

Does Dr. Gail Riplinger Have a Right to Sue Those who Disagree with Her?

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In 1913, Jehovah's Witness founder Charles Taze Russell, found himself on the witness stand in a court in Ontario, Canada. In 1912, Baptist Pastor J.J. Ross had written a pamphlet criticizing Russell, his doctrinal teaching and challenging some of the details of his personal story. Russell routinely had his lawyers threaten lawsuits against his critics. Russell had plenty of money to spend and this was his common method of trying to intimidate opponents.

Pastor Ross refused to be intimidated and Russell had to follow through with his threat. Ross's lawyer destroyed Russell on the stand and his libel case failed.

Threatening lawsuits is a common method for false teachers. Usually these are just hollow threats to see if critics can be intimidated. Of course, genuine Bible believers need no such tactics.

Occasionally, wealthy false teachers will actually engage in lawsuits that they know they cannot win. They can afford to lose large amounts of money in frivolous lawsuits. Often their targets cannot. False teachers believe that they can simply overwhelm their critics and thus the truth with their spending.

Of course, true believers are forbidden to go to law "before unbelievers" to solve their disputes with their brothers and sisters in Christ- I Corinthians 6: 5-8. This is clear Bible teaching.

In 1994, Gail Riplinger threatened Bethany House Publishers with a lawsuit if they published a book by James White containing criticisms of her. The lawsuit was a bluff. Bethany House published the book anyway and her lawyers did not file the frivolous lawsuit that had been threatened.

Now, Gail Riplinger is threatening to sue Dr. and Mrs. D.A. Waite for making statements critical of Mrs. Riplinger.

In July 2009, the annual Dean Burgon Society Meeting was held at the Ravenswood Baptist Church, where I am Pastor. Mrs. Waite spoke to the ladies meeting and Dr. Waite, of course, spoke in the general meeting to the society that he is President of. The meeting was broadcast live and videos of the meeting were posted on the Dean Burgon Society website.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Waite spoke critically of Dr. Riplinger. Both pointed out that she has not been honest about the two divorces in her background. She had assured them that she was not divorced. Her followers have often claimed that allegations of divorces in her background were simply part of a conspiracy against the King James Bible. However, the legal record is clear. Dr. Riplinger divorced each of her first two husbands.

Dr. and Mrs. Waite both accused Dr. Riplinger of drastically misquoting their son.

On page 637 of Hazardous Materials it is clear that Dr. Riplinger misquotes D.A. Waite, Jr. Simply read her statement and then look up her citation. D.A. Waite, Jr. says nothing similar to what Dr. Riplinger says that he does.

Now Dr. Riplinger has written a letter to Dr. and Mrs. Waite threatening legal action against them. Amazingly she says in the letter “I have never defended myself personally, as the Lord is my defense.” (page 1 of her attachment). Apparently, she means the Lord and Trial Attorney Hugh A. Richeson, Jr., Attorney at Law from Florin Roebig Trial Attorneys. Dr. Riplinger demands the Waites to provide six apologies by January 18th or she will be forced to “rectify the situation through those avenues open to me.” She says that she was advised to do this by attorney Richeson, Jr. She uses the name of her “Trial Lawyer” as a weapon.

In the 17 page attachment to her 2-page letter she repeatedly mocks Dr. and Mrs. Waite about their age. She repeatedly preaches to Dr. Waite about being kind and gracious. She does this in a letter threatening to take legal action against him.

I have been a preacher for 35 years. I have never read anything more hypocritical in my life.

Every pastor has had to deal with a woman who acts the way that Dr. Riplinger does. A frustrated preacher, a female Pharisee, a self-absorbed woman who wants to preach to everyone. She sees the speck in everyone else’s eyes but is blind to the mote in hers. She declares war on everyone and then complains when anyone answers her!

If a member of my church ever wrote a letter like Dr. Riplinger’s to a preacher, I would immediately begin church discipline!

Dr. Riplinger makes six allegations against the Waites. A couple of them are self refuting. The Waites are confident that they can answer all six.

A copy of the letter and attachment to Dr. and Mrs. Waite are posted at:

<http://www.deanburgonsociety.org/PDF/RiplingerToWaite.101.pdf>

and

<http://www.biblefortoday.org/PDF/RiplingerToWaite.101.pdf>

None of the allegations mentioned are over important issues like her marriages and divorces. They are unimportant. Even if they were true they would not justify a lawsuit. Even in they were true and over important issues, they would not justify disobeying I Corinthians 6.

Dr. Riplinger claims to be distressed over all the bitterness and division among King James Bible believers. Yet, no one is more bitter and divisive than she is. No doubt book sales have made Dr. Riplinger a wealthy woman. She can afford to spend a small fortune on a frivolous lawsuit. She can try to destroy the Waite's financially through frivolous lawsuits.

It is hard for some to imagine how that someone who claims to be as devoted to the King James Bible as Gail Riplinger claims to be, can violate

I Corinthians 6:5-8 "I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man amongst you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, you do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren."

However, when you have already cut I Timothy 2:11-13 "*Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*" and I Corinthians 14:33-35 "*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*"

out of your King James Bible, it is easy to throw away I Corinthians 6:5-8 as well.

Everyone who believes I Corinthians 6:5-8 must stand against Dr. Riplinger. Regardless of where you stand on the Bible version issue or on Dr. Riplinger's "discoveries" or "new doctrines," it is time to take a stand against Dr. Riplinger's ungodly, and unbiblical behavior.

Bible believers have no right to sue those with whom they have a debate. A message must be sent that this will not be tolerated.

Genuine Bible believers must take a stand against such wicked methods of intimidation. "So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 13:6.

Dr. Riplinger's publishing address is:
A.V Publications
P.O Box 280
Ararat, VA 24053

Those who admire her methods should write and tell her so. Those who believe I Corinthians 6:5-8 should also contact her.

In my opinion, no one should ever spend a penny on one of Dr. Riplinger's

books again. You might be financing one of her lawsuits against your brother or sister in Christ.

False teachers depend on lawyers. Bible teachers don't need them.