



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Dr. Ken Hutcherson: A Defender of Truth – Part 2

Guest(s): Dr. Ken Hutcherson

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Dr. James Dobson: You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting division of the James Dobson Family Institute. I am that James Dobson, and I'm so pleased that you've joined us today.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: When I bow my head today and say, "God, if you're real." He hit me so strong, he says, "You spend all this time trying to prove I want a White person in the world better than you. Guess what? I died for White people too."

Roger Marsh: Welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and in just a moment we're going to hear part two of Dr. Dobson's classic conversation with his dear friend, Dr. Ken Hutcherson. Even though it's been nearly 11 years since Dr. Hutcherson, went to be home with the Lord, we still have this broadcast to listen to and to enjoy and be inspired by as well.

Now, Dr. Ken Hutcherson, was a man of great faith who grew up in Alabama during the time of segregation. He experienced blatant discrimination simply because of the color of his skin, and yet God gave him a great athletic ability that enabled him to make his way through college and actually spend three years playing in the National Football League as a middle linebacker for the Seattle Seahawks, Dallas Cowboys and San Diego Chargers.

For the next two decades after that, he worked as an evangelist and spent many of his hours training young people to be offensive, that is offensive for the Lord. He was the author of several books, including *Before All Hell Breaks Loose*, *Hope is Contagious* and *The Church*. Dr. Hutcherson is survived by his wife Patricia and their four adult children.

It's so interesting because Dr. Dobson loved Ken Hutcherson so dearly. He called him Hutch as a matter of fact and experienced a great loss when Dr. Hutcherson did go on to be with the Lord. But he was such a great guest and we always enjoyed having him in the studio here as well. So you're really going to enjoy this heartfelt conversation in just a moment.

First though, this brief reminder with Election Day just days away, make sure you've checked out the voter guide that we've prepared just for you at our

special website, drjamesdobson.org/2024voterguide. We've got our main voter guide that helps everyone in all 50 states make the best decision for the major party platform issues. And then also we have individual voter guides and two new videos to help you if you're in a swing state as well. Again, you'll find all that information and more when you go to drjamesdobson.org/2024voterguide or for the full website, drjamesdobson.org/countdown-to-decision-2024.

And now here is Dr. James Dobson to introduce Dr. Ken Hutcherson for today's classic edition of Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: Dr. Ken Hutcherson, is someone whom I've come to appreciate and respect so very much. He's the founder and senior pastor of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, Washington. He is a strong pro-life, pro-marriage, pro-abstinence leader in this country and I appreciate his love for the gospel of Jesus Christ and his defense of truth. So, Hutch, with that introduction, let me take us back a bit.

We talked last time about your experiences in high school and before you became a Christian you were a young man who was just full of hate and racism and one of the ways you took care of your anger was on a football field. But you became a Christian when you were a senior in high school and the athletic talent that you had developed led to many educational doors being opened to you. Tell me again, where did you go to college?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Livingston University in Alabama. I had so many scholarships and I had just become a Christian my senior year out of that assembly and I said, "God, I got so many schools after me. I am sick and tired." Because I was on my own then, I left and been on my own since I was 15. And I was a senior, 16, didn't have any man leadership, didn't know what to do. I said, "God, you're my coach. And all these schools is bothering me. I can't even turn around." And I said, "The first school, God, I hear from tomorrow is the school that'll be what you want me to go to."

And the first school I heard from was Livingston. I didn't know where it was. I didn't know what state it was in. I didn't know if it was co-ed. I didn't know if it was four-year. I didn't know if it was a boy school, girl school. I didn't know nothing about it. I said, "Okay, tell them I come," Because that was the first school I heard from after I prayed. Now if you don't want God to answer, don't pray.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, that's not exactly a football powerhouse.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: It was. We went to be the national championship and I'm the only guy ever to get drafted out of school. We went to National Championship three out of my four years there, never has happened again in any school or any place.

