

Plagiarism (6-20-06)
by Arlan Weight (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

We have decided not to print your article "Last Days" as it is now written.

The reason we are not going to print this article is because you have almost 2 pages included in this article which has been copied (plagiarized) from an article written by another person, who's article also carries a copyright on it.

We cannot print material which we know to be plagiarized (copied from someone else).

If you want to re-write this article to reflect your own writing skills and give credit to anyone you quote from, you may re-submit the article for print and we will again go over it for consideration to print.

July 17, 2006

Arlan writes:

Hi Darwin & Laura,

Sorry I haven't gotten back to you on the article "Last Days". When you sent the email to me I could receive emails but I couldn't send. I've since got my computer working again.

In your email to me you said you couldn't print my article "Last Days" as you believe 2 pages are plagiarized material. I believe you're referring to page 7 & 8 where I quote the statements of various churches about the Sabbath Day.

I have no problem with giving credit to the person whose article these quotes are taken from. If, on the other hand, I've gone ahead and verified the authenticity of these locations, then I don't believe it would be plagiarism... no more than when I quote Scripture.

But again I'm certainly willing to give credit to the original author of the article in which all these quote's are listed. The quotes in my article could simply be preceded by something like:

"In an article titled ' _____ ' by John Smith the following quotes were taken". . .

If you do this I see no problem with printing it, but it's up to you. If you don't want to print it that's ok too. That's your privilege and I would not be offended. Take care, Sincerely, Arlan

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

How did you go about verifying the authenticity of these quotes?

Arlan writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura

I haven't verified all of them, but I plan to look up as many as I can find.

Arlan

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

How many have you verified to date (7-18-06)?

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

We sincerely hope that you read this entire email. We are very much concerned for you due to the path in life that you are choosing at this time.

Arlan writes:

Hi Darwin & Laura,

Sorry I haven't gotten back to you on the article "Last Days". When you sent the email to me I could receive emails but I couldn't send. I've since got my computer working again.

In your email to me you said you couldn't print my article "Last Days" as you believe 2 pages are plagiarized material. I believe your referring to page 7 & 8 where I quote the statements of various churches about the Sabbath Day.

Darwin & Laura write:

By your last statement, you clearly know exactly which part of the article was referred to as being plagiarized.

Arlan writes:

I have no problem with giving credit to the person whose article these quotes are taken from.

Darwin & Laura write:

Clearly you are stating that you did copy pages 7 and 8 from another article. At this time since we sent you an email clearly telling you that we know you plagiarized two pages of material from another article, having been caught at this, you are now willing to give credit to the one you quoted from. Clearly you knew you were copying from someone else, and yet you tried to pass this off as work you had done on your own. Instead of originally trying to pass this off as your own work, you should have given credit to the person who's work you copied. This shows intent on your part. Intent that you fully planned to let anyone reading the article believe that you had actually done the work yourself, when in fact you had not. This is also deception in that you intended to have those who read your article believe that you had done the research yourself, when in fact you had not.

Arlan writes:

If, on the other hand, I've gone ahead and verified the authenticity of these locations, then I don't believe it would be plagiarism... no more than when I quote Scripture.

Darwin & Laura write:

The pivotal word "if" as used here is what tipped us off that you had not verified any of these quotes. This is another deception on your part. It is an attempt on your part to con those reading your above statement into believing that you had looked up the quotes and so therefore now it should not be considered to be plagiarism. You justify your position by saying it is now plagiarism also to quote Scripture, which is about as absurd as you can get. Those who copy Scripture are not deceiving people into believing that they wrote the Scriptures and that is the difference. Most people understand that God inspired all scriptures to be written by chosen writers.

You on the other hand copied (plagiarized), word for word exactly, 2 pages from another man's article, with out giving the man who researched and wrote it any credit. Your intent until being caught was not to give this man any credit and just pass it off as your own work. This is deception.

On July 18, 2006 we asked you the following question: "How did you go about verifying the authenticity of these quotes?" Your (Arlan's) reply was: "I haven't verified all of them, but I plan to look up as many as I can find." Then we asked you the following question: "How many have you verified to date (7-18-06)?" This was an easy question for which you had no answer and did not respond. Again, this is deception on your part. You could not answer a direct question but just prior to that you again tried to con us into believing that you had at least looked some of these quotes up to verify authenticity, thus in your mind justifying it as not being plagiarism to exactly copy two pages from another man's copyrighted article and not give him the credit but give yourself the credit instead when in fact and in reality you actually did none of the work. There would be no purpose for you to verify these quotes after you have already passed them off as your own work and certainly since you have not verified them to date, shows your intent was not to do so.

From the Dictionary: Plagiarize=#1. to take and pass off as one's own (the ideas, writings, etc. of another). #2. to take ideas, writings, etc. from and pass them off as one's own. (Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition)

No matter which way you slice this your original intent was to copy from another man's article a series of statements he researched and put together in an orderly fashion and then make it look like it was you who had done this. This is called plagiarism. You stole another man's work (idea) and tried to pass it off as your own. This is not only stealing, but it is also deception of the highest form and shows that you fully intended to con people reading your article into believing something which was not true.

Arlan writes:

But again I'm certainly willing to give credit to the original author of the article in which all these quote's are listed. The quotes in my article could simply be preceded by something like:

"In an article titled ' _____ ' by John Smith the following quotes were taken". . .

Darwin & Laura write:

We believe that you should have been honest to start with and given the man credit for his work from the start, then none of us would have to be having this conversation over email or anywhere else.

Arlan writes:

If you do this I see no problem with printing it, but it's up to you. If you don't want to print it that's ok too. That's your privilege and I would not be offended.

Take care,
Sincerely,
Arlan

Darwin & Laura write:

We strive very hard to be fair to all people and we don't like being deceived by you or anyone else in anyway, shape or form. We believe that having been associated with God's family for over 30 years, that you should know better than to think you can get away with stunts like this one or others that you have tried to pull on us in the past. Do you understand that Satan is the Father of Deception and that when you do stuff like this that, that is clearly who you are following? Do you also understand why we are concerned for you? You may not like the confrontation, but confrontation generally does not happen when you are doing the right thing. Confrontation generally happens when you are caught doing the wrong thing.

We also strive to be merciful and we do not have any problem printing articles when proper credit is given to those you quote from. We will not do the re-write on your article. We believe that you should be the one to do the re-write on your article. When you are finished doing your re-write, then send your article in the body of an email to: the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net and we will again consider it for print.

We do care about you Arlan and we don't like to see you doing what you are continuing to do to us and others.