

Title: CAPS Conference Follow-up

July 22, 2005

Greetings all,

Several weeks ago I got an e-mail from Dr. Monroe, expressing unhappiness with my referring to him as “triggered, polarized, and antagonistic” in his 2002 CAPS presentation critiquing Theophostic®. To some degree, I think Dr. Monroe and I simply disagree with respect to our assessments regarding what happened at the 2002 CAPS presentation. However, I would like to make some clarifying comments to avoid unnecessary hurt between Dr. Monroe and myself:

Other than interacting with him in the context of the 2005 CAPS panel discussion about Theophostic®, I don’t know Dr. Monroe, but I have no reason to doubt that he is a believer, that he has a good heart, and that he is well trained. He is certainly very intelligent. My perception is that non-conscious triggered thoughts, perceptual distortions, and emotions resulted in him being polarized and adversarial in indirect and non-verbal ways, but I did *not* perceive him to be malicious or intentionally hurtful in his 2002 CAPS presentation. My perception is that he was careful to avoid any directly hurtful behavior, such as name calling or questioning Dr. Smith’s integrity or character, and I respect him for this. Again, I want to make it very clear that I am *not* questioning Dr. Monroe’s Christian commitment, integrity, conscious intent, training, or intelligence.

I would also like to make similar moderating comments regarding Dr. Entwistle. Other than reading two of his articles, and interacting with him in the context of the 2005 CAPS panel discussion about Theophostic®, I don’t know Dr. Entwistle, but I have no reason to doubt that he is a believer, that he has a good heart, and that he is well trained. He is certainly very intelligent. My perception is that non-conscious triggered thoughts, perceptual distortions, and emotions resulted in him being polarized and adversarial in subtle ways in his written critiques of Theophostic, but I do *not* perceive him to be malicious or intentionally hurtful. My perception is that he was careful to avoid any directly hurtful behavior, such as name calling or questioning Dr. Smith’s integrity or character, and I respect him for this. Again, I want to make it very clear that I am *not* questioning Dr. Entwistle’s Christian commitment, integrity, conscious intent, training, or intelligence.

When I commented that I thought Drs. Entwistle and Monroe had been “triggered, polarized, and antagonistic” in the past, my point was not to call them names or to discredit the content of their concerns by questioning their psychological capacity, but rather to describe an aspect of interpersonal interactions that I think would have been very unproductive at the CAPS panel discussion, especially with the very short time. The point I was trying to make is that it would have been impossible to come to good resolution in the small time allotted if the panel members had come into the discussion with polarized adversarial/antagonistic attitudes towards each other and with triggered negative thoughts and emotions. And the point I was especially trying to make was that I was very grateful that this did not happen, and that I really

appreciated the way in which Drs Entwistle and Monroe participated in the CAPS panel discussion in TX.

I am certainly sorry that I didn't take more care in writing my original note, and thereby contributed to the tension between those who support Theophostic® and those who are critiquing it.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

P.S. I have now had several e-mail interactions with Dr. Monroe, and one thing he shared with me that saddens me is that he has received very angry and bitter attacks from Theophostic® Ministry supporters. I disagree with Dr. Monroe on some important points, and some aspects of his critique of Theophostic® frustrate and/or disappoint me, but it is still important that we relate to him as a brother in Christ.

Conflict and disagreement are always challenging, but I think it is very important that Christians model staying in relationship, and acting in love, even in the midst of disagreement and/or conflict. This may already be obvious, but if I feel like making a hurtful attack against someone who is criticizing Theophostic®, then I am certainly being triggered in some way. I think it is very important that we who support Theophostic® deal with our triggers before interacting with critics, so that our calm and loving behavior will speak even more loudly than our words.