Dr. James Dobson: Was the NFL excited about you?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Well, they drafted me, the Cowboys drafted me, so I think so.

Dr. James Dobson: Did you start immediately?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I was one of the only rookies under Coach Landry that could start because his program was so complex that the average rookie couldn't learn it. And here comes this Black guy. Now, when I got drafted, Doc, there was no Black players in what they call thinking positions. None. They wouldn't allow Blacks to be quarterback. They wouldn't allow Blacks to be middle linebackers or centers anyone that they call thinking positions, I was the first Black in the NFL pretty much to start as middle linebacker with Leroy Joy in a thinking position because I was an honor roll student knew how to study.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, Coach Landry was a friend of mine.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Oh, man. Oh, what a man.

Dr. James Dobson: There is a beautiful bronze sculpture of him and it was given to us by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was such a good man. You then became under the influence of one of the strong, masculine leaders in the country at the time.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I remember when I got drafted by Dallas, you always hear about Christians. To this day, you hear about Christians who are strong, out in public and in private usually it's two different Christians. Right? And I had heard so much about Coach Landry, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and we had been at conferences and different things and I was waiting, Doc, because when it comes to my Lord and Savior who saved me, don't play with my God, right?

Dr. James Dobson: You don't handle hypocrisy very well.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: No, I don't. Really I don't. I was waiting, man. I came there, I was the best in shape. I was going to show what a Christian is and I watched him for the whole first year to see if he was a hypocrite. I says, "You are my coach, but you're also a Christian brother." And if I saw anything I was going to deal with it, kick me off the team. That's fine. But he was a man of God.

Dr. James Dobson: He sure was.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Man, he walked it.

Dr. James Dobson: Right to the day he died.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Right to the day he died.

Dr. James Dobson: So you were with the Cowboys and then you were with San Diego.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: San Diego.

Dr. James Dobson: Chargers and then-

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I asked to be traded from San Diego there was some couple of things that me and Proto didn't get along with me being a Christian. And he says, "You know Hutcherson." He says "You love God more than football, don't you?" I said, "At the drop of a hat." He said, "If God asked you to quit, you would quit, wouldn't you?" I says, "I'm asking God to let me quit. I want to go full-time ministry. He hadn't said yes yet." He said, "Well, we got to have people we can trust that's going to be here." I said, "As long as God said I can be here, I will be, until then, your mine."

Dr. James Dobson: Hutch, explain where that commitment to Christ came from. There are a lot of people who say they are Christians and I don't doubt that they are who don't have that kind of commitment and that kind of courage. And you hadn't seen it.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: No.

Dr. James Dobson: You had not been under the influence of some powerful minister out there or some other coach before Landry who showed you how a Christian is supposed to act, but you had it in your heart. Where'd it come from?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Well, it was very simple. Like I said, the commitment came if I want to be on the first team, I had to know the Bible. If I wanted to please my coach, I do what he say. I don't change the plays, I do what he says. I made that commitment to Jesus and I knew how to make A's, so I studied the Bible like I had to take a test on it. I had no bad influences. I only had good when I started studying the Bible and I realized that was the playbook. You do it the way it says, or quit being on the team.

Dr. James Dobson: So you actually got those principles out of the Bible.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Yes, absolutely.

Dr. James Dobson: It is amazing how the word will speak to us today if we'll open our minds to it. Hey, Hutch, when you had been traded by the Chargers to the Seattle Seahawks and you finished your career there, obviously the Lord was still working on you. How did he call you into the ministry?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Oh, it was so funny. I had been trying to get out of football to go to seminary. See, I thought going to pro ball was a waste of time because I really wanted to... I believed I had been called my senior in college to preach, but I had to go to seminary. I wanted to go to seminary. Well, God had a better plan because He was teaching me through that time in the Word. And so I got drafted and I'm sitting there going, "Oh, God." I was the only rookie that tried to retire after my rookie year.

