

# Dr. T. Kurt Jaros

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September 2, 2020

Dear Dr. Michael Hammond,

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with the recent firing of Dr. James Spiegel. I have known Dr. Spiegel for 6.5 years and have found him to be of great Christian character, a wonderful teacher, and quite mistaken about Berkeleyan idealism, determinism, and the Beatles. Those last few items, however, are one of the reasons why I enjoy interactions with Jim. I believe that society, and especially a university, should afford an atmosphere for the tolerance and exploration of ideas. Universities ought to be a place for students to be exposed to new ideas that challenge their worldview and for academics to have the liberty for scholarship that pushes ideological boundaries in the pursuit of truth.

And so I became distraught on August 25<sup>th</sup>, at the news that Jim was fired on the grounds of a baseless harassment claim pertaining to a melodic poem (song) that he posted online in video format. What was it, specifically that was objectionable to the song that warranted termination of his employment? Was it his smooth strumming of the guitar? His ability to hold a tune? Was it his attire, the lighting, or the camera angle? Surely it was not the lyrics of his poetry.

I know Jim is a Calvinist, a non-essential set of Christian doctrines which I reject as a reflection of the Bible's teaching. But Jim's own interpretation of human nature on a plain reading of his words are not any worse than poetic words found in the Scriptures, themselves. Psalm 51 is full of denigrating language of the depravity of man. Psalm 137 depicts the joy one receives from killing infants of the evil Babylonians. The Bible is full of language which may be difficult for us modern, allegedly sophisticated persons to understand. The events it describes takes place in a foreign land, to a foreign people, in a foreign time. But are humans today no longer able to perform those heinous actions? Do you read contemporary news, at all? A prime example of a Christian acting like a Roman is Jerry Falwell, Jr., whose behavior it seems fits the descriptions of what St. Paul writes against: sexual immorality, orgies, and adultery. Indeed, even the Christians have the ability to act the Romans, or more appropriately, like the Nazis.

Your demand that Dr. Spiegel remove his melodic poetry was unjustified and your support of the baseless harassment claim unfounded. You owe an apology and reinstatement to Spiegel. If you would like to discuss this topic further, I can be reached via email ([tkjaros@yahoo.com](mailto:tkjaros@yahoo.com)) or cell phone at (630) 487-9814. I look forward to the possibility for resolution of this concern.

Sincerely,



T. Kurt Jaros, Ph.D.