and understanding that 3ABN will review all programming.

E. Encourage the fostering of a spirit of unity and cooperation between all organizations of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and 3ABN.

Our Common Vision:

Includes strategic planning sessions, counseling on matters of common interest, praying, dreaming and planning together. We welcome the opportunity to join together in coordinating and executing the global mission of reaching every nation, kindred, tongue and people with the message of the saving grace of Christ and His soon coming in the context of the Great Controversy and the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14.

Issues Resolution:

We recognize that as Christians, even with the best of intentions, differences can arise. We agree to the following Issues Resolution Process in harmony with the counsel of Matthew 18 to keep the cooperative spirit between us healthy.

In the event of a disagreement between 3ABN and a duly authorized Executive Committee of a world Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding programming which the the Division Executive Committee believes is detrimental to the mission of the Church, then;

Step One: Representatives of both entities will communicate informally and, in a spirit of cooperation, attempt to resolve the issue.

Step Two: If the issue is not resolved informally, the parties can request the appointment of a mediator, jointly selected by the Chairman of the Board of 3ABN and a representative of the General Conference Administrative Committee (GCADCOM) on behalf of whatever entity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is involved. The mediator will carefully examine and consider the matter and report the recommendations and conclusions to both the representative of the GCADCOM and the Chairman of the Board of 3ABN.

Step Three: Should the issue continue to be unresolved, then a Special Issues Resolution Committee (SIRC) will be established to examine, consider, and resolve the issue/s. 3ABN and the affected Church organizations will each select three individuals to serve as members of the SIRC. These six members, meeting with a temporary facilitator provided by GCADCOM, will jointly select a chairperson, a seventh member of the SIRC, who must be agreed to by the representatives of all three parties. The SIRC will act in a timely manner, and the Chairperson will provide written recommendations and conclusions for presentation to the governing boards of all affected parties. The expectation is that all governing boards will agree to abide by the recommendations and conclusions of the SIRC. In the unlikely event that 3ABN or the affected organization chooses not to abide by the recommendations and conclusions of the SIRC, the cooperative efforts of the parties as indicated in this Joint Declaration will terminate and all parties agree that no civil court has jurisdiction in these matters.

With eager anticipation of God's rich blessing on our renewed commitment to work together in our mutual efforts, we execute this Joint Declaration of Commitment this 4th day of November, 1997.

Walter Thompson, M.D.

Robert S. Folkenberg

Board Chairman, 3ABN President,

President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Danny Shelton

G. Ralph Thompson

President, 3ABN

Secretary, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Linda Shelton

Robert L. Rawson

Vice-President, 3ABN

Treasurer, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Posted by: tall73 Oct 28 2006, 03:26 PM

Thanks Pete.

Yes they do indeed take things marked Tithe and several of my members have demonstrated in their own giving. A few of them were willing to start giving to the conference when I spoke to them. Some were not. 3ABN was always willing to take their donations when clearly marked tithe.

Now as to them putting material on secular stations, yes they do. However, I haven't seen them submitting them to non-supportive independent ministries.

And as I said I have not heard of them revoking the joint declaration. Until the church does that they are giving them sanction. So they are still classed as supportive though they may not be supportive in every way.

Now hopefully they are currently using the dispute resolution clauses.

Posted by: Panama_Pete Oct 28 2006, 03:35 PM

QUOTE(Panama_Pete @ Oct 28 2006, 02:48 PM)

Joint Declaration of Commitment

Tall73,

You are correct about the Joint Declaration still being in force.

Page 7 of the current issue (November 2006) issue of 3ABN World magazine says:

"Since 1997, 3ABN has enjoyed a formal working agreement with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to support each other in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Our network is accepted as a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

The Joint Declaration posted earlier is still, apparently, in effect. 3ABN is proud of it.

Therefore, I think we should implore the General Conference Executive Committee to invoke Steps 1 through 3 of that Declaration .

This would be a outstanding opportunity for Dr. Walter Thompson, 3ABN Board Chair, to present all of 3ABN's "unquestionable" evidence. After all, 3ABN made the original charges with evidence that has never seen the light of day.

This would also address the issue whereby some say, "Let God handle it." The General Conference Executive Committee is the closest we mortals can come to that right now, I'm guessing.

So, while you're all writing to Dish Network to add 3ABN, per Danny's request, write a second letter to the GC Executive Committee. Be sure to mention 3ABN's and Dr. Thompson's "unquestionable" evidence that 3ABN claims to have.

Then, a mediator is appointed: **There are professional organizations that specialize in independent, neutral mediation.**

Posted by: watchbird Oct 28 2006, 04:26 PM

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Then, a mediator is appointed: **There are professional organizations that specialize in independent, neutral mediation.**

The whole thing looks like a farce to me. Why it was ever signed by the GC is more than I can figure out. What does 3abn promise to do? Nothing more than vague statements of "support", which amounts to nothing concrete at all. What does the GC promise to do? Promote them to every Division and church entity.... regardless of what 3abn does.

I think it is high time for the GC to have someone read this thing and recognize it for what it is, nothing but a lasso around their necks by which the 3abn wrangler has been leading them them around the mulberry bush. 3abn has NOT lived up to its part of the deal. It has NOT accepted programming produced by the church.... unless it jolly well happened to like it. It has NOT attempted to encourage people to "integrate into the Adventist church", but has, instead planted seeds of distrust of the church in people's minds, and put pressure on them to give all their available funds to them.... 3abn.... rather than supporting the conference in a financial way. They have insulted SDA ministries ordering Dan Matthews off the premises and refusing to show some of his programs. They have frequently through the years harbored those who implied or taught that the SDA church had apostatized and was now Babylon. And have claimed that they were the only ones teaching the "true" three angel's messages.... thus implying that the other media outlets of the SDA church were not.

I agree that it is time that the GC acted upon these things... but I do not agree that it should be done under this "Declaration of Commitment". I think rather that they should examine it carefully, declare it as being broken many times over on the part of 3abn.... thus rendering it null and void and removing any obligation on the GC to recommend its utilization by any church entity.

3abn may be sending out information to its private mailing list that says it is a supporting ministry of the SDA church. But its PUBLIC declaration is that it is non-denominational and says nothing at all about being that closely connected with the Adventist church.

Here is the only statement on the 3abn website that mentions their "connection to the SDA church". This is in the "About Us" page, and the Mission Statement makes no reference to the SDA church at all. *"3ABN is not owned, operated or funded by any church, denomination or organization, so people from all cultures and backgrounds appreciate 3ABN programming. Many of 3ABN's employees and volunteers are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "*

I think it is high time that the GC folk recognize that there are multiple violations of this agreement, and that they stop acting as though they are bound to their agreements made in it.

Posted by: Panama_Pete Oct 28 2006, 05:09 PM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Oct 28 2006, 04:26 PM) □

I think it is high time that the GC folk recognize that there are multiple violations of this agreement, and that they stop acting as though they are bound to their agreements made in it.

I think many people at the General Conference have not had an opportunity to even read the Declaration document. This may be the first some have heard of it, because they were not around Silver Spring in November, 1997. Some may not even know that the General Conference is currently committed to encouraging Seventh-day Adventist organizations to seek out 3ABN.

The General Conference cannot abrogate a document if they don't know it exists. So, we need to build some awareness of it. I agree with you, Watchbird, that the current people at the GC need to take out their bifocals and actually read the thing.

Posted by: watchbird Oct 28 2006, 06:53 PM

QUOTE(Panama_Pete @ Oct 28 2006, 07:09 PM) □

I think many people at the General Conference have not had an opportunity to even read the Declaration document. This may be the first some have heard of it, because they were not around Silver Spring in November, 1997. Some may not even know that the General Conference is currently committed to encouraging Seventh-day Adventist organizations to seek out 3ABN.

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In another BSDA thread, called "3ABN crucial documents", beginning with <http://www.blacksda.com/forums/index.php?s=&showtopic=9194&view=findpost&p=129504>, through #21 we looked at some of the dialogue between the GC and 3ABN which went on, according to a 3ABN person who was involved at the time, "over a year".

For reasons not apparent from the flow of the thread, the thread was interrupted, and we never got back to that specific set of documents. There was, however, one more that we had access to from that same April 1997 time frame which was never posted. I have now put that in the "3ABN Crucial Documents" thread, so it can be compared to the proposed contract which the GC offered to 3ABN at that time, and which 3ABN refused. This document is a "memorandum" from Danny Shelton's lawyers regarding the proposed contract. You may find it interesting.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 29 2006, 12:07 AM

QUOTE(Panama_Pete @ Oct 28 2006, 03:35 PM)

...

This would also address the issue whereby some say, "Let God handle it." The General Conference Executive Committee is the closest we mortals can come to that right now, I'm guessing.

So, while you're all writing to Dish Network to add 3ABN, per Danny's request, write a second letter to the GC Executive Committee. Be sure to mention 3ABN's and Dr. Thompson's "unquestionable" evidence that 3ABN claims to have.