I tried to retire every year to go to seminary and the third year in ball to going up to Seattle, I was on the way to Seattle. I was studying one night and it says, "You don't call God, God calls you." And I said, "God, forgive me for trying to get seminary. If you want me to stay in this game, I stay in this stupid game long as you want me to and I give up the idea of going to seminary."

That year I got my knee hurt and was able to get out and go full-time ministry. I never made it seminary.

Dr. James Dobson: And then you just began a church in your...

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I started working as a youth pastor there in the area because football had me well known and everyone knew my stand as a Christian. I had made a shirt when I came to Seattle, "Hutch is going to Seattle to do God's battle." And that's what I wore under my pads when I went out there and they know, "Don't run this way, I knock you out in the name of Jesus and then help you up". So I went seven years as a youth pastor.

Doc, we had over 35 adults working with me, discipling kids. We had three to 400 kids graduating, discipled and many of my kids are in ministry today because I did not take any nonsense. If you say you're going to be in leadership, this is what I expected. If you say you're going to disciple these kids, I better not catch you with sin in your life because I'm going to deal with you.

And that was the way the ministry ran. That's the way it is. And then when I left there and started Antioch, I said, "It's going to be..." It was an all-white church. I was one of the only few Blacks in the church for seven years and I was so frustrated about the segregation in the church. 11 o'clock on Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour in America.

And I saw God had said He had died for everybody and why is it that we are so separated when it comes to worshipping? It's not going to be that way when I get to Heaven, so I'm not going to wait until I get to Heaven for it to work. So I started Antioch with the vision that it's going to be a church for all people, a church for all colors, a church for all cultures, long as you don't mess with the Word of God.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, this is one of the many things that I appreciate out about you, Hutch, and about your heart.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: For the Scripture as it is written and attempting to implement the things that you see there. What is your hope for the future?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I want men and women of God to hear us, to see me as example, to see you and to get what, we used to say in the south, a fire in their belly.

Dr. James Dobson: How long have you been married?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: 21 years.

Dr. James Dobson: To the same woman.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: To the same baby.

Dr. James Dobson: And how many children do you have?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I have four. I'm always kidding. My wife is blonde, blue-eyed, German girl, and we have four German chocolate kids. I'm glad they took after their mother, they're good-looking.

Dr. James Dobson: You've also got some Rottweilers, don't you?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Yes, sir.

Dr. James Dobson: You love those Rottweilers. How many of them do you have?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I have two right now and a Doberman. I just got another pup I'm training.

Dr. James Dobson: People do not wander into your yard, do they?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Not even if the dog's out. They know that I'm not a big pacifist. I believe that God has called us to be warriors and we ought to be the greatest lovers in the world when people want to be right and we are the greatest fighters in the world when they're wrong.

Dr. James Dobson: And there's a lot of sin around us today. What concerns you socially at this time when you look around and see what's going on in this country, what kind of thoughts do you have?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: The Bride of Christ worries me to no end. There's nothing wrong with the world, Doc. The world is of the flesh. The flesh will rot. The world is doing absolutely what it's supposed to do. We are the only ambassadors, the Bride of Christ, that has not done their job in all the world kingdoms of the world. The next world kingdom is going to be Jesus.

We are the ambassadors. We're the only ones that are trying to make friends with the world. Instead of saying who we represent and we need to put the world on cue, Jesus is coming and He's not coming as suffering servant next time. He's coming as conquering king. Now, do you want to make it civil or do you want to make it hostile? And we have lost the taste of repentance in our preaching. We have lost the taste of separatists from sin. We are so secret-driven in many of our churches that you couldn't find a good Bible verse anywhere. And I'm concerned that the church has left its first love to be liked.

