

#SociallyConsciousFlow: #RichardSherman Reaction Memo

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"I'm the best corner[back] in the game. When you try me with a sorry receiver like Crabtree, that's the result you going to get."

-Richard Sherman



While this clearly has caused for great conversation in social media and elsewhere, I think what is most interesting is how we expect athletes to behave...We want athletes to display bravado, strength, force in an almost inhumane, Godly way but once they get off the field we want them to be docile, submissive, extremely respectful creatures?

Peter King wrote an amazing op-ed about the game and Sherman's comments and I think it's a great piece to read. He feels that how Richard Sherman expressed himself is only a glimpse into the behavior displayed on the field. Athletes and anyone who gets excited about anything competitive certainly has had their share of talking stuff, but there are those who do it for a profession and are recorded expressing their emotions after a career-winning event such as this game. In fact, the NFL normally has a cooling off period before journalists approach athletes to potentially avoid comments like this when your emotions and ego are in full expression.

He didn't sugarcoat his opinions and when you want the truth, people are often shocked about honest people can be.

He's never been arrested or cursed in an interview...

And another [great article from the Huffington Post by Isaac Saul](#) to provide some context... with this quote:

Week in and week out, we sit down in front of our televisions and cheer for these freak athletes to destroy each other's bodies in one of the most brutal games known to man. Most of us probably do it with a beer in our hand, screaming and cursing at our TVs in a desperate hope to change the outcome of the game. We ignore how the NFL's owners use our tax money so freely, and we don't seem to care much about the brain damage retired players suffer from every year.

Yet, when one kid who has overcome everything, one kid who was doubted by the very player he overcame on Sunday, decides to emphatically claim he is the best (by the way: he is), this is what upsets us? Man, could you imagine if this generation had to deal with Muhammad Ali?

I actually viewed an awesome Muhammad Ali documentary recently entitled "[The Trials of Muhammad Ali](#)" which focuses more on his provocative actions outside of the ring. If Twitter can blow up over a quote like this from Richard Sherman, I can only imagine what it would have been like if social media was around for Muhammad Ali's displays? The decisions he made in his lifetime have made him both a "pariah" and a "global ambassador". He was apart of