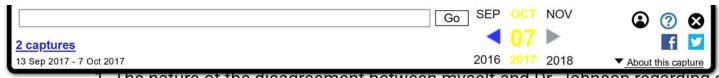


September 11, 2017

Clarifying and Confessing

By Heath Lambert

I woke up on Saturday morning to discover that I was—as my grandfather used was swirling, and I was in the center. As I consider what is being said of me and I count three different issues.



The nature of the disagreement between myself and Dr. Johnson regarding c

- 2. The way in which I spoke about Dr. Johnson's position on one occasion.
- 3. My involvement in Dr. Johnson's employment status.

Let me address each of those in reverse order.

1. My involvement in Eric Johnson's employment status

I'll take the last one first because it is the easiest, and I can be very brief.

Al Mohler has more honor and integrity than any man I have ever worked for. It force, cajole, or blackmail him into anything. If I tried, he would never be intimid anything like that happened between us are dishonest.

The Bible commands that confrontations about sin be personal (Matt 18:15), be and that great care be taken in accusing ministers of the gospel (1 Tim 5:19) in from baseless accusations.

Anonymous and unsubstantiated claims on social media constitute slander, an those who claim to know Jesus Christ.

2. The way in which I spoke about Eric Johnson's counseling position on one o

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A year and a half ago I spoke at a biblical counseling conference and addressed counseling ministry, and how important it is for counselors to watch their life ar make the point that our efforts at counseling care are only as good as our pass own hearts and be changed by it.

In my talk, I sought to show how quick we are to see the flaws of a Christian ps our own failure to take the word of God seriously. In order to make a strong poin Christian psychology book that I suspected might induce listeners to congratule theological superiority. My intention was to get people feeling superior about th and then turn the tables on them by showing that we should not feel superior to must watch our own life and teaching.

The Christian psychologist I chose to interact with was, as is now obvious, Eric

It was not my intention to skewer Dr. Johnson. I did not want people to think ab think about themselves, their own sin, and their own need to cherish the Bible. I to be the issue I did not name him.

Believing the author was anonymous I engaged in a much tougher and much le would have in a different environment. My intention was to get a room full of bi about themselves and then indict them. My rhetorical strategy was the same or trying to say, "You are the man!" You cannot tell this from watching a clip of the room who heard it in its entirety stuck around for an hour and a half to tell me h reminder to watch their own life and doctrine.

Because I did not attach Dr. Johnson's name to my quotation of him, I believed not have. This last weekend has proven that to be one of the most foolish misju ministry.

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That misjudgment brought people into the room that I never intended to be their into the room that did not share the same presuppositions as the folks who reg miscalculation brought Dr. Johnson, his friends, and his students into the room room.

That foolish miscalculation led me to believe I was in a cone of silence. The col belief that it did, I said things that were harsh, unloving, and unkind. I sinned aga against those who love him.

Soon after my talk that night I received a letter from Dr. Johnson's elders. They the language I used against their friend. They were right to point out my sin. Aft and I met together with a faithful brother in Christ where I confessed my sin to I responded with a letter of repentance to Eric's elders on March 10 of last year. Since that time, Dr. Johnson and I have exchanged notes and shared two meals the way.

In the midst of this, I also expressed a desire to repent publicly for the way I spo the third party we agreed that this would be unwise. Since my quotation of Dr. thought that only a few people knew about it, and that naming him in a stateme make things worse. We all agreed that we had sufficiently addressed the matte

In light of the last few days that calculation is now moot.

And so now I want to address anyone who was shocked and offended by the ur about Dr. Johnson. What I did was sinful, and I have no excuse. I am sorry.

Please forgive me.

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just how much I have to learn about how to care for people and how much I nee truth in love.

Please pray for me.

3. The nature of the disagreement between myself and Dr. Johnson regarding

None of this means that the disagreements between biblical counseling and Cr or unimportant. In fact, I think these issues are some of the most important fac less than our faithfulness to the Word of God and Jesus Christ is at stake. Biblipsychologists have staked out important ground on these issues. Dr. Johnson i position, and I am on the record critiquing his.

If you want a summary of the biblical counseling position you can check that or

If you want an assessment of Christian Psychology which was reviewed by sch continuum, including Christian psychologists, you can read that here.

The importance of these issues leads to another problem with the way I spoke believe the centrality of Christ is really on the line with whether or not we believ resources to help troubled people. But my sin took the focus off of Christ, and p never be. I am so ashamed of that.

But I really believe what I teach about these things. I know that Jesus Christ has you will too.

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