Is it something that we could do to write those letters to Dish Network on behalf of Hope Television? As in, start the letter-writing campaign by putting out the word something like:

Hope Television has what might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reach approximately 30,000,000 souls with the Gospel by getting Dish Network to add Hope Television to their channel lineup. But we can't do it without your help. We need you to enlist the help of your Church as well as friends, family and the local community in a letter writing campaign requesting Dish Network to carry Hope Television on their basic package. You may address your letters and postcards to:

Mr. Eric Sahl
Senior VP Programming
Dish Network
9601 S. Meridian
Englewood, CO 80112

Just a thought...

Posted by: Ralph Oct 29 2006, 12:59 AM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Oct 28 2006, 04:26 PM)

The whole thing looks like a farce to me. Why it was ever signed by the GC is more than I can figure out. What does 3abn promise to do? Nothing more than vague statements of "support", which amounts to nothing concrete at all. What does the GC promise to do? Promote them to every Division and church entity... regardless of what 3abn does.

Farce or not, it is a reality that will have to be dealt with. The key paragraph of the announcement at <http://www.global-evangelism.org/FTP/97-11-03.pdf> reads:

GC AND 3ABN APPROVE "JOINT DECLARATION:" After lengthy discussions, the 3ABN Board of Directors and the GC Administrative Committee approved a "Joint Declaration of Commitment" describing a cooperative working relationship. In the statement, both 3ABN and the General Conference affirmed each other and the vital importance of efficiency in the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages to the world. In addition to commitment and vision statements, the document also describes an issue resolution process by which representatives of 3ABN and members in the territories they serve, facilitated by the GC, can resolve any differences which may arise. The URL they give for the document is not valid, but most of the document is recorded in <http://www.tax.illinois.gov/legalinformation/hearings/pt/pt04-1.pdf> starting on page 18.

Posted by: Lee Oct 30 2006, 11:24 AM

[quote name='Chez' date='Oct 28 2006, 08:22 AM' post='158421']

Lee,

3ABN is suppose to be a supportive ministry, but financially, I think that is an Independent Ministry.

Chez: you are right here. I asked them and received a reply today. They do accept tithe from SDA's. So this makes them an Independent ministry to be technically correct.

Lee

Posted by: Skyhook Oct 30 2006, 01:21 PM

If they openly accept tithe money, doesn't that mean that they are not supportive of the church, and in fact undermining the organized church? That would seem me to mean that any agreements between 3abn and the church written or otherwise would be meaningless. Does the GC understand that 3abn is accepting tithe money? I always thought that the GC took a fairly hard stance on that issue. Is that not correct?

Posted by: Lee Oct 30 2006, 06:35 PM

The tithe is not a "test" question in our church. It is left to the individual where to send their tithe. It should nearly always be sent to the church to support our Pastors. I say "nearly" because there were a few times when Mrs. White sent her tithe to some Pastors who were beginning a work in the south that were not being paid and were in need. That is definitely not the norm now-a-days. Did Mrs. White support the SDA Church? Of course she did wholeheartedly.

Amazing Facts also accepts tithe as does some other ministries. But they return a "tithe" to the Conference of these received tithes. And they are careful to use them as salaries for Pastors in the work.

I do not know about Quiet Hour or Voice of Prophecy or It is Written, whether they accept tithe or not. They will let you know if you ask I'm sure.

Posted by: lurker Oct 30 2006, 08:17 PM

Quiet Hour accepts tithe. I believe they are very careful to use it for gospel workers also.

QUOTE(Lee @ Oct 30 2006, 07:35 PM) □

The tithe is not a "test" question in our church. It is left to the individual where to send their tithe. It should nearly always be sent to the church to support our Pastors. I say "nearly" because there were a few times when Mrs. White sent her tithe to some Pastors who were beginning a work in the south that were not being paid and were in need. That is definitely not the norm now-a-days. Did Mrs. White support the SDA Church? Of course she did wholeheartedly.

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I do not know about Quiet Hour or Voice of Prophecy or It is Written, whether they accept tithe or not. They will let you know if you ask I'm sure.

Posted by: Skyhook Oct 30 2006, 08:42 PM

It is news to me that the various independant ministries accept tithes. I always believed that the tithe was to go to God's storehouse which has always been interpreted to mean the organized church, and the independants raise thier own support via offerings. If that is widespread it would seem to be an unpredictable financial picture for the church. How can the independant ministries claim to be supportive of the church if they are in competition with the church for tithe money? Makes no sense to me.

I do know that there are a fair number of immigrants living in the US who do not pay tithe here but say they send it back to the church in their home country.

Posted by: lurker Oct 31 2006, 07:26 AM

You can always send \$5 to one of these ministries and mark it tithe. See if you get a receipt for it. then you won't have to take anyone's word for it.

QUOTE(Skyhook @ Oct 30 2006, 09:42 PM)

It is news to me that the various independant ministries accept tithes. I always believed that the tithe was to go to God's storehouse which has always been interpreted to mean the organized church, and the independants raise thier own support via offerings. If that is widespread it would seem to be an unpredictable financial picture for the church. How can the independant ministries claim to be supportive of the church if they are in competition with the church for tithe money? Makes no sense to me.

I do know that there are a fair number of immigrants living in the US who do not pay tithe here but say they send it back to the church in their home country.

Posted by: fallible humanbeing Oct 31 2006, 05:19 PM

QUOTE(sonshineonme @ Oct 27 2006, 04:59 PM)

Well, I see I have been beat to post this, but 3abn is NOT an SDA channel. You can watch Hope Channel very easily, ONLINE, or get the dish that has SDA channels on it (tv and radio) from Hope's site as well.

As far as I can find on their web sites, neither Hope, nor LLU claim to be Seventh-day Adventist. I don't find the moniker anywhere on their sites (below I do point where you can find the SDA name on Hope but it isn't on their pages, only a mention in news stories). While they may be run by Adventists, influenced by Adventist doctrine, and financed significantly by Adventists they do not

show direct connection between themselves and the church.

When you do a Google search the following information comes up in the first entry for Hope:

Official Seventh-day Adventist 7 x 24 TV station to spread the good news of the gospel to the world. Available online and via satellite.

But, on their "About US" page on their web site there is no mention of connections to the church. The first sentence on that page is:

"The Hope Channel is a Christian television network that seeks to bring everlasting hope to people around the world."

In their "News" section they do post ATN News Notes and the phrase "Seventh-day Adventist" appears three times.

Other than that no mention. Now at LLUBN web site there is no mention at all of the SDA Church.

So of the three most significant networks spoken of here none directly connect themselves to the church and only 3ABN makes direct comment about the SDA Church on their "About" page ("Many of 3ABN's employees and volunteers are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.").

So while Hope may be the "official" channel of the church there is an obvious effort to maintain a little distance for marketing purposes maybe. I don't think you can legitimately call any of them SDA channels.

- fhb

Posted by: Richard Sherwin Oct 31 2006, 05:48 PM

For as long as I can remember we as a church have tried to deceive people as to who we are. Weather it be a Prophecy Seminar or an evangelistic series we're tried to hide who we are. Personally I think this has lead to the shame that some of us have felt in the past to be a member of the SDA church. And I have known people who were interested but felt taken when they found they were deceived

Would it not be better to proudly put right on the very opening page of the Hope web site that it is a outreach of the SDA church? If we really believe we are the one true remnant church why should we hide who we are in order to "hook" people. Why lie to win people to Christ. We should proclaim who we are from the roof tops! Instead we think we must deceive people to get them to a meeting, how pathetic.

Richard

Posted by: Lee Oct 31 2006, 07:35 PM

Blue Mountain Television from Walla Walla, Washington has a web site and it also doesn't say anything about it being SDA. It uses the word "Christian" also.

Posted by: Richard Sherwin Oct 31 2006, 08:01 PM

QUOTE(Lee @ Oct 31 2006, 09:35 PM)

Blue Mountain Television from Walla Walla, Washington has a web site and it also doesn't say

anything about it being SDA. It uses the word "Christian" also.

Again, hiding who we are is wrong, it's deception. It's bearing false witness.

Redfog

Posted by: princessdi Oct 31 2006, 09:30 PM

Ok?!! I have never understood that deception, especially from those who claim to have not just truth, but THE Truth, the Remnant.

QUOTE(Richard Sherwin @ Oct 31 2006, 06:01 PM)

Again, hiding who we are is wrong, it's deception. It's bearing false witness.

Redfog

Posted by: Johann Oct 31 2006, 10:26 PM

QUOTE(Richard Sherwin @ Nov 1 2006, 04:01 AM)

Again, hiding who we are is wrong, it's deception. It's bearing false witness.

Redfog

A prominent church member once told me that if he and his wife had known the Seventh-day Adventists were sponsoring the archeological lectures advertised, they would never have attended. But when they discovered the amazing Bible truths presented they gladly joined the church in baptism. Was this deception?

Posted by: fallible humanbeing Oct 31 2006, 10:38 PM

QUOTE(Johann @ Nov 1 2006, 12:26 AM)

A prominent church member once told me that if he and his wife had known the Seventh-day Adventists were sponsoring the archeological lectures advertised, they would never have attended. But when they discovered the amazing Bible truths presented they gladly joined the church in baptism. Was this deception?

Was it truth in advertising?

Second question, why would it have made a difference to them who was making the presentation, and why, if it were Adventists would it have kept them away?

