

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

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July 7, 1980

M. le Prof. John Warwick Montgomery
1, rue de Palerme
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Dear John:

Greetings from CHRISTIANITY TODAY! I am sorry you ran into a hassle with Jim Reapsome over your latest Current Religious Thought contribution on clergy malpractice. It happened while I was away for an extended period in Thailand, but if I had been here I would have not changed the decision an iota. As I believe I have explained to you, I exert an absolute veto over things that are published in the magazine, but I never publish anything on which the remaining members of the staff are uniformly opposed. As a matter of fact, this is not the first Current Religious Thought contribution we have rejected, and I am sure it will not be the last.

You are quite right that I did not require you to send your topics in advance for approval until the coming January 1 deadline. My reason for instituting this, however, was to prevent exactly what happened in this instance. It was the opinion of the staff, as Jim reported, that the article duplicated too much the previous article we had run written by Lynn Buzzard, and some felt in view of information that we had, that it tended to be a good deal more alarming than the facts warranted. If only the latter had been a problem, we would certainly have run it. We are not interested in controlling the opinions of evangelical writers in this column. I want to choose evangelicals who are solidly committed to the doctrinal position of the magazine and then let them have freedom to say what they think needs to be said. On the other hand, we don't want to duplicate material. Certainly, we could allow Current Religious Thought writers to provide articles on subjects that have been treated previously--particularly when they set forth a slightly different viewpoint. We would do better, however, to have a number of issues (usually a year) between articles on the same subject.

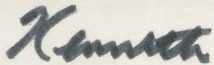
Now, I certainly hope you will continue to write for us in Current Religious Thought. I don't like to flatter you, but I firmly believe you have the best mind of any evangelical currently doing work in systematic theology. I shall certainly feel very upset if you do not continue to provide for us the insights God has given you for the current theological scene. If you refuse to continue writing for us, CHRISTIANITY TODAY will be much the poorer in the theological diet it provides for

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its readership. I know you feel very hurt at what you deem to be our infringement upon your freedom. I believe that you must weigh the outlet you have in Current Religious Thought as a contribution to the overall cause of Christ. It serves us and our readers, but it also serves you by keeping your name before the nearly half million readers of CHRISTIANITY TODAY. In fact, I surely hope that you will not only be willing to continue writing your Current Religious Thought column, but in addition, that you will be willing to do an article for us at least once a year or even more frequently.

Best wishes to you in your busy life and ministry for our Lord.

Cordially in Him,



Kenneth S. Kantzer
Editor

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