

Conservative Action Project

April 30, 2015

Mr. David Rhodes
President, CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

This past Sunday, Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council (FRC), appeared as a guest on *Face the Nation* with CBS's Bob Schieffer to discuss the Supreme Court same-sex marriage case. Schieffer said that he was inundated by requests that Perkins be disinvited because they believe "you [Perkins] don't speak for Christians."

The interview was more than sloppy journalism. It was an assault against Judeo-Christian people of faith.

The work that FRC and its president Tony Perkins do to promote healthy families and traditional values is irreplaceable in our culture. To suggest, as Schieffer did, that FRC doesn't represent Christians flies in the face of reality. The millions of Americans that we, the undersigned, collectively represent are proof of that.

Even more disturbing is that Schieffer went on to cite the discredited Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and its characterization of the FRC as an anti-gay hate group. For CBS News and Schieffer to cite this radical group to smear the FRC is outrageous given that an SPLC supporter shot and wounded a security guard inside the FRC's headquarters in 2012. Luckily, the security guard was still able to subdue the SPLC supporter who was armed with a deadly weapon and had plans to murder as many of the FRC staff as possible.

The homicidal SPLC supporter admitted that he attacked FRC headquarters because the SPLC's website map identified FRC as a "hate group." As a result of this crime, the federal court linked the SPLC to domestic terrorism in 2013. Additionally, the FBI removed links to the SPLC from its "hate crimes resources" page and the Department of Defense and the U.S. Army have distanced themselves from the SPLC's materials.

CBS, however, continues to use them as a "resource" to smear upstanding Christians and Christian leaders such as Tony Perkins.

It is now clearer than ever before that the liberal media—including CBS—along with the radical left, aided by the Obama administration, will stop at nothing to use their power and the power of government to silence, shame, punish, and fine Americans who embrace traditional marriage and other politically incorrect truths. This is an unacceptable trend in a free society with a "free press."

CBS is now linked to the disgraced SPLC and anti-Christian bigotry.

CBS, and Bob Schieffer in particular, should apologize on *Face the Nation* for using the SPLC to smear people of faith. If this does not happen, you will have made CBS and Bob Schieffer synonymous with the SPLC and the rabid anti-Christian bigotry that it represents.

Sincerely,

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Chairman
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Mr. Frank J. Gaffney, Jr.
President and CEO
Secure Freedom

The Hon. Edwin Meese III
Founder
Conservative Action Project

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Director, Religious Liberty Program and
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The Institute on Religion and Democracy

Mr. L. Brent Bozell, III
Founder and President
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