

NOT IN OUR TOWN!

We believe that the opinions expressed by Douglas Wilson on slavery, homosexuals, and women's rights are NOT representative of the majority of the people of the Palouse community: Moscow, Idaho, Pullman, Washington and the surrounding area. We, the undersigned, hereby disassociate our community, our university campuses, and ourselves from the ideas of anyone who would distort history to assert that slavery was a benevolent institution and that it is morally acceptable for one human being to own another.

We are dismayed and disgusted that false and misleading scholarship and biblical references are used to portray slavery as a harmonious state accepted and appreciated by the enslaved. "It is a fresh act of violence against the memories of those wronged individuals." (Sean M. Quinlan and William L. Ramsey, *Southern Slavery As It Wasn't: Professional Historians Respond to Neo-Confederate Misinformation*. (Moscow, ID: University of Idaho, 2003)

To deny the brutal nature of slavery is parallel to the denial that the Holocaust and other acts of historical brutality ever took place. Wilson is dismissing and negating the agonies suffered by millions of people and blurring a dark memory that we, as sentient beings, should never forget.

In February, 2004, during Black History Month, Wilson, Christ Church, and its magazine, *Credenda/Agenda* are holding what they call a history conference, inviting neo-Confederates to facilities which have been rented on the campus of the University of Idaho. Although there is no official university involvement or sponsorship, the latter are implied by the advertisement of the locale. We reject and regret any effort to use the cover of a university locale to legitimize Wilson's views.

Despite Wilson's acknowledgement that the slave trade was evil, his assertion that slavery was benign and even charitable is indefensible. To present this view of history during Black History month is an act of insensitivity, if not malice. Wilson's anachronistic, nineteenth-century defense of slavery, in addition to his support of the biblical judgment of death or exile for homosexuals, and denial of equality for women, poison our community and raise concern about potential violence.

We want no part of this. Wilson and his ideas do NOT represent our community.