Dr. James Dobson: What do you say to the pastors who secretly believe that if they preach the gospel in the Bible, the way it's written there, if they talked about sin and the need for salvation and atonement, the whole understanding of Jesus' death and why He died on the cross and what He did for us after He was resurrected and so on, they believed that it would run everybody away? That they would lose their congregation, that they would not be able to pay their bills and that they would just fade away. I think there are a lot of pastors who believe that.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Oh, my goodness, Doc, you know that as well as I do. Do you want to-

Dr. James Dobson: And so what they do is the sugarcoat it.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: They do more than that. They change it. It's not even sugar. I would appreciate if it was sugarcoated most of the time, Doc. At least there'd be some word in there. I tell them, "You know what? If you ain't got the guts to stand up for Jesus Christ as the Shepherd, go sell used cars, you'll make a better living and you won't make it much of a fool out of my Father." And the second thing I tell them, "Get in the Word. They hated Jesus. If they hated Him first, why would they love us?" I just know God loving me is enough. I don't care what anyone else thinks. My wife loves me-

Dr. James Dobson: You started your church on a shoestring and you're living proof that people will come if they get fed.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: If you teach the Word, Doc, it's better than building a baseball field. They will come.

Dr. James Dobson: It has not been very long since General Peter Pace made some statements that were carried in every newspaper in the country.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Oh, my goodness.

Dr. James Dobson: He comes from a Christian point of view and he said it is immoral to practice homosexual behavior. And he was skewered including by presidential candidates. And the media has just torn him apart and what he said, everybody believed 30 years ago. But if you think about what he said, that it is immoral to practice homosexual behavior. If that's not accurate, then what the kids have been doing on spring break, sleeping with each other and acting like the devil and practicing every immoral act, that's not immoral either.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I was so proud of him. I was doing cartwheels backwards.

Dr. James Dobson: Have you told him?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: No, but I would love to and I would too.

Dr. James Dobson: And I would to.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I was so proud of him and man, I was ticked when they started giving these little apologies. Now, he didn't take back what he said, but they made him come down apologizing with the position he had. He has a right, ask one of the generals, to say what is best for the military. Stand strong. I'm sick and tired of conservatives and Christians who will speak the truth and then when they get some pressure, they back off.

Dr. James Dobson: Where were the Christian leaders in government who stood up for him? Sam Brownback did.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: He is the only one who did, that I heard. Now there were probably others. Oh, I take it back. Duncan Hunter, a congressman stood up for him. But boy, there were very, very few. They let him twist in the wind.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: That's the same thing that happened with Microsoft, Doc. When Microsoft backed off, when I confronted him with strong opposition of them doing this, they backed off knowing what was going to happen to them. And guess who the only people called them, the homosexual community. Christians did not call them and tell them "Thank you for backing off." And they said, "Since we didn't hear from anyone else except homosexuals, we're going to support the bill next time.".

Dr. James Dobson: Now, I had a conversation in Washington many years ago with a congressional leader. I won't name him because that was a long time ago, but he looked at me and I was trying to get him to do what's right. He said, "You know the reason I don't," he said, "because I never hear an echo."

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: That's right.

Dr. James Dobson: "If I say something that irritates the other side, I get my ears pinned back. If I say something that you ought to be pleased about, I don't hear anything."

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: That's it.

Dr. James Dobson: And people don't realize how important it's to reinforce those that are hanging by their thumbs there trying to defend righteousness in the culture. And as a result, they're all by themselves and they get scared and then they do what scared people do.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: But that's the difference between me and most people. Doc. I don't mind being by myself. Jesus plus one is victorious.

Dr. James Dobson: You were as a child, weren't you?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: And I wish that we had more Christians, and more political leaders, and more presidential candidates, and our president, to understand you and Jesus is enough don't worry about what the rest of the world says because when you die and I die, we're not going to be standing before a crowd.

Dr. James Dobson: You take a lot of flack now, don't you?

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Oh, well, three or four times a day.

Dr. James Dobson: You know what? So do I.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: I know I told you earlier, I'm glad you're alive. I can't be the most hated man in America.

Dr. James Dobson: I'm willing to share that title with you. Well, it just goes with the territory. Jesus said it was going to be that way. It shouldn't be a surprise to us.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: No.

