

# News Release:

## Ministry Watchman Calls R.C. Sproul and Ligonier Ministries To Public Repentance

For Immediate Release:

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Ministry Watchman

<http://ministrywatchman.com>

Ligonier Ministries, the donor-funded ministry of Reformed theologian and radio personality R.C. Sproul filed an unbiblical and legally unethical lawsuit. A summary of events is as follows:

- On August 25, 2006 Ligonier Ministries filed a lawsuit in Seminole County Florida Court against blogger Frank Vance, seeking \$15,000 in alleged damages for “defamation.” The suit also sought injunctions to prevent Vance from further blogging.
- Vance first learned of the lawsuit on September 1 when he was contacted by the Orlando Sentinel for an interview about the lawsuit, a story which they considered significant because Ligonier sought “prior restraint” on Vance’s freedom of speech rights. USA Today subsequently included the Ligonier lawsuit as part of a front-page article.
- Ligonier repeatedly evaded their legal obligation to notify Vance that they had sued him. Ligonier lied to the judge by testifying, “it is impossible to contact him or to serve him with the Verified Complaint or the Instant Motion. Moreover, counsel was not able to provide the Defendant with notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding the request for temporary injunctive relief for the same reason.” They arranged at least two secret ex parte hearings with the judge, not permitting Vance to be present to defend himself.
- Under withering public criticism Ligonier Ministries did on September 20 issue two public statements alleging that they “had withdrawn” their lawsuit. However, it later became known that on September 21 they had another ex parte hearing with the judge to discuss procedures for moving the case forward. The September 20 statements claiming the lawsuit had been “withdrawn” were shown to be blatant lies.
- Ligonier received a dramatic increase in call volume and emails, many of them angry complaints from Ligonier supporters regarding the lawsuit. Customer service reps were instructed by “senior management” to lie to callers, telling them “There is no lawsuit. We don’t know where that story came from.” Later the story changed to “It’s not a lawsuit, it’s an injunction,” failing to mention that not only was it a lawsuit, it was a defamation lawsuit. Then the story again changed to, “The lawsuit has been withdrawn,” when in point of fact Ligonier was still actively pursuing litigation.
- On September 27 Ligonier withdrew its lawsuit “without prejudice,” meaning they might sue again. In an Orlando Sentinel September 29 interview “Ministry attorney Daniel Brodersen said Thursday that if the group does find Vance, it may file a new suit.”

R.C. Sproul has failed to accept responsibility for the sins, lies, cover ups and hypocrisies perpetrated by his “senior management,” in particular by Ligonier President Tim Dick (R.C. Sproul’s son-in-law) and General Manager John Duncan. Rather than accepting responsibility R.C. Sproul has permitted Ligonier senior management to issue public statements which are easily verified as lies. At no time has Ligonier addressed their hypocrisy of filing a lawsuit against a professing brother in Christ, in clear violation of 1 Corinthians 6.

Ministry Watchman has called on R.C. Sproul to take responsibility and issue public statements of repentance for Ligonier’s unbiblical and unethical lawsuit, and for then lying about it.

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