

Former Head of Moral Majority Lashes Out at Jerry Falwell Jr.

Michael Farris, the chancellor of Patrick Henry College, who once served as executive director of Jerry Falwell Sr.'s Moral Majority in Washington, D.C., took to social media Monday to blast Liberty University president Jerry Falwell Jr. over his introduction of Donald Trump before Monday's Convocation.

In his public statement of sadness, Farris laid bare what he thought were the distinct differences between Trump and Falwell Sr. He also blasted Falwell Jr. for equating Trump with Jesus, calling it heresy:

I cannot tell you how sad I am about the actions of Jerry Falwell, Jr. in his introduction of Donald Trump at Liberty University on Monday morning. It was Trump's second appearance at Liberty. He was given an honorary doctorate in the first appearance in which Falwell, Jr. heaped lavish praise on Trump for being like his father and following the principles of the Founding Fathers.

Today's speech by Falwell, Jr. was even worse. Not only did he compare Trump to his own father, he had the audacity to compare Trump to Jesus. After all, Jesus was villified for his unpopular opinions and that makes Trump a man a lot like Jesus—according to Falwell, Jr.

I knew Jerry Falwell, Sr. I was the Executive Director of Moral Majority of Washington. I was at the very first meeting of the Moral Majority in Indianapolis in February, 1980.

When I ran for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 1993, I took a lot of heat for being a friend of Jerry Falwell.

I do not claim that I know Jerry Senior better than his own son. But, I do claim to know and speak for the movement that he inspired.

Trump made history by opening the first strip club in a casino in New Jersey. Jerry Sr made history by inspiring millions of Christians to engage in civic life—including battling porn not putting on pornographic stage shows.

Trump has big visions. Falwell, Sr. had big vision. But Jerry's vision was built by inspiring people to believe that Liberty would be faithful to the vision of Christ. Giving Trump an honorary doctorate in the past was unwise, but comparing him to Jesus was as close to heresy as I ever wish to witness.

Jerry Falwell, Senior taught and we believed that character matters and candidates should share our worldview—not our vision of financial success.

The movement would have been still-born had Jerry Senior ever stood on a stage and endorsed a man who is not prolife, who mocks God by saying he has nothing to be forgiven for, and who has had the audacity to say on stage that he has given to candidates of all parties because it is necessary for business.

That is not a man of principle. That is a man who games the system for profit.

I cannot say what Jerry, Senior would say today. But I can speak for the crowd at that first meeting in 1980.

Shame on you, Jerry Falwell, Junior for elevating success in business over the principles of right and wrong that flow from giving priority to the Word of God over the priority of a balance sheet. I am deeply saddened.

Farris' comments were posted to his personal Facebook page on

Monday. It has been shared more than 400 times since then.