Dr. James Dobson: But it still stings sometimes, especially when it distorts what you say. I would not be offended at all if the media would simply quote me.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: Quote what I said.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Absolutely.

Dr. James Dobson: Quote me accurately. I'll stand by what I said. But it's when it's twisted and warped and it's obviously intended to marginalize you or to make you look foolish.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: What we as Christians have allowed, I preach this all the time to our church and I drive this home, I says, "When the church stop allowing secular society to dictate the definition of words we can take back over America." You see, when the secular world dictates what love is, instead of the Bible dictating what love is, we lose. When the world dictates what tolerance is, instead of the Bible dictating what tolerance is, we lose. When the world dictates what sexual preference is, instead of what the Bible says sexual preference is, we lose. So as a church, we're going to have to start taking back definitions of words.

Dr. James Dobson: Yeah. When it's called pro-choice instead of pro-abortion.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Amen.

Dr. James Dobson: Many examples of that.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: Hutch, thank you for being with us. It is a pleasure always to be with you.

Dr. Ken Hutcherson: Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: All right.

Roger Marsh: Well, and that concludes part two of our special two-part conversation featuring Dr. James Dobson and his good friend Dr. Ken Hutcherson today here on Family Talk. Something that Ken Hutcherson had in common with Dr. Dobson was that they both were always willing to stand up for truth and righteousness regardless of the consequences.

Dr. Dobson, of course, still stands up for what is right each and every day, and he's often ridiculed and disparaged for it. But at the same time, he has counted the cost and he knows that following Jesus Christ and obeying him is well worth it. And Dr. Ken Hutcherson had that same attitude as well.

Today here on Family Talk, we revisited this classic conversation featuring Dr. Dobson and the late Dr. Ken Hutcherson, who has since gone on to be with the Lord. At the end of today's interview, Dr. Hutcherson brought up a great point. He talked about how the church has always allowed secular society to dictate the definition of many traditionally moral words. They've taken them and used them for their own purposes. They've twisted much of Christian vocabulary to have unbiblical meanings.

For instance, the words love, tolerance, even kindness, are often misused in order to push forward in anti-God agenda. As Christians, we must be on our guard against these gradual cultural shifts so that we don't get swept up in that deception. From Isaiah 5:20, we read "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness."

If you want to revisit this conversation, again, you can do so at your convenience using the JDFI app or by going online to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. That's drjamesdobson.org/familytalk.

One of the areas that's more interesting to note, especially during this election season, is how the progressive world has taken a lot of Christian terms, if you will, and tried to use them against American Christianity. Allie Beth Stuckey, is an author who has coined the phrase "Toxic Empathy" to describe this process. She was on the broadcast with us a couple of weeks ago discussing this phenomenon and her new book on that topic. If you'd like more information on how to get your copy, go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk.

But how do we as Christians then get engaged in the public square without losing our faith or without getting involved in a battle that we wind up

ultimately losing? Well, Dr. Owen Strachan, the senior director of the Dobson Culture Center, has written an e-book that will, I think, help a lot of Christians, especially when it comes to the voting season. The book is called *Voting and the Church: Why Christians Engage The Public Square*. And we have a link for the book up at drjamesdobson.org/engage. Now, when you read this book, it's about 30 pages or so. It's not terribly long to read.

What you're going to discover is biblical principles for why we as Christians should in fact cast our vote. It may be difficult to do, especially if you're not really fond of the presidential candidates, for example, or maybe you live in a blue state as they call them, and you vote more conservative. Well, Dr. Strachan makes a very compelling reason for why we should go to the polls and not waste our vote, but rather steward it wisely for the Lord, not worrying so much about the outcome of the election, but rather our faithfulness before Christ.

Voting and the Church: Why Christians Engage the Public Square, the free e-book available from the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. To get your copy, go to drjamesdobson.org, click the link on our main page or go to drjamesdobson.org/engage and you can get the book right there.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for listening today to Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love. Join us again next time right here for another edition of Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.