

April 30, 2009

Mr. Jeff Hargraves
Director of Alumni Relations
Bob Jones University
Greenville, SC 29614

Dear Mr. Hargraves:

I am saddened by your quickness to pass judgment on me. You have taken the liberty to declare me as being out of the will of God. You state, "to question how [God] made us and take action against His will is in direct violation of biblical truth." Are you sure that is what I am doing?

I quote from the BJU website on the topic Racism, "...for far too long, we allowed institutional policies regarding race to be shaped more directly by that [segregationist] ethos than by the principles and precepts of the Scriptures. We conformed to the culture rather than provide a clear Christian counterpoint to it...In so doing, we failed to accurately represent the Lord and to fulfill the commandment to love others as ourselves. For these failures we are profoundly sorry."

It is my humble opinion that you are making the same mistake again. Without knowing anything of my walk with the Lord, you accuse me of "taking action against His will." I cling to the Word of God as my best defense against your accusation.

Matthew 19:12: For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

These are Jesus' own words about people like me. He doesn't judge or accuse us.

Acts 8:36-39: 36: And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

I wonder, would you step down from your chariot to baptize such a one as me? Philip did and the Spirit blessed him with a miracle.

If I learned anything at BJU in my five years there, it is that excellence is not negotiable, it is mandatory. We will no doubt differ on the interpretation of what a eunuch is, but excellence is not served to cancel the membership of a brother or sister for a difference in interpretation only.

I would be proud to remain a member of the Alumni Association of my alma mater, but if you insist on cancelling my pre-paid life membership, I will thank you to be kind enough to refund an amount commensurate to the remaining years of my life.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Elena J. Kelly