# Kansas City Chiefs Kicker Sparks Controversy with Graduation Speech at Catholic College



Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker sparked significant controversy with a 20-minute commencement speech at Benedictine College on May 11, 2024. Butker, an outspoken conservative Catholic, addressed the graduating class at the Catholic liberal arts college in Atchison, Kansas, making polarising remarks against LGBTQ+ rights, abortion, and gender roles.

During his speech, Butker criticized President Joe Biden's faith, accusing him of promoting degeneracy by being both Catholic and pro-choice. He further lambasted the celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month and advised women against pursuing careers, advocating instead for traditional roles like motherhood and homemaking.

Butker’s remarks, which included a controversial reference to Taylor Swift, were met with severe backlash online, leading to a viral Change.org petition demanding his removal from the Chiefs. The petition, which has garnered tens of thousands of signatures, condemns Butker's comments as sexist, homophobic, and discriminatory.

Despite the controversy, Butker received a standing ovation from the audience at Benedictine College, a school known for its conservative Catholic values. His speech has intensified discussions on the intersection of sports, personal beliefs, and public responsibilities.