

IS JADEN IVEY GUILTY?

[Bill Donohue](#)

Jaden Ivey, a professional basketball player for the Chicago Bulls, has been put on waivers after he made a series of alleged anti-LGBTQ comments, as well as remarks critical of abortion and Catholicism. To read what he said, click [here](#).

The issue that has garnered most of the attention were his LGBTQ statements. They shouldn't have. While his comments were inelegant, they were entirely defensible, especially from a Christian perspective. Being against abortion is also defensible. Catholics are understandably upset when they hear Protestants say their religion is "false"—it is pure ignorance—but it is not likely Ivey would have been sanctioned had he only said that.

Ivey's biggest mistake is not what he said—he did not make slurs against gays the way other professional athletes have—but that he went on a rampage, relentlessly creating discord with his team. That's where he crossed the line. He engaged in lengthy rants on three occasions online in one week. Thus did he become a divisive force, jeopardizing team unity. Had he not spoken a word, but simply whistled in the locker non-stop while game plans were being discussed, sanctions against him would be justified.

It's too bad Ivey didn't say these things on just one occasion. If he had, and the Bulls still put him on waivers, that would have made them the guilty party. To put it differently, if players cannot express their biblically grounded convictions in public, the bad guys are the censors, not the players.

This needs to be said because the NBA, the NFL and MLB have drifted into left-wing territory in recent years, evincing an intolerance for free speech and a preference for politically

correct messaging. Indeed, this problem surfaced in responses made about Ivey's speech.

Mike Vrabel, the coach of the New England Patriots football team, responded to a tweet from one of his players, TreVeyon Henderson, who defended Ivey. All he did was quote Matthew 5:10, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Vrabel somehow found fault with this unexceptional statement, saying that he likes Henderson, and that his players should be "able to express what they believe." Not really. "I also wanna make sure that they're educated. We want to be inclusive."

He sounds like a woke robot. Indeed, his remark smacks of thought control. So nice to know that Vrabel wants to make sure his players are "educated." Meaning, of course, that they must learn to think like him. It doesn't get more condescending than this.

It is also offensive for him to declare that "We want to be inclusive." Who's the "We," and who appointed him and others to set these kinds of goals? It's also phony. Vrabel's inclusive tent obviously doesn't apply to Ivey, who has been summarily excluded because of his "uneducated" comments.

Apparently, Ivey is beset with multiple problems, and he needs to deal with whatever is ailing him. The dons of professional sports are also in need of a corrective—they would benefit by freeing themselves from the left-wing ideologues that surround them.