- fhb

Posted by: Johann Oct 31 2006, 10:54 PM

QUOTE(fallible humanbeing @ Nov 1 2006, 06:38 AM) □

Second question, why would it have made a difference to them who was making the presentation, and why, if it were Adventists would it have kept them away?

- fhb

In this case she was a Roman Catholic and he was a prominent Lutheran. Neither one of them wanted to be influenced by any other church at that time. So they would not have come to the lectures if they had known they were sponsored by a church.

Posted by: fallible humanbeing Oct 31 2006, 11:12 PM

QUOTE(Johann @ Nov 1 2006, 12:54 AM) □

In this case she was a Roman Catholic and he was a prominent Lutheran. Neither one of them wanted to be influenced by any other church at that time. So they would not have come to the lectures if they had known they were sponsored by a church.

Makes sense, thanks for the clarification. Now that aside, was it truth in advertising not to indicate who was presenting. One of the crucial questions in historical inquiry is to know the authority of the speaker - translating that here if I am looking for truth and I go to a web site claiming be presenting "truth" to the world without identifying who they truly are, I would have to question why they felt a need to keep that hidden.

Is it a fear that there is already a bias against the SDA "truth" or is it that too many people identify the church as cult or fringe religion and we really don't want to deal with that? In the instance of Hope, if in fact it is "the" television channel of the church why not say so? If it is the official voice, why not present it that way.

Did the disciples ever "couch" the announcements that Jesus would be speaking at a specific time and place?

- fhb

Posted by: princessdi Nov 1 2006, 12:16 AM

Ok Johann, that is all well and good, but is there ever a good reason for deception? God meant for

those people to hear the truth, and just didn't allow the deception to get in the way of His plan.

QUOTE(Johann @ Oct 31 2006, 08:54 PM)

In this case she was a Roman Catholic and he was a prominent Lutheran. Neither one of them wanted to be influenced by any other church at that time. So they would not have come to the lectures if they had known they were sponsored by a church.

Posted by: Ralph Nov 1 2006, 01:11 AM

QUOTE(fallible humanbeing @ Oct 31 2006, 05:19 PM)

When you do a Google search the following information comes up in the first entry for Hope:

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But, on their "About US" page on their web site there is no mention of connections to the church. The first sentence on that page is:

"The Hope Channel is a Christian television network that seeks to bring everlasting hope to people around the world."

In their "News" section they do post ATN News Notes and the phrase "Seventh-day Adventist" appears three times.

FHB, what you wrote was correct as far as you went. I notice that you did not mention the home page where the following announcement appears:

Click here to read about Hope Channel's
Tell the World Convocation on Nov. 4, at
the Sligo Adventist Church in Takoma Park,
Maryland.

Instead of just doing a Google search, my wife and I spent a few hours watching the Hope Channel tonight, and time after time we saw or heard the name Seventh-day Adventist mentioned. During the breaks, they were advertising the upcoming *7 Signs* program that starts on November 4. There was no question in our minds that this was a Seventh-day Adventist station. We were impressed.

Posted by: beartrap Nov 1 2006, 01:26 AM

Is it a deception for an Adventist to say that they are a Christian as opposed to saying they are an Adventist? You make an interesting point here.

QUOTE(princessdi @ Nov 1 2006, 01:16 AM)

Ok Johann, that is all well and good, but is there ever a good reason for deception? God meant for those people to hear the truth, and just didn't allow the deception to get in the way of His plan.

Posted by: inga Nov 1 2006, 02:13 AM

QUOTE(beartrap @ Nov 1 2006, 02:26 AM)

Is it a deception for an Adventist to say that they are a Christian as opposed to saying they are an Adventist? You make an interesting point here.

I find it rather astonishing that a number of folks on this list should consider it "deceptive" for Adventists to present themselves as Christians!!

What kind of Adventists are those who are **not** Christian??

The way I see it -- anyone who's not a Christian is certainly not an Adventist. And I found that I became a much more effective witness for Adventist truths when I recognized and presented myself as first and foremost a **Christian**. I highly recommend it to members of this board, providing you **are** actually Christians.

The reality is that we -- individually or corporately -- must always decide just how much to reveal of ourselves in any given situation. I think we've all known some who continuously run off at the mouth telling all sorts of unnecessary details about themselves. Are these the only honest folks around? (I rather think they are lacking in good judgment!)

Posted by: västergötland Nov 1 2006, 03:34 AM

QUOTE(Johann @ Nov 1 2006, 05:26 AM)

A prominent church member once told me that if he and his wife had known the Seventh-day Adventists were sponsoring the archeological lectures advertised, they would never have attended. But when they discovered the amazing Bible truths presented they gladly joined the church in baptism. Was this deception?

If the purpose of the archeological lectures is to find people who would convert to the SDA church, they yes, it would be deception. If the purpose is to educate people about the bible in general and strengthen the faith of those Christians who attend without any intent for them to change church, in such case it would not be deception.

On a sidetrack, I heard of one such archeological seminar where at the end of the meetings the presenter got some questions for additional information from one in the audience, but he was too busy making altar calls and rudely dismissed the question. The person and children are since then thoroughly vaccinated against the SDA church.

QUOTE(beartrap @ Nov 1 2006, 08:26 AM) □

Is it a deception for an Adventist to say that they are a Christian as opposed to saying they are an Adventist? You make an interesting point here.

As I answered to Johann, that depends on the Adventists purpose. If you try to strengthen the faith of all christians without demanding or expecting conversions, then no. But if your purpose is to boost the size of the church books with "sheep stealing", then yes, it would be.

Posted by: Panama_Pete Nov 1 2006, 05:56 AM

QUOTE(fallible humanbeing @ Oct 31 2006, 05:19 PM) □

As far as I can find on their web sites, neither Hope, nor LLU claim to be Seventh-day Adventist.

When you do a Google search the following information comes up in the first entry for Hope:

Official Seventh-day Adventist 7 x 24 TV station to spread the good news of the gospel to the world. Available online and via satellite.

- fhb

Go to the HopeTV.org Web site, and on your browser's dropdown menu after you choose "View," select "Source" or "Page Source" or "Source Code."

You will then see where Google obtained their description. That description is placed there by the HopeTV.org webmaster under the "meta name" tag.

```
<meta name="Description" content="The Hope Channel is the official Seventh-day Adventist 7 x 24 broadcast to spread the good news of the gospel to the world.">
<meta name="KeyWords" content="hope faith bible tv television broadcast free webstreaming media adventist adventism prophecy">
```

As for Loma Linda Broadcasting:

"We are a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization," Hanna said. "The majority of us are Adventists, but we are not affiliated with the church. We are nondenominational."

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_C_1lbn08.5e7b54.html

Pete

Posted by: Richard Sherwin Nov 1 2006, 06:47 AM

I think there is a bias against us because we are deceptive in our literature. So because of the bias we think we have to be deceptive. It's a vicious circle. The only way to break it is to stand up and say we are Seventh Day Adventist Christians and proud of it.

An example of deception hurting someone is a tiered marketing company here in Michigan (Amway) who tried to get recruits by being deceptive. Now their company's ex-president is

running for governor and people are holding the actions of Amway against him. It never pays to deceive.

Richard

Posted by: watchbird Nov 1 2006, 08:02 AM

QUOTE(Richard Sherwin @ Nov 1 2006, 07:47 AM)

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An example of deception hurting someone is a tiered marketing company here in Michigan (Amway) who tried to get recruits by being deceptive. Now their company's ex-president is running for governor and people are holding the actions of Amway against him. It never pays to deceive.

Richard

I agree wholeheartedly with Richard. When I go to a website, the very first thing I do is to check their "about us" (or equivalent) pages. If they do not tell very plainly who they are.... including both identifying the persons who have put the website up, or in the case of "ministries", the names of their leadership and the denomination with which they are either affiliated or identify.... then I simply move on.

Long long ago we should have been building respect for our denominational name by the openness with which we conducted our public meetings and identified ourselves on our literature. In some cases we did that, but unfortunately that has not become either official policy or practice.

In this age of openness and information access it is IMPERATIVE that all persons, websites, organizations, institutions, ministries, and anyone else who is connected with the Adventist church in any way, be up-front and honest about just what that connection is.

How ironic it is that in an age where the church has deemed it necessary to copyright the name Seventh-day Adventist Church and develop a logo that is recognizable and also copyrighted, with use restricted to official church entities and projects.... that some of these official entities and/or projects are not utilizing those means of identification.

Certainly, IMO, HOPE should not only state their status on their meta tag, but also should make the same statement prominent... either on their front page or at least on an "About Us" page that is listed on their main menu on their front page. And they display not only their own logo, but that of the Adventist church prominently on their front page.

As for LLBN, even though they are not owned by the church or directly operated by Loma Linda University, they are taking a lot of their image from the similarity of their name to the better known Loma Linda University.... which IS an Adventist entity, even though it obviously does not restrict its services nor its employment to Adventists alone..... so it seems to me that they also should make their relationship to the Adventist church known. Then, as it develops and shows by its programming that it is truly for all persons, it will, like Loma Linda University, be a witness to the fact that Adventists are interested in a lot more than either "talking to themselves" or increasing their numbers by evangelistic presentations.

