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The Case Against 8

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The Case Against 8

Abstract

This is a film review of *The Case Against 8* (2014), directed by Ben Cotner and Ryan White.

Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).

The Case Against 8

(2014)

Directed by Ben Cotner, Ryan White

US Documentary Competition

Religion has had a long history of approving or disapproving various forms of sexual behavior. In the last several decades, religion has taken



on the issues of homosexuality and same-sex marriage. In the United States, the disapproval of homosexuality, bisexuality, and trans-sexuality has been the focus of the Catholic Church and various evangelical or conservative Christian groups. There is a lot of heat generated on this topic, and religion leads the attack. All of this is interesting since Jesus, the center of Christianity, says nothing about these issues. There are some Biblical verses that seem to address some aspects of these issues, but there is considerable debate about the interpretation of these verses. As well, there are some religious organizations or denominations that accept homosexuality and so on. These organizations are not thereby to be excluded from whatever religion they claim. Given religions' concerns with all of these issues, it appears that those religions that oppose homosexuality, etc., often use the law to enforce their particular view on others.

The Case Against 8 offers an inside look into the case to overturn California's ban on same-sex marriage. The movie took over five years to make, following the case all the way to the Supreme Court. What makes *The Case Against 8* particularly interesting is that it was spearheaded by conservative attorney, Ted Olson, and liberal attorney, David Boles. Olson and Boles were political foes and opposing attorneys in the case of Bush vs. Gore. But in the case of Proposition 8, these two former foes joined forces to make the case against 8.

— William L. Blizek