

8-20-1970

From/To: R.A. Gilbertsen (Chalk's reply filed first)

R.A. Gilbertsen

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August 20, 1970

Mr. R. A. Gilbertsen  
4026 Prescott, Apartment 3  
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Brother Gilbertsen:

I deeply regret that the author of the article in the Oak-West Church of Christ did not write me to ascertain the true nature of the situation regarding "Midnight Cowboy" as you were willing to do. Thank you for being Christ-like enough to write for my response.

I believe that "Midnight Cowboy" as standard entertainment fare is both obscene and harmful. I tried to say that in the Abilene Reporter News and I said it very clearly to the entire Highland congregation on Sunday morning following the article's appearance in the newspaper. I made it very clear that I at no point upheld homosexuality, that I at no point condoned immorality, that I at no point encouraged anything that would be unChrist-like.

I asked the forgiveness of my brothers and sisters at the Highland congregation for the burden and the pain I had caused them. I ask your forgiveness for any burden or pain that I have also caused you.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

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Apartment 3  
4026 Prescott  
Dallas, Texas 75219  
August 4, 1970

Mr. John Allen Chalk, minister  
Highland Church of Christ - Herald of Truth  
Abilene, Texas 79600

Dear brother Chalk,

I recently read some comments you are purported to have made in a newspaper interview about the movie, "Midnight Cowboy." I find it rather difficult to believe that a Christian and especially a gospel preacher would say the things that are attributed to you. Therefore, following the New Testament principle in regard to this matter, I am asking you personally whether you actually said these things. I myself am a Christian and a gospel evangelist. If you did say the things attributed to you in the inclosed photocopy of an article, then please do not attempt to "explain" what you meant. I am intelligent and well-educated enough to know what you said and I assume that a member of the body of Christ would not say something if he did not mean it. Consequently, please just tell me whether you said it or not.

"Midnight Cowboy" is a dirty, rotten, filthy, homo-sexual, sinful movie. If you did say the things attributed to you in the inclosed article, consider yourself dis-fellowshipped from me until such time as you repent and make things right with God and the church. If you are innocent, tell me.

Respectfully yours,

  
R. A. Gilbertsen