

marriages. What has been the reaction of people around the league to the stand you took?

Reggie: Well, there hasn't been one single person I've played against or with who has come up to me and said, "You're crazy." There has not been a single person who talked to me and said, "I disagree with you." I can handle disagreement. Most people who disagree with me have disagreed with me behind either a radio microphone or TV camera. Some of those guys come in our locker room every day, yet they haven't been man enough to come to me and say, "I disagree with you." I can't respect that type of person. I look at that kind of person as a coward. If he comes to me and says, "I disagree with you, tell me if you disagree with me," I can handle that. But to say you disagree with me and not be man enough to say it to my face, I don't have too much respect for that person.

SS: The homosexual groups were obviously upset with what you said. What do you say to someone who says, referring to the newspaper ads, "He should have been wearing his minister's garb, not his Packers uniform."

Reggie: Even if I didn't wear a Packers uniform, they would be offended. These people have no problem with me, they have a problem with God Himself.

I hear so many of them saying that God is love, and yes, God is a God of love. But the Bible says He's also a God of vengeance (Psalm 34:1).

God wants us to give Him the same type of love He's shown us. God is a holy God. And the Bible says we should be holy, even as He is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

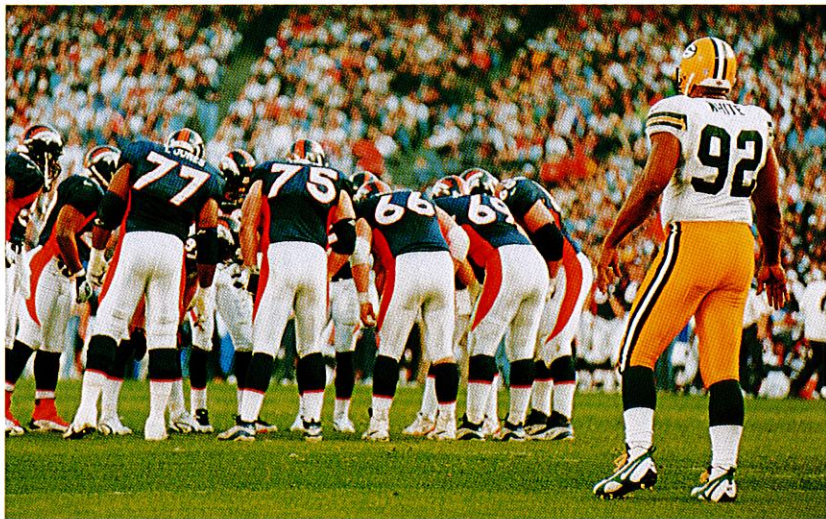
So many people say, "That's your interpretation of the Scripture." Well, if the Bible says "unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven" (John 3:3), that's not my interpretation, that's what the Bible says. If the Bible says a man can't sleep with a man as he sleeps with a woman (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27), that's not an interpretation, that's what the Scripture says. If the Bible says a man should not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14), or that the wicked man who is into fornication will not enter the kingdom of heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)—that's not an interpretation, that's what the Bible says. It's plain and simple.

SS: What would you tell the homosexual community or people searching and confused?

Reggie: It took somebody to tell me I was

wrong. That I was in sin. For me to turn my life around, it took somebody to challenge me and let me know where I was. In the process, it took them to show me in the Word. The only thing I would say to those who would disagree with me is this: Go and read the Scriptures for yourself.

There are many people, not only homosexuals, living in sin. I mean in America, adultery is all right because people say everybody is doing



▲ Reggie stands alone. No, he didn't take on the entire Denver Broncos by himself in Super Bowl XXXII, but he does stand alone as the top sacker in NFL history, having brought down the quarterback more than 180 times in his career.

it. Fornication is all right because people say well everybody's doing it. Lying is all right because everybody else is doing it. The Bible says it's not all right.

Go and read the Scriptures for yourself, and stay in it, because sooner or later, God is going to change you. You're going to experience His love like you've never experienced it before. People may have a disapproval of what I said, but I would challenge everybody to read the

SCREEN TEST

One of Reggie White's many off-the-field activities is Reggie White Studios. The Minister of Defense talks about his vision for this company.

We want to build an entertainment company. We want to start doing the family entertainment, films, sitcoms. For years, we've have planned on building a biblical theme park where we can minister to people. With technology and animation we can really bring the Scriptures to life.

We won't just minister to people, but we'll also create jobs and give many people who are actors and actresses an alternative. Many people who have kids want to see something positive—an alternative where we can minister to them in the midst of family entertainment.

I think for too many years, as Christians, we've sat around and complained about what's on TV and what our children are watching. We demand that Hollywood do what's right, but you can't demand that the wicked do what is right. We as righteous people have to start spending our own money. We have to create a place where we can go to and we can feel comfortable with, and that's the vision we have in the theme park.

Also we need to create movies our parents feel are safe enough to let their kids go and see. Last year I wanted to take my kids to movies, but a lot of them are rated R, so I couldn't take them. We've got to stop talking about what the world is not doing, and we've got to do it. That's the initiative we've taken with Reggie White Studios. And I hope that once we get it going, as many as Christians as possible would support us in this, because we've got to bring some positive stuff to the movie screen and to the TV screen.

Scriptures for yourself and let the Scriptures speak to you. I'll promise you that sooner or later, it's going to hit you hard and deliverance will come to your life.

SS: Why is it so important for you to speak out on moral issues? Is there a sense in which the best thing would be to work hard to spread the gospel so people would come to Christ? Then their morals would change.

