

Proof that Ryan's presentation of people can't be trusted

I believe the evidence in my full responses shows clearly that Ryan is misrepresenting me. He seems to be doing this deliberately to make me look as bad as possible, and to give the impression that he is the injured party in this dispute.

Unfortunately, I have seen him bear false witness about others in order to maintain his image before.



I freely grant that this is a minor example in the grand scheme of things. But it is also very *clear*. As Jesus says, "**One who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much**" (Luke 16:10). If Ryan cannot be trusted to be truthful about someone he doesn't know, when so little is at stake, why would you trust him to be truthful about someone he clearly wants out of the church, when the stakes are so high?

On January 25, 2020, Ryan wrote a Facebook post about biblical meditation. If you're friends with him on Facebook you can see it here:

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 [https://www.facebook.com/ryan.vinten/posts/10157548714061519?__cft__\[0\]=AZURxcCR0VRhe1UrfXUf1xWwmDzKCgIOkMt4CHtm2vUJJdCbWvnnE0XKZnOukA21quKA8uBtvAKk_fox_sggqXMUMxR3dwAa1BlcsmncjIYjya3Ahv3xAardKoyEvQXW2QI&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.vinten/posts/10157548714061519?__cft__[0]=AZURxcCR0VRhe1UrfXUf1xWwmDzKCgIOkMt4CHtm2vUJJdCbWvnnE0XKZnOukA21quKA8uBtvAKk_fox_sggqXMUMxR3dwAa1BlcsmncjIYjya3Ahv3xAardKoyEvQXW2QI&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R)

I happened to notice that this post contained a factual error, as explained in my message to him below, sent the same day:

Hi Ryan, your latest post on meditation is confusing, primarily because you quote Jonathan Haidt to begin with. I'm familiar with some of Haidt's work, and he is definitely not referring to a biblical practice. For instance, at <https://www.happinesshypothesis.com/beyond-gethappy.html> he recommends meditation, and links to <http://how-to-meditate.org/> for a primer on how to do it. Either this is a dishonest quotation of Haidt, or you're drawing a much closer connection between the praxis of Eastern meditation and biblical meditation than is warranted. I would avoid the term meditation entirely because of this confusion; some modern versions of Joshua 1:8 speak of recitation and study for, I think, good reason. But even if you stick with the older language, the Haidt quotation is just dishonest because he is talking about *emptying* the mind, not *filling* it; it's the exact opposite of what the Bible teaches.

(this in turn colors the Thomas Brooks quote)

JAN 28, 2020, 1:10 PM



Hey Bnonn - understand your point and appreciate you messaging me directly. Wonder if you noticed the citation was actually from a book by David Murray (professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary)? Not that I mentioned this in the citation, but it was also in a section on meditation.

hey man, I did; I didn't mean to suggest you were quoting Haidt directly. I figured you were just trusting Murray, but Murray clearly gets it wrong in this case

Here are the links to Haidt's website, and to the meditation primer he recommends, so you can check for yourself that I have got the facts straight:

The Happiness Hypothesis - Jonathan Haidt

If you have read The Happiness Hypothesis you know all about the cortical lottery, happiness traps, and why happiness doesn't just come from within. You know that you have to change the <https://www.happinesshypothesis.com/beyond-gethappy.html>



How to Meditate - How to Meditate

With the hectic pace and demands of modern life, many people feel stressed and over-worked. It often feels like there is just not enough time in the day to get everything done. Our stress and <http://how-to-meditate.org/>



Ryan did not respond further, and did not remove the dishonest citation from his post, choosing instead to leave the false representation up.

Two months later he reposted his piece, still without correcting it, let alone issuing a retraction. You can see this here:

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See posts, photos and more on Facebook.

 [https://www.facebook.com/ryan.vinten/posts/10157721367586519?_cft__\[0\]=AZVDzLDbSEe7fGELUFBb87dtvVklxjZGhu4V2uJm-B0xhlpIvooHJzLTP3PpmpCSBPu5dmMho7gLkLi5qbjtiQoxOr-LK4ccHPtn0q9cIyzu3ZcJVqj2WDkjorgVhgcvbfct1sTYDvLB-oAAhKQ-ks72&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/ryan.vinten/posts/10157721367586519?_cft__[0]=AZVDzLDbSEe7fGELUFBb87dtvVklxjZGhu4V2uJm-B0xhlpIvooHJzLTP3PpmpCSBPu5dmMho7gLkLi5qbjtiQoxOr-LK4ccHPtn0q9cIyzu3ZcJVqj2WDkjorgVhgcvbfct1sTYDvLB-oAAhKQ-ks72&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R)

Perplexed that he seemed not to care about being faithful with the truth, I messaged him a second time. As you can see from the screenshot below, he never even acknowledged this message. Again, this is a minor example in the grand scheme of things, but it is also a very clear one. Jesus is clear: a man who is dishonest in small things *will* be dishonest in big things.

MAR 21, 2020, 4:56 PM

Hi Ryan, I was bewildered to see you repost this today without removing the dishonest citation of Jonathan Haidt.

Do you disagree that Eastern meditation (emptying the mind) is completely different to biblical meditation (filling the mind with Scripture through recitation and reflection)?

Or are you aware of some evidence that Haidt is referring to a kind of meditation that can include both?

The only other option I can see is that you're bearing false witness by continuing to use a quote about the benefits of Eastern meditation as if it were about biblical meditation.

Help me understand the situation here.

See also

[The Reformed pedigree of my views](#)

[What people actually say about It's Good To Be A Man](#)

[Quotes from me that contradict how I've been presented](#)

