

# What's at Stake?

## Illinois professor fired for teaching about Catholic beliefs in a class about Catholic beliefs

Public universities enforce their secular leftist ideology through unlawful speech codes, by excluding Christian student groups from campus, by confining speech to insignificant spaces on campus, and—perhaps worst of all—by preventing students from even learning about differing ideas through ruthless suppression of professors' academic freedom. Recent studies have shown that Christian professors are among the least likely to be promoted even after controlling for such things as educational accomplishment and peer review publications.

At the University of Illinois, Professor Kenneth Howell was fired after he taught students Catholic thought about human sexuality in a class that was about Catholic thought. Students were apparently offended to even hear traditional Catholic ideas in a class they chose to attend.

Political correctness has trumped academic freedom at the University of Illinois. The Alliance Defense Fund is intervening to defend Professor Howell and to preserve true academic freedom in America's campuses.

### What's Also at Stake?

- Whether professors will be free to teach their classroom topics without fear of being fired because of complaints from anonymous “offended” students;
- Whether the campus is open to free speech and lively debate or whether it is closed to the expression of any “politically incorrect” opinions;
- Whether professors will be evaluated on the basis of their teaching and research or whether they will be held hostage to a “heckler’s veto” by the loudest and most aggressive students; and
- Whether orthodox Christian ideas may be taught, or even mentioned, on campus.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**PRAY** – for ADF attorneys and the students and faculty who are challenging the unconstitutional policies that suppress free speech.

**LEARN MORE** – Join the conversation online at [Facebook.com/SpeakUpU](https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUpU) to learn more about the campaign to uphold academic freedom at our nation's public universities.

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