

Kristof's lively commenters

By [Debra Bendis](#)

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Nicholas Kristof, who says of himself, "I'm not particularly religious," nevertheless took time out from his vacation to [lift up](#) the life of evangelical great John Stott. It's unusual to find a sensitive, nuanced tribute to an evangelical leader in the secular press, but if anyone can pull it off, it's Kristof, who is trusted and admired for his tenacious pursuit of social justice in all corners of the globe.

A second "essay" is found in the comments field (11 pages and growing) of [Kristof's post about the column](#). If you want a crash course in religious views of the reading public, here it is, with a broad undercurrent of scorn for Christians in the 21st-century U.S. Everyone is represented--from harsh secular liberals to proselyting evangelicals to atheists who have "evolved" from a Christian childhood. I was struck by the ease with which commenters jump from thanking Kristof for the column about one individual back into vituperative generalizing about (all) evangelicals, or liberals, or Christians.

What comment would you add to the cacophony?