# Kansas City Chiefs Kicker's Controversial Commencement Speech at Benedictine College Sparks Backlash



On May 11, 2024, Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker delivered a commencement speech at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, which received a mixed response. The private Catholic liberal arts college, located approximately 60 miles north of Kansas City, hosted the event where Butker, known for his conservative views, addressed graduates for about 20 minutes.

During his speech, Butker spoke against Pride Month, abortion, and President Joe Biden's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also criticized career ambitions for women, emphasizing the role of homemaking. While his address received a standing ovation from many attendees, including students and faculty, it also drew significant backlash and controversy.

Benedictine College, established in 1858, is part of a network of conservative Catholic institutions maintaining traditional Catholic teachings and practices, such as the Latin Mass and a strict code of conduct. The college has a high ranking from the Cardinal Newman Society for upholding what it terms “faithful Catholic education.”

Butker's speech led to strong reactions online, including criticism from notable figures and petitions calling for his dismissal from the Chiefs. His views during the speech were personal and not representative of the NFL, which reiterated its commitment to inclusion.