As it is, the station is anchored in the Adventist church every weekend when it shows both live and repeat broadcasts of the Loma Linda University church services and has other religious programming that is entirely Adventist. For it to claim no affiliation with the Adventist church on their website, is,

IMO ingenious (in its negative political sense) at best, and would be viewed by any who already had a prejudice against Adventists as being simple dishonesty.

Posted by: fallible humanbeing Nov 1 2006, 08:47 AM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Nov 1 2006, 10:02 AM)

I agree wholeheartedly with Richard. When I go to a website, the very first thing I do is to check their "about us" (or equivillant) pages. If they do not tell very plainly who they are.... including both identifying the persons who have put the website up, or in the case of "ministries", the names of their leadership and the denomination with which they are either affilitated or identify.... then I simply move on . . .

Well said.

When I woke up this morning and was preparing for the day I was thinking back over this line of dialogue and my thoughts wandered across the the idea of ecumenicalism. The move to focus on what our similarities are, within Christendom, and to set aside the differences in an effort to coalesce all Christians seems to be somewhat a play here. If, as we present ourselves, we don't seem "so different" people may give us a chance. Once given a chance we can show them who we are.

There has always been this fear that if we mention "Seventh-day Adventist" as an identifying factor we may suffer from some of those preconceived notions out there about our faith - thereby losing the chance to share with someone what we have to offer. However, it seems to me that if our faith is in God, and we honestly identify ourselves upfront, the Holy Spirit - having already begun the work in an individuals heart - will lead them to the message we have to offer. If the individual declines the opportunity because of the moniker S-dA, then maybe they were not fertile ground for the message in the first place.

The question is still there, are we Seventh-day Adventist Chrisitians or Christian Seventh-day Adventists?

- fhb

Posted by: västergötland Nov 1 2006, 08:54 AM

Of the Christian tribe, in the SDA clan...?

Posted by: watchbird Nov 1 2006, 09:22 AM

QUOTE(fallible humanbeing @ Nov 1 2006, 09:47 AM)

The question is still there, are we Seventh-day Adventist Chrisitians or Christian Seventh-day Adventists?

- fhb

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 1 2006, 09:54 AM)

Of the Christian tribe, in the SDA clan...?

I'm not sure what the custom in other countries is, but I think here in the USA it is common to put the smallest and most specific designator first thus I would describe my location as house number, street, city, county, state, and country.

Applying this to fhb's question, I would call myself a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.... that is, I am part of the clan, Seventh-day Adventist, which is in turn part of the larger "tribe" (community of faith) called Christian.

If I were to say I am a Christian Seventh-day Adventist, to me, that would mean that I was implying that there were Seventh-day Adventists who were NOT Christian. So far, I don't think that is true ... though with all the different views held by Adventists currently it is not all that uncommon to hear someone use differentiating designators such as "Historic Adventist", "Progressive Adventist", "Celebration Adventists" ... etc.

So I think it is the term, Seventh-day Adventist Christian, which maintains both our solidarity with and our differentiation from other Christian communions.

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Nov 1 2006, 05:39 PM

QUOTE(fallible humanbeing @ Nov 1 2006, 07:47 AM)

Well said.

When I woke up this morning and was preparing for the day I was thinking back over this line of dialogue and my thoughts wandered across the the idea of ecumenicalism. **The move to focus on what our similarities are, within Christendom, and to set aside the differences in an effort to coalesce all Christians seems to be somewhat a play here. If, as we present ourselves, we don't seem "so different" people may give us a chance. Once given a chance we can show them who we are.**

- fhb

This is sort of like a young lady not wanting to be judged by the actual size of her chest. To hide this fact she opts to wear an article of enhancement to make her look more appealing while hoping that the young man she attracts will not care about size once he has the chance to get to know her.

Are we really that self-conscious? Are we that unsure about the power of God?

As you said, it is after all, the Holy Spirit at work in people's hearts that draws them to us and our meetings. Why must we hide who we are, our differences, under a bushel?

PB

Posted by: princessdi Nov 1 2006, 05:45 PM

AMEN!!!!

QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Nov 1 2006, 03:39 PM)

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PB

Posted by: princessdi Nov 1 2006, 06:00 PM

Uh Inga, that wouldn't be a problem except we are proud to be Advnetist until tent meeting/Rev. Sem. season, then it is quite convenient to be "christian" and drop and Adventist. Kind of like Pat Robertson and Jesse Jeackson when they ran for president. All of a sudden their office to God was a burden. The name Adventism would not be a problem if we had the reputation of baptist or even charismatics. Let's not pretend, we claim christian when we know the name adventist will close the door before we get started. So, yes it is defintiely more effective, and most expedient.

Oh yeah. Adventist and Christian are not always one in the same. They are far too often mutually exclusive. Mainly because we get it backwards and believe it is our Adventism, 28(and growing) FB, belief in EGW, health message, which makes us christians. Instead, is should be, no, it IS our walk(relationship) with Christ, being a christian which lead us to Adventism.

More to the point when we have a good portion of our evagelistic meetings, independent ministries, etc. We dont' claim to be anything. In 2006, I would not go anywhere with anybody who couldn't be completely honest with me about their own identity, especially someone claiming to have life changing information, affecting something as serious as my soul's salvation. If they are ashamed of what they are, why would I want to be that? and then I just can't get over us starting out with a lie, of ommission, but a lie just the same, when re claim to hae THE Truth. That just doesnt' sit right with me.

QUOTE(inga @ Nov 1 2006, 12:13 AM)

I find it rather astonishing that a number of folks on this list should consider it "deceptive" for Adventists to present themselves as Christians!!

What kind of Adventists are those who are **not** Christian??

The way I see it -- anyone who's not a Christian is certainly not an Adventist. And I found that I became a much more effective witness for Adventist truths when I recognized and presented myself as first and foremost a **Christian**. I highly recommend it to members of this board, providing you **are** actually Christians.

The reality is that we -- individually or corporately -- must always decide just how much to reveal of

ourselves in any given situation. I think we've all known some who continuously run off at the mouth telling all sorts of unnecessary details about themselves. Are these the only honest folks around? (I rather think they are lacking in good judgment!)

Posted by: Skyhook Nov 1 2006, 10:11 PM

As I recall, EGW wrote concerning this particular issue something to the effect that we are in no way to hide who we are, Our name Seventh-day Adventist should remain prominent, and especially as the end approaches we are to fly our banners high. She also predicted that there would be a movement within the church to make obscure our differences with the Sunday churches, and even set aside some of our doctrinal pillars.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 2 2006, 04:50 AM

I find this sidetrack of "deception" to live up to its name--it is deceptive! Folks, the real truth is that SOMETIMES, even God has advocated a course of action which might SEEM to be deceptive at face value. We are in a great controversy. The devil doesn't play fair. Sometimes God reaches people with direct honesty, but other times, God must use more subtle means. This DOES NOT make it in any way dishonest. Just not so overt as to cause offense before the person has had a chance to digest the little bit that they can swallow. Physicians work with the same principle at times: *a person needs medicine, but if too much is given, a violent reaction will take place. So the dose must start small and gradually work up to higher levels as the body can accept it.*

Some people will not be attracted to a church. They still need God. There will always be a fine line between the dove and the serpent, but nonetheless, we are counseled to learn from both and act accordingly.

A Biblical example of God being "deceptive":

Samuel 16:1-2 "And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD."

So, Samuel was told to say something that wasn't the full truth. Does that mean Samuel was lying? Decidedly, NO! Just because we tell a partial truth, even perhaps with the intent to mislead, as is the case here, does NOT turn our truth into falsehood.

The point is, does it serve God's purpose, or does it not? Is it for selfish motives, to cover sin, to promote pride, or some other un-Christlike reason? or is it to fulfill the will of God? When we are doing God's will, we can rest assured that God will be honored through our best efforts. Even if we make mistakes, when we are truly desirous of following Him, and doing the best we know how under the circumstances, God will approve, and will give us strength and wisdom.

Do you suppose that in certain closed countries of this world it would be best for every Seventh-day Adventist Christian to make known his or her identity and go straight to jail? While they might reach some inmates by so doing, they would have effectively removed all other opportunities which God may be providing them.

For a more thorough understanding on the ethics of "deception," I would strongly recommend the book "The Ethics of Smuggling" by Brother Andrew, who took many Bibles into such closed countries, with God's help, including miracles, intentionally breaking the law so that others might

come to a knowledge of truth.

Posted by: västergötland Nov 2 2006, 05:45 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 11:50 AM) □

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Are you advocating that the ends justify the means? It do sound as if you are.

QUOTE

Some people will not be attracted to a church. They still need God. There will always be a fine line between the dove and the serpent, but nonetheless, we are counseled to learn from both and act accordingly.

It is fully possible to "have God" without at the same time having "church" in the classical sence of the word. I know this first hand, many people are much more interested in knowing God than in joining a denomination.

QUOTE

A Biblical example of God being "deceptive":

Samuel 16:1-2 "And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD."