Reggie: You have to do both. You have to present things in a stern but loving way. I'm going to be stern with my kids when they're wrong. In Ezekiel 33, God told Ezekiel that if he didn't preach to the people about their sin, and they died in their sin, their blood would be on his hands.

As men of God, we often want to stay away from the hard subjects. We don't want to preach against sin. The prophets preached against sin. Noah preached against sin for the hundred or so years that he was building the ark. And the same things that are going on today were going on during Noah's time. We have to preach against sin because if we don't preach

against it, we're going to make people feel as though it's all right for them to live any way they want to live.

I even have to have that challenge in my life. I have to keep myself accountable. My wife keeps me accountable. I have friends who are keeping account and telling me when I'm wrong. I want them to tell me, because I know that is going to help me. I don't like it all the time, but I want to be right and I want to be holy before God. I need

people in my life to be able to do that.

People who don't want anybody to tell them how to live have a problem. They want to live any kind of a way they want to live without any accountability.

SS: Around the NFL, it seems there's an increasing number of players who are bold about their faith in Jesus Christ. Why do you think that's on the increase in the NFL?

Reggie: I think it's increasing mainly because God is using the football player for His purposes. People perceive football players as being big and tough and hard. Many of us in the NFL took a personality test a few years ago. After I took the test, the guy who was giving me the test said that football players who took the test have been proven to be more gentle with people than basketball and baseball players.

I think God is using us mainly because the public perceives us as big, tough, and rowdy. But many of us are very gentle when we're off the field. We love our families, and I think God is using the football player to let the public know that this is actually His personality. Yes, He is aggressive when it comes to giving you His Word. He's aggressive with His love. But that doesn't make Him weak. Football players are not perceived to be weak when they stand up and say, "I'm saved." We want to spread the gospel—to use the game to help people know that Jesus is our Lord.

SS: Deion Sanders has received a tremendous amount of attention recently for his new belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. What's your feeling about Deion and where he is in his Christian life?

Reggie: Last year when Deion got saved, I called him. I just wanted to let him know how happy I was for him, and he said something to me really interesting. He said, "Reggie I thought when I got saved, everybody would be happy. But they're killing me here in Dallas. The media's killing me."

I said, "Deion, you've got to realize what they're doing. They want to report all the bad stuff you used to do, but you've become a Christian. What you used to do was a better story than what you will become. Don't think that everybody is going to be happy because you changed. They don't want you to change. They want to report about the old Deion instead of the new Deion."

There's nobody who can convince me that Deion hasn't changed his life. I think we who are Christians should be happy for him. He may not do everything the way we think he should, but I'm convinced that Deion Sanders has changed his life. He's been converted. He's telling people how God has changed him.

The Apostle Paul killed Christians for a living, but Jesus changed him. If God can do that



"SOMETHING SPECIAL"

Reggie White has been a key proponent of the circle prayer, during which NFL players from both teams gather at midfield after a game to pray. Reggie talks about how the public and the media have responded to that.

■ Some of the media are very interested, because they are seeking for truth and peace in their own lives. Some of them are sarcastic. They don't feel we should force it on the public, but we're not forcing it on the public. It's something we do for ourselves.

With the competition we've been through and the hard work we put in, we want to thank God. He's given us another opportunity to go through this game and honor His name in every way we can. We battle all year, but there are many who love God and love each other. We care about each other. It's an exciting thing to be able to thank God after the game and let God know that we are bowing and humbling ourselves to Him. This game does make us think sometimes that we're better than anybody else, and we just want to thank God. We have to use what God has given us to affect other people's lives, and many of us want to do that.

So, we're no more special than anybody else. We're not going to be able to stand before God just because we play pro football, but we do want to use this platform to proclaim the gospel. That prayer circle is something special to all of us.

for Paul and for King David and many other men of God in the Bible, He sure can do it for Deion Sanders and Reggie White.

SS: After 14 years in the NFL, what's the biggest lesson you've learned from the game?

Reggie: Team work. When we won the Super Bowl, the players weren't the only ones who got rings. The coaches got rings, our wives got rings, the ticket guys got rings, the equipment guys, the trainers. The publicity guys. Everybody got a ring. The secretaries. And everybody understood where they stood. And I think when the body of Christ learns what teamwork is all about, then we'll really see revival.

SS: What's your biggest dream after football?

Reggie: I want to be used by God. To bring people into the Kingdom. And I pray more and more every day that God will give me, Sarah, and my children more of a compassion for people. A compassion for one another, a love for Him, and I believe that once He gives us even more love for Him, we'll be more and more compassionate to people. And yet we'll be more determined not only to share the gospel with them, but also to live the gospel out. And to be able to use our time and resources to help

people who are in need.

SS: How would you like people to remember you in terms of a football player and a person?

Reggie: For people to remember my life, Sarah, and me, as people who loved God. I want people to be able to say to my children, "You know that your mom and dad were a woman and a man after God's heart." I want my grandchildren to be able to say that to their children. That's the legacy I want to leave. I want people to say that Reggie and Sarah were a man and woman of God. That would mean more to me than anything. 🇺🇸

Roman Gabriel III hosts Sports Spectacular Minute, a nationally syndicated radio program.

Free Booklet Reggie White thinks there are moral absolutes in our world—that there is a guide for truth. If you'd like to read a booklet that talks about how we can tell good from bad, get a copy of *Right & Wrong*. It's free! Just mark the word **RIGHT** on the card between pages 24 and 25, fill out the card, and send it to us. There is no cost or obligation to you.