

Castration Christianity

The visit of the White House chaplain to South Africa is not without interest to Executive Mansion watchers. Did it prelude a visit of the Master of the Revels himself and a more emphatic pat on the back to Southern Africa's white minority regimes? Or was the motivation merely the spreading of the gospel to those admittedly heathen parts?

If one can trust our free press one item of the gospel that was spread was a proposal that rapists be castrated which would "stop them pretty quick". The reporting is, as usual in such cases, too slight. Does the Reverend Mr. Graham propose castration in addition to the penalties already extracted by society (including in some cases capital punishment) or does he propose castration as a substitute? In the latter case, would there not be considerable danger in releasing persons who had undergone this treatment at the hands of society back into its bosom. Another question which rises is, who should be charged with this public function: surgeons, physicians, or should a special civil service class of castrators be brought into existence? Some dedicated reporter should seek answers to these questions from the Reverend Billy or from the crime prevention advisers to his leading parishioner, perhaps on the occasion of the next White House Prayer Breakfast.

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