So, Samuel was told to say something that wasn't the full truth. Does that mean Samuel was lying? Decidedly, NO! Just because we tell a partial truth, even perhaps with the intent to mislead, as is the case here, does NOT turn our truth into falsehood.

So you are saying that when organising a meeting with the intent to convert catholics and lutherans to sda and doing this while flying under no colours at all is comparable with adding another purpose than ones main purpose for the sake of safer travel? It would have been a much better fit if Samuel here had denied himself (going in disguise) in order to reach Bethlehem unknown and in the shadows. What examples do we have of that. Jacob disguised himself when he decieved Isaac to bless him. But did God approve? Jonah used disguises but that was for trying to flee from God so we can be pretty sure that God did not approve. Abram had Sarai disguise that they where married, and God defended their marriage. But did He approve of the means used? Are there any examples of God asking anyone to pretend to be someone they where not or pretend not to be what they where for a purpose? Cant think of one (thought that doesnt nessessarily mean that such an example doesnt exist). I do remember that Jesus once said that if we deny Him for other people (deny who we are with Him?), He will deny us before the throne of heaven.

QUOTE

The point is, does it serve God's purpose, or does it not? Is it for selfish motives, to cover sin, to promote pride, or some other un-Christlike reason? or is it to fulfill the will of God? When we are

doing God's will, we can rest assured that God will be honored through our best efforts. Even if we make mistakes, when we are truly desirous of following Him, and doing the best we know how under the circumstances, God will approve, and will give us strength and wisdom.

Is our best effort really to hide who we are? If so, its not something to shout from the rooftops, it is something to whisper in the shadows.

QUOTE

Do you suppose that in certain closed countries of this world it would be best for every Seventh-day Adventist Christian to make known his or her identity and go straight to jail? While they might reach some inmates by so doing, they would have effectively removed all other opportunities which God may be providing them.

In these countries you wouldnt go tell the authorities that you are a christian either, and the question here seems to be specified to the question of "christian" or "adventist christian".

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 2 2006, 07:34 AM

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 05:45 AM)

Are you advocating that the ends justify the means?

Not at all. I am arguing that when God commands, we should follow, and it is not always wise to proclaim oneself and one's motives to every person who happens along.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 05:45 AM)

It is fully possible to "have God" without at the same time having "church" in the classical sence of the word.

True! But that is because "Christian" transcends denomination.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 05:45 AM)

So you are saying that when organising a meeting with the intent to convert catholics and lutherans to sda and doing this while flying under no colours at all is comparable with adding another purpose than ones main purpose for the sake of safer travel? It would have been a much better fit if Samuel here had denied himself (going in disguise) in order to reach Bethlehem unknown and in the shadows.

I am saying only that we must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, as Christ Himself commanded. God Himself gave Samuel his instructions, and God did not tell Samuel to go disguised.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 05:45 AM)

Jacob disguised himself when he deceived Isaac to bless him. But did God approve? Jonah used disguises but that was for trying to flee from God so we can be pretty sure that God did not approve. Abram had Sarai disguise that they where married, and God defended their marriage. But did He approve of the means used?

Yes, and I point you once again to what I said before, that it is the motive which moves us to the action which is important here--are we moved by the Holy Spirit, or by our own selfishness, whether from pride, embarrassment, fear, etc. which are not of faith. We must live by faith and according to God's direction.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 05:45 AM)

Are there any examples of God asking anyone to pretend to be someone they where not or pretend not to be what they where for a purpose? Cant think of one (thought that doesnt nessessarily mean that such an example doesnt exist). I do remember that Jesus once said that if we deny Him for other people (deny who we are with Him?), He will deny us before the throne of heaven. Is our best effort really to hide who we are? If so, its not something to shout from the rooftops, it is something to whisper in the shadows.

Well, what would you understand Jesus' own words to His disciples to mean, when He told them NOT to reveal who He was?

Matthew 16:20 "Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ."

Jesus does not mean this to be the motto for everyone, right? or does He? But it illustrates once again that there is a time and a place for everything. The better part of wisdom and of discretion is to know when that time and place is. Fish are not caught by brandishing the hook. Jesus teaches us how to fish for men.

Posted by: västergötland Nov 2 2006, 09:02 AM

Greenie, its not the details here but the entire concept. Your argument is invalid unless and until you can show that God has specifically asked 3abn, hopeTV and/or LL TV not to tell those seeking more information on their respective websites that they are working with (if not for) the SDA church. Your argument is invalid unless and until you can show that God has specifically asked the pastor doing a citywide crusade or archeological meeting series or Daniel and Revelation seminar series not to tell their audience that they are working for or are sponsored by the SDA church. You write that

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Not at all. I am arguing that when God commands, we should follow, and it is not always wise to proclaim oneself and one's motives to every person who happens along.

Show me where God has commanded in scripture or anywhere else that the SDA evangelists should hide the SDA name and logo. Show me that your point above contains any relevant substance at all. You further wrote

QUOTE

I am saying only that we must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, as Christ Himself commanded. God Himself gave Samuel his instructions, and God did not tell Samuel to go disguised.

And for that exact reason, Samuel is at best a very weak example to this particular situation that we are discussing here. I do not believe that "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" in any way mean that people are to find out about SDA participation in evangelistic efforts from the rumor mills.

As for Matthew 16:20, some insight is offered in this following quote from Matthew Henry's commentary.

QUOTE

Lastly, Here is the charge which Christ gave his disciples, to keep this private for the present (v. 20); They must tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. What they had professed to him, they must not yet publish to the world, for several reasons; 1. Because this was the time of preparation for his kingdom: the great thing now preached, was, that the kingdom of heaven was at hand; and therefore those things were now to be insisted on, which were proper to make way for Christ; as the doctrine of repentance; not this great truth, in and with which the kingdom of heaven was to be actually set up. Every thing is beautiful in its season, and it is good advice, Prepare thy work, and afterwards build, Prov. 24:27. 2. Christ would have his Messiahship proved by his works, and would rather they should testify of him than that his disciples should, because their testimony was but as his own, which he insisted not on. See Jn. 5:31, 34. He was so secure of the demonstration of his miracles, that he waived other witnesses, Jn. 10:25, 38. 3. If they had known that he was Jesus the Christ, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory, 1 Co. 2:8. 4. Christ would not have the apostles preach this, till they had the most convincing evidence ready to allege in confirmation of it. Great truths may suffer damage by being asserted before they can be sufficiently proved. Now the great proof of Jesus being the Christ was his resurrection: by that he was declared to be the Son of God, with power; and therefore the divine wisdom would not have this truth preached, till that could be alleged for proof of it. 5. It was requisite that the preachers of so great a truth should be furnished with greater measures of the Spirit than the apostles as yet had; therefore the open asserting of it was adjourned till the Spirit should be poured out upon them. But when Christ was glorified and the Spirit poured out, we find Peter proclaiming upon the house-tops what was here spoken in a corner (Acts 2:36), That God hath made this same Jesus both Lord and Christ; for, as there is a time to keep silence, so there is a time to speak.

Lastly

QUOTE

Fish are not caught by brandishing the hook. Jesus teaches us how to fish for men.

Fish are caught by net, the ones caught by hook are to 90% caught for sport.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 2 2006, 10:05 AM

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 09:02 AM)

Greenie, its not the details here but the entire concept. Your argument is invalid unless and until you can show that God has specifically asked 3abn, hopeTV and/or LL TV not to tell those seeking more information on their respective websites that they are working with (if not for) the SDA church.

You have no grounds to say it is an invalid argument on that basis. I could just as easily turn that around and say you must prove that God has not given them such instructions. It boils down to the

fact that neither you nor I should try to tell them what God is telling them. They should be getting their instructions firsthand.

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Can you prove God has NOT led pastors to reach people this way? You have completely mistaken my point, and that of the Bible. We are not to tell a lie. There is a very large and distinct difference between telling a half truth, or simply not disclosing everything, and telling a lie. I never advocated lying. If someone asks, tell. If they do not ask, it may not be in GOD'S best interest for us to broadcast some things, even though they are truth.

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I know of a number of people who have become Christians because they were drawn into it WITHOUT REALIZING what they were getting into. If someone had come to them saying he/she was a Christian, they would have turned away. God does not reach everyone by the same methods. Because individual circumstances vary, who are we to tell the one witnessing how to do his/her work? God will give words to say. Samuel was not told to disguise himself. He was simply given an alibi. He was told to say something that was to be true, but was not his true motive. We will not easily win people by telling them that we are trying to catch them--they will run.

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Color your net brightly with reflective material in clear water and see how many fish will come.
Fish, like people, will not come near if the trap is obvious. Whether it's a net or a hook matters little.

The fact is that the devil doesn't play fair. He has prejudiced the minds of many against God's truths and against those who teach them. Many in the world believe the lies that they have heard regarding the church being a cult. Some do not even know we are Christians. There are some who would come to a meeting just because they heard it was an Adventist meeting. There are probably at least twice as many who would stay away if that fact were known. Then there are those who have no clue who Adventists are. To these, the name may not deter them. Put out your Adventist banner, if you wish,

you will reach a certain class of people. God uses others who work differently to reach other classes of people. Let us all work together and recognize that God is not limited to just one style of evangelism.

