

A little over two weeks ago, on the 17th of September, The Elephant's Debt brought to your attention a shameful and theologically bankrupt video that was used to excommunicate two former elders from within Harvest's body. You may recall that in our original post on this subject, we called upon Steve Huston and the elders of Harvest Bible Chapel to publicly apologize and make amends for describing the actions of these two former elders, Phelps and Slabuagh, as being "Satanic to the core."

Sadly, it would appear that Harvest has elected not to do this. Instead, over the past few days, they appear to have adopted a defensive posture in which they have removed the offensive video from their website, and replaced their original elder update with a newer version that does not contain the video or the letters that were posted in the original version.

In the newer version of the [Elder Update](#), they state:

"Our goal and great longing is not to hurt these men or portray that we have handled everything perfectly, rather only to see them submit to the Elder request that they stop sowing discord in the church."

Clearly, they are admitting, in a very generalized fashion, that they were wrong. But the problem is, they do not clarify what specifically it was that they did wrong. Was "speaking for God" wrong? Was demonizing the actions of two men who were trying to follow their conscience wrong? What is it, *exactly*, that they did wrong?

You see, the problem is, if your apology is generic and buried on your website, where only a few of your congregants will likely see it, the vast majority of the HBC body will never know exactly what they are supposed to think about the video they saw. Perhaps Harvest is not apologizing for speaking for God. Perhaps it still wishes to maintain the belief that a united elder board "speaks for God." And if that is the case, then it raises a very serious question. Did God change His mind? Did he tell the elders to post a video one week; and then tell them to remove it just two weeks later?

Alternatively, perhaps this very use of language is exactly what Harvest is now trying to distance itself from. But if that is the case – if it true that Harvest now recognizes the extreme dangers of daring to speak for God – then one has to wonder why they refuse to "**Act Like Men**" and publicly and explicitly own their failure. Could it be that Harvest's version of "Acting Like Men" simply means making vague and ill-defined apologies all while using one's power to forcibly eradicate any evidence of wrong-doing from the internet? One has to wonder.

In the end, no matter what they want to argue, the pure and simple truth remains. They dared to speak for God. They branded the actions of two men as being "Satanic to the core." They are now trying to hide their wrongdoing by eliminating any evidence of their video, which they now want to claim as "intellectual property." And they are stubbornly refusing to display the same candor and transparency with their own sins that they were so eager to display with the "sins" of Phelps and Slabaugh.

So it comes down to this. MacDonald and the elders of HBC still owe the congregation a public and explicit apology. If they wish to stand by their assertion that they can “speak for God,” then by their recent decision to remove the video, they have demonstrated that they are no longer willing to stand by God when He speaks and they have thus disqualified themselves as pastors and elders. On the other hand, if they no longer want to own this dangerous language, then they owe Phelps, Slabaugh and the rest of the congregation an apology for teaching a warped and false theology that they then used to baptize their decision to brand the actions of Phelps and Slabaugh as “Satanic to the core.”

So which is it Harvest? Care to be a bit more transparent?

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Editor’s Note: While HBC has successfully removed a copy of the video posted by one blogger, another copy remains, and it can be found [here](#). How long do you think it will take the HBC legal team to force this site to remove Harvest’s “intellectual property?” A day? Two days?

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