As for 3ABN, LLBN, and Hope, only God knows what they should be doing, and hopefully they are following His orders to the best of their ability. I do not judge them.

I am proud to be an Adventist. I'm proud of the name. But just because I am not embarrassed about it does not mean it is always prudent to proclaim it. Enough said.

Posted by: Clay Nov 2 2006, 10:17 AM

enough said? nope not even.... not until everything has been said....

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Nov 2 2006, 10:33 AM

GC,

There is a large difference between using wisdom in a particular situation and employing lack of faith. Wisdom in a "closed" country would be not verbally offering that you are a Christian when the information is unsolicited. Lack of faith is not admitting it when asked.

Jacob, Jonah and Abraham were, by their deceptions, most definitely exhibiting their lack of faith in God's power. Each had to face the consequences of their faithless actions.

The instance with Samuel that you cited reminds me of when God told Moses to go back to Egypt and demand from Pharaoh the release of His enslaved children. Each lacked confidence, faith, that God's power was sufficient for the task so God told Samuel to take a heifer and Moses to take Aaron. Could God have kept Samuel safe on his journey to find David? Of course. Samuel just didn't have enough faith to believe it at the time. Could God have given Moses the words he needed for Pharaoh? Undoubtedly. Even though he had heard the voice of God speaking to him from the burning bush, Moses allowed fear to hobble his faith.

Are we to second-guess God? Are we omniscient so that we can rightly determine what the hearts of those we are trying to reach are ready to hear? Does spreading the Gospel really need a deceptive scheme?

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32

What is the bait we should disguise the hook with when fishing for men? Could it perhaps be a character –both personal and corporate – that so reflects the image of Christ that no deception is necessary?

Posted by: princessdi Nov 2 2006, 10:44 AM

While you are there, PB, let's include the disciples and spostles who knew the authorities would be looking for themt to imprison and even torture and kill them, but they still never went into a city on the DL. Paul went right to the front of the temple. John the Baptist sure wasn't problaming anything Herod and his wife wanted to hear, but he proclaimed it just the same, in public.

I am sorry, it just won't wash. With all evangelistic meetings, we mean to add new members to our church, we need to be upfront with people about who is courting their membership. This is why we are still seen as a cult by some, and dismissed by others. We are not even true to

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Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Nov 2 2006, 11:13 AM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Nov 2 2006, 09:44 AM)

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I am sorry, it just won't wash. With all evangelistic meetings, we mean to add new members to our church, we need to be upfront with people about who is courting their membership. This is why we are still seen as a cult by some, and dismissed by others. We are not even true to ourselves.

Too true! We've come a long way but still have quite a stretch to go!

Posted by: västergötland Nov 2 2006, 11:15 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 05:05 PM) □

You have no grounds to say it is an invalid argument on that basis. I could just as easily turn that around and say you must prove that God has not given them such instructions. It boils down to the fact that neither you nor I should try to them them what God is telling them. They should be getting their instructions firsthand.

Oh, where to start with this all? Yes, I do think I have grounds, solid grounds, to my argument. Where? you will likely ask. In the fact that Gods government is based upon Love, Grace, Truth, this becourse that is what Gods character is like according to scripture. The shadow government that is based upon deception and "whatever works" is of another kind.

QUOTE

Can you prove God has NOT led pastors to reach people this way? You have completely mistaken my point, and that of the Bible. We are not to tell a lie. There is a very large and distinct difference between telling a half truth, or simply not disclosing everything, and telling a lie. I never advocated lying. If someone asks, tell. If they do not ask, it may not be in GOD'S best interest for us to broadcast some things, even though they are truth.

Are we talking about the same God here? The One who said -you have heard that sex between people who are not married is sin, but I tell you, even planing or dreaming about such sex is sin. The One who said -you have heard that killing another person is a sin, but I tell you that even planing or dreaming about killing another person is a sin. Would this same One draw a line between lying as in telling that which is not true and half lying in purposefully not telling the entire truth in order to decieve?

And notice that this in context is *very, very* far away from 'not telling you are a christian missionary to the Irani secret police'. We are talking about not identifying oneself or ones true purpose when doing mission towards other christians in western europe and USA. The lands of free speach and religion as we are told. You are risking nothing but your reputation by telling people you are trying to reach who you are. And while speaking about bad reputation, what religious group has a worse reputation than the JW? And they dont need to hide who they are to grow. Are we worse of than them?

QUOTE

Jesus hid, as it were, His identity from the men on their way to Emmaus. He did reveal His identity in the end. But why did He not immediately identify Himself to them? What purpose would that serve? Do you question His wisdom?

Jesus, having recently been dead and talking with diciples who had not yet grasped the fact of His resurection might have needed the time to help them understand so they wouldnt be terrified of ghosts as they might have been if He had come directly to them. We know from the time Jesus walked on water that the diciples did believe in ghosts.

QUOTE

I know of a number of people who have become Christians because they were drawn into it WITHOUT REALIZING what they were getting into. If someone had come to them saying he/she was a Christian, they would have turned away. God does not reach everyone by the same methods. Because individual circumstances vary, who are we to tell the one witnessing how to do his/her work? God will give words to say. Samuel was not told to disguise himself. He was simply given an alibi. He was told to say something that was to be true, but was not his true motive. We will not easily win people by telling them that we are trying to catch them--they will run.

Does God work through our deficiensies and faults or despite of them? Paul once wrote,

"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. **Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife**; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. **What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.** "

But he also wrote this

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

And the righteous Job said

Lo, mine eye hath seen all [this], mine ear hath heard and understood it. What ye know, [the same] do I know also: I [am] not inferior unto you. Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. But ye [are] forgivers of lies, ye [are] all physicians of no value. O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom. Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips. Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him? Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God? Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye [so] mock him? He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons. Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you?

QUOTE

Color your net brightly with reflective material in clear water and see how many fish will come. :) sh, like people, will not come near if the trap is obvious. Whether it's a net or a hook matters little.

The trap? What is your true purpose here? Remember that God gave all men a free will, and the freedom to exercise it. To trap and deceive and other means to bypass it I cannot think comes from God.

QUOTE

The fact is that the devil doesn't play fair. He has prejudiced the minds of many against God's truths and against those who teach them. Many in the world believe the lies that they have heard regarding the church being a cult. Some do not even know we are Christians. There are some who would come to a meeting just because they heard it was an Adventist meeting. There are probably at least twice as many who would stay away if that fact were known. Then there are those who have no clue who Adventists are. To these, the name may not deter them. Put out your Adventist banner, if you wish, you will reach a certain class of people. God uses others who work differently to reach other classes of people. Let us all work together and recognize that God is not limited to just one style of evangelism.

And what, pray tell, does the devil's game honesty have to do with what God and His people are doing? Let the devil cheat and cut corners all he wants (and is allowed to) but you and me, we should follow the LORD.

And while in another circumstance I'd be among the first to say you are right that God is not limited to just one style of evangelism, I won't agree with you that God should purpose to have evangelism in such a way that it contradicts His play rules.

QUOTE

As for 3ABN, LLBN, and Hope, only God knows what they should be doing, and hopefully they are following His orders to the best of their ability. I do not judge them.

I am proud to be an Adventist. I'm proud of the name. But just because I am not embarrassed

about it does not mean it is always prudent to proclaim it. Enough said.

Will it be prudent to proclaim the name of Jesus if you are ever thrown before a court of law for its sake? Or will it be prudent to deny Him to save your own skin, however temporarily that may be?

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 2 2006, 11:30 AM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Nov 2 2006, 10:44 AM)

While you are there, PB, let's include the disciples and apostles who knew the authorities would be looking for them to imprison and even torture and kill them, but they still never went into a city on the DL. Paul went right to the front of the temple. John the Baptist sure wasn't proclaiming anything Herod and his wife wanted to hear, but he proclaimed it just the same, in public.

Would you agree that this was God's orders to those people? Just because God led them to take such open and decisive actions does not mean that God leads everyone to do the same thing.

QUOTE(princessdi @ Nov 2 2006, 10:44 AM)

I am sorry, it just won't wash. With all evangelistic meetings, we mean to add new members to our church, we need to be upfront with people about who is courting their membership. This is why we are still seen as a cult by some, and dismissed by others. We are not even true to ourselves.

PB made some very good points. I agree with most of what she said--she wasn't disagreeing much with what I have said. But, PrincessDi, as for being "upfront" with people regarding our identity, tell that to Tyndale and the Waldenses. It pays to know who you are talking to first. Hence, the saying, "Discretion is the better part of valor."

Posted by: västergötland Nov 2 2006, 11:36 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 06:30 PM)

PB made some very good points. I agree with most of what she said--she wasn't disagreeing much with what I have said. But, PrincessDi, as for being "upfront" with people regarding our identity, tell that to Tyndale and the Waldenses. It pays to know who you are talking to first. Hence, the saying, "Discretion is the better part of valor."

Tyndale and the Waldenses had a death warrant on their heads for their faith and many of them died in flames. Who in the western world risks death for the sake of Jesus name?

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 2 2006, 12:12 PM

You have brought up some good points which do deserve more clarity.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 11:15 AM)

Would this same One draw a line between lying as in telling that which is not true and half lying in purposefully not telling the entire truth in order to deceive?

For the sake of clarity and truth here, let us understand that "half-truth" does not equate to "half-lie." If I say the cup is half empty, that doesn't mean it is not half full. That I didn't tell you both parts to the equation does not make the first part false. To view this another way, Jesus Himself quoted the 10 Commandments in the New Testament--only He didn't quote them all. Does that make any part of the whole untrue? If I tell you that I am a student, and don't tell you that I am a missionary, a teacher, or any other role I may currently have as well, does that make any part of what I had told you false or necessarily deceptive? Prudence does not mean embarrassment. Just because I don't tell you that I am a missionary does not equate to me being embarrassed of it. Yes, I'm a student. Yes, I'm a teacher. Saying just one of them does not make the other false or embarrassing. It does not mean I'm afraid to tell. It only means that I have told you what seemed most appropriate or applicable to the situation or question.

If telling a partial truth, instead of the whole truth, equates to lying or deception, then we are all hopelessly liars...perhaps for eternity! None of us has all the truth.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 11:15 AM)

And notice that this in context is *very, very* far away from 'not telling you are a christian missionary to the Irani secret police'. We are talking about not identifying oneself or ones true purpose when doing mission towards other christians in western europe and USA. The lands of free speech and religion as we are told.

Well, please excuse me then, for I am not working in those lands you mention, and I AM working toward reaching people in a closed Communist country. Perhaps, to you, none of what I have said applies to this discussion, since you are discussing only a narrowly-defined field.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 11:15 AM)

You are risking nothing but your reputation by telling people you are trying to reach who you are.

I have spoken not for my own honor or pleasure, but out of respect for what God is trying to accomplish on this planet. Were it merely my own life at stake, I should be much less concerned about cloaking my intentions. But God is not honored, nor benefited when we speak brashly without thought and without regard for what will truly attract that individual to Him. It is too easy to simply blurt out who we are and what we are doing. It just doesn't catch everyone's hearts. It is not my honor at stake, it is God's reputation. As a representative of Christ, to bring dishonor upon myself is to bring dishonor upon God. Asian cultures have a good understanding of this principle, as it is embedded within the status system. To bring dishonor upon someone else is to bring dishonor upon yourself, and vice versa. Therefore, my reputation IS God's reputation.

God has spoken through Ellen White that the right arm of our message is the health message. Why? Because people put up their wall of defense to hear about religion; but reach out to them with something that shows you care about them as a person, in a way they can relate to, and you have found a formula for success in sowing seeds of the Gospel as well.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 11:15 AM)

To trap and deceive and other means to bypass it I cannot think comes from God. And what, pray tell, does the devils game honesty have to do with what God and His people are doing? Let the devil

cheat and cut corners all he wants (and is allowed to) but you and me, we should follow the LORD.

And why, then, would Jesus use the analogy of "fishing for men?" Have you ever caught a fish without subtlety? The devil's game plan has very much to do with this. It is because the devil has poisoned the well of truth with his errors that people have been blinded to the truth. The poison not only injures the people's minds, preventing them from a clear understanding and ability to learn truth, but it also causes them to view the truth as error. Because of the abundance of confusion (and we know God is not the author of confusion), God Himself is forced to present the truth through subtle means sometimes, so that it flies in below the radar of the individual involved, who might otherwise misidentify the truth as falsehood.

The devil does such a good job with deceiving, that the deceived, in most cases, do not know they are deceived. God must bring truth to them without causing their mis-guided "error shields" to be activated.

QUOTE(västergötland @ Nov 2 2006, 11:15 AM) □

And while in another circumstance I'd be among the first to say you are right that God is not limited to just one style of evangelism, I won't agree with you that God should purpose to have evangelism in such a way that it contradicts His play rules. Will it be prudent to proclaim the name of Jesus if you are ever thrown before a court of law for its sake? Or will it be prudent to deny Him to save your own skin, however temporarily that may be?

Again, I was not speaking from any desire to save my skin. Regarding the game rules, Jude is quite clear that some are to be saved by love, some by fear. Hmmm....fear is a negative emotion, isn't it? Why would God use that? But God does bring some to Him through fear. I had a good friend who came to God during the Persian Gulf war, because he was afraid the world was about to end. As he so aptly said of his turnaround, "If this doesn't get your attention, what will?" God leads us to the same place in the end, but our starting points are all different. Not everyone can be lead in the same way to Christ. Praise the Lord that He knows how to reach us! □

Posted by: awesumtenor Nov 2 2006, 01:13 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 01:12 PM) □

You have brought up some good points which do deserve more clarity. For the sake of clarity and truth here, let us understand that "half-truth" does not equate to "half-lie." If I say the cup is half empty, that doesn't mean it is not half full. That I didn't tell you both parts to the equation does not make the first part false. To view this another way, Jesus Himself quoted the 10 Commandments in the New Testament--only He didn't quote them all. Does that make any part of the whole untrue? If I tell you that I am a student, and don't tell you that I am a missionary, a teacher, or any other role I may currently have as well, does that make any part of what I had told you false or necessarily deceptive? Prudence does not mean embarrassment. Just because I don't tell you that I am a missionary does not equate to me being embarrassed of it. Yes, I'm a student. Yes, I'm a teacher. Saying just one of them does not make the other false or embarrassing. It does not mean I'm afraid to tell. It only means that I have told you what seemed most appropriate or applicable to the situation or question.

If telling a partial truth, instead of the whole truth, equates to lying or deception, then we are all hopelessly liars...perhaps for eternity! None of us has all the truth.

Since you, by your own admission, "believe Ellen White":

Those who are controlled by policy rather than by principle are not to be trusted. They will pervert the truth, conceal facts, and construe the words of others to mean that which was never intended. They will employ flattering words, while the poison of asps is under their tongue. He who does not earnestly seek the divine guidance will be deceived by their smooth words and their artful plans.

*There are many who would scorn the appellation of policy men, yet who will stoop to concealment, evasion, and even misrepresentation, to accomplish their purposes. **He who, in a matter of right and wrong, remains noncommittal that he may retain the friendship of all; he who seeks to secure by evasion of truth what should be won by courage; he who waits for others to take the lead, when he should go forward himself, and then feels at liberty to censure their course,--all these are in God's sight numbered as deceivers.** -- EGW, Signs of the Times, Aug 4, 1881*

If you do, as you claim, believe her, then the rest of your argument is just so much rationalization.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: västergötland Nov 2 2006, 05:47 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 07:12 PM) □

You have brought up some good points which do deserve more clarity.

What happened to the scripture references I gave? They were not there to fill out more space you know.

QUOTE

For the sake of clarity and truth here, let us understand that "half-truth" does not equate to "half-lie." If I say the cup is half empty, that doesn't mean it is not half full. That I didn't tell you both parts to the equation does not make the first part false. To view this another way, Jesus Himself quoted the 10 Commandments in the New Testament--only He didn't quote them all. Does that make any part of the whole untrue? If I tell you that I am a student, and don't tell you that I am a missionary, a teacher, or any other role I may currently have as well, does that make any part of what I had told you false or necessarily deceptive? Prudence does not mean embarrassment. Just because I don't tell you that I am a missionary does not equate to me being embarrassed of it. Yes, I'm a student. Yes, I'm a teacher. Saying just one of them does not make the other false or embarrassing. It does not mean I'm afraid to tell. It only means that I have told you what seemed most appropriate or applicable to the situation or question.

If Jesus while speaking about murder where to quote nine of the ten commandments but exclude the one about murder, then we would be talking about the same thing. If you go to your teacher and present yourself as a missionary and a teacher but neglect to mention that you are also his student, then we would be talking about the same thing. If you where to go to the people whom you are a missionary for and tell them about being a student and a teacher but neglect to mention that you are also a missionary, then we would be talking about the same thing. It is not merely about not telling everything there is to know about a subject but about neglecting, willfully, to tell parts relevant to the particular situation one finds oneself in. Next time you get a new class of students in your role as a teacher, present yourself and act as your role as a student or as your role as a missionary and maybe you might start to understand what I am talking about. For your students, your role as a teacher is the relevant one and while you can tell them about the other two aswell they arent as important as you as a teacher.

QUOTE

If telling a partial truth, instead of the whole truth, equates to lying or deception, then we are all hopelessly liars...perhaps for eternity! None of us has all the truth.

As I said above, it is not as much that you dont tell everything as it is willfully suppressing important and relevant information.

QUOTE

Well, please excuse me then, for I am not working in those lands you mention, and I AM working toward reaching people in a closed Communist country. Perhaps, to you, none of what I have said applies to this discussion, since you are discussing only a narrowly-defined field.

If you remember, this did not start with your particular missionary situation but with the TV ministries based in the US. That is why the examples are to be relevant there mainly. We can discuss a second application to your mission if you give some additional, relevant information to build such a discussion upon. The narrowly defined field you mention just happens to include all the industrialised nations on three continets. But maybe that is narrow since it apparently missed the country you are working in, oh well...

QUOTE

I have spoken not for my own honor or pleasure, but out of respect for what God is trying to accomplish on this planet. Were it merely my own life at stake, I should be much less concerned about cloaking my intentions. But God is not honored, nor benefited when we speak brashly without thought and without regard for what will truly attract that individual to Him. It is too easy to simply blurt out who we are and what we are doing. It just doesn't catch everyone's hearts. It is not my honor at stake, it is God's reputation. As a representative of Christ, to bring dishonor upon myself is to bring dishonor upon God. Asian cultures have a good understanding of this principle, as it is embedded within the status system. To bring dishonor upon someone else is to bring dishonor upon yourself, and vice versa. Therefore, my reputation IS God's reputation.

Here is where I really lost you. I cannot even begin to fathom that you are acctually suggesting that you are defending Gods reputation by lying by omission about yourself, your church and who knows what else. I find this utterly unbelievable. Let me repost one of the passages I had in my last reply, but in easier english.

Job 13:3 But I prefer to argue my case with God All-Powerful--

Job 13:4 you are merely useless doctors, who treat me with lies.

Job 13:5 The wisest thing you can do is to keep quiet

Job 13:6 and listen to my argument.

Job 13:7 Are you telling lies for God

Job 13:8 and not telling the whole truth when you argue his case?

Job 13:9 If he took you to court, could you fool him, just as you fool others?

Job 13:10 If you were secretly unfair, he would correct you,

Job 13:11 and his glorious splendor would make you terrified.

What in all of this is unclear? Or do you disagree with it?

QUOTE

God has spoken through Ellen White that the right arm of our message is the health message. Why? Because people put up their wall of defense to hear about religion; but reach out to them with something that shows you care about them as a person, in a way they can relate to, and you have found a formula for success in sowing seeds of the Gospel as well.

Jesus healed the sick, all who asked Him went away healed. He didnt demand anything in return from them but gave away health as a free gift. He also preached the good message about the kingdom of God. His altar call was "take up your cross and follow me", and He also told wouldbe followers, count the cost before you start the journey so you wont be quitting in the middle and thus humiliated."

Jesus wasnt about deception.

QUOTE

And why, then, would Jesus use the analogy of "fishing for men?" Have you ever caught a fish without subtlety? The devil's game plan has very much to do with this. It is because the devil has poisoned the well of truth with his errors that people have been blinded to the truth. The poison not only injures the people's minds, preventing them from a clear understanding and ability to learn truth, but it also causes them to view the truth as error. Because of the abundance of confusion (and we know God is not the author of confusion), God Himself is forced to present the truth through subtle means sometimes, so that it flies in below the radar of the individual involved, who might otherwise misidentify the truth as falsehood.

You can never drive out darkness with darkness. But it only takes a very smal candle and the light will be seen a long way. The devils game plan is darkness. Jesus compared His message with a lighth up city on the top of a mountain. It is a light that will be seen for miles around.

QUOTE

The devil does such a good job with deceiving, that the deceived, in most cases, do not know they are deceived. God must bring truth to them without causing their mis-guided "error shields" to be activated.

I was of the impression that it was indeed God who would do the job of dismantleing the error shields. Yours and mine is the job to preach the gospel and care for the sick, Gods is the job to take that preached and acted gospel and bring it to the heart of people. Dont change places, I think you might find those shues a bit to large to fill...

QUOTE

Again, I was not speaking from any desire to save my skin. Regarding the game rules, Jude is quite clear that some are to be saved by love, some by fear. Hmmm....fear is a negative emotion, isn't it? Why would God use that? But God does bring some to Him through fear. I had a good friend who came to God during the Persian Gulf war, because he was afraid the world was about to end. As he so aptly said of his turnaround, "If this doesn't get your attention, what will?" God leads us to the same place in the end, but our starting points are all different. Not everyone can be lead in the same way to Christ. Praise the Lord that He knows how to reach us! ☐

Jude clear that some are to be saved by fear? Eh, no? Where more exactly do you find such a thing?

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Nov 2 2006, 06:07 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 10:30 AM) ☐

Would you agree that this was God's orders to those people? Just because God led them to take such open and decisive actions does not mean that God leads everyone to do the same thing. PB made some very good points. I agree with most of what she said--she wasn't disagreeing much with what I have said. But, PrincessDi, as for being "upfront" with people regarding our identity, tell that to Tyndale and the Waldenses. It pays to know who you are talking to first. ☐ Hence, the saying, "Discretion is the better part of valor."

I believe it would be better to be burned in a cave than to hide our connection, our relationship with Jesus under a bushel.

Posted by: Richard Sherwin Nov 2 2006, 07:37 PM

A good example of doing it right is ADRA. ADRA operates in many countries where they are prohibited from overtly preaching Christianity, however there is no doubt in those countries as to who they are because the very first word in their title boldly proclaims it. They don't disguise who they are, they are up front about it. Does it turn some people off? Undoubtedly. However they never have people wondering or thinking they are being deceived.

Another example is my child's academy gymnastic team. They go into a lot of public schools where they perform and give talks about healthful living. They are not allowed to bring religion into their talks but everyone there knows who they are because they proudly point out that they are from Great Lakes ADVENTIST Academy. They don't say Great Lakes Academy, or even Great Lakes Christian Academy. They don't have any need to deceive anyone as to who they are.

Richard

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 2 2006, 07:57 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Nov 2 2006, 01:13 PM)

Those who are controlled by policy rather than by principle are not to be trusted. They will pervert the truth, conceal facts, and construe the words of others to mean that which was never intended. They will employ flattering words, while the poison of asps is under their tongue. He who does not earnestly seek the divine guidance will be deceived by their smooth words and their artful plans.

...

Yes, I totally agree. I've had more dealings with "policy" folk than I'd care to recount. To my viewpoint, politics are diametrically opposed to Christianity...but that's a topic for another day. And, BTW, I wasn't talking about politics in this thread, were you? I'm not sure how this applies. Just because I said that we must be discrete, does not mean I am saying that ALL those who conceal truth do well, nor that any/all forms of concealing truth are necessary. So let's not go there.

Posted by: awesumtenor Nov 2 2006, 11:31 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 2 2006, 08:57 PM)

Yes, I totally agree. I've had more dealings with "policy" folk than I'd care to recount. To my viewpoint, politics are diametrically opposed to Christianity...but that's a topic for another day. And, BTW, I wasn't talking about politics in this thread, were you? I'm not sure how this applies. Just because I said that we must be discrete, does not mean I am saying that ALL those who conceal truth do well, nor that any/all forms of concealing truth are necessary. So let's not go there.

It would help if you didn't selectively extract part of my post and respond to it as if that was all I said.

That is deception.. and is not becoming one who claims the cross of Christ.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 3 2006, 01:52 AM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Nov 2 2006, 11:31 PM) □

It would help if you didn't selectively extract part of my post and respond to it as if that was all I said.

That is deception.. and is not becoming one who claims the cross of Christ.

In His service,
Mr. J

Oh, is THIS the rationale behind everyone quoting entire posts on BSDA? And why I've seen complaints about it? But, let me guess, if I had not just quoted a part of it, as I did, to show to whom I was responding, and the gist of what I was responding to, i.e. if I had not quoted you at all, there would be no cause for complaint?

Pardon me for saying so, but I do not believe I was trying to be deceptive. You have certainly been critical, however. Is this your Christian response and love?

I was just trying to be helpful to the folks out there who had already read it in the original post and didn't need to read it twice. I'm sorry if that has offended you. I had no intention of stepping on toes--to the contrary, I thought I was being helpful.

Posted by: awesumtenor Nov 3 2006, 08:38 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Nov 3 2006, 02:52 AM) □

Oh, is THIS the rationale behind everyone quoting entire posts on BSDA? And why I've seen complaints about it? But, let me guess, if I had not just quoted a part of it, as I did, to show to whom I was responding, and the gist of what I was responding to, i.e. if I had not quoted you at all, there would be no cause for complaint?

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I was just trying to be helpful to the folks out there who had already read it in the original post and didn't need to read it twice. I'm sorry if that has offended you. I had no intention of stepping on toes--to the contrary, I thought I was being helpful.

Helpful to yourself, perhaps... the part which specifically applied to your actions you conveniently omitted... and again, you are taking specific statements directed to you individually and attempting to paint them as if they were directed to all and sundry...

I am not speaking in general; I am speaking specifically and with express intent to you and you alone. If someone else does what you did with a post of mine I will address that person and that person alone when and if.

If you had quoted the entire EGW quote I posted and stated what you did, given your previous posts in this thread, you'd have looked like your profession of "believing EGW" was a lie... you have tried to

duck being painted into that corner by excluding the part that specifically address the actions you have omitted.

You want to believe that wasn't deceptive? Knock yourself out... but you are far from letting your yea be yea and your nay, nay... and it is appearing more and more as if you have been so disingenuous with so many for so long that you have finally succeeded in deceiving yourself.

Should have just taken Polonius' advice; it would have kept you off of this particular slippery slope.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Nov 3 2006, 09:14 AM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Nov 2 2006, 01:13 PM) □

Since you, by your own admission, "believe Ellen White":

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If you do, as you claim, believe her, then the rest of your argument is just so much rationalization.

In His service,
Mr. J

Are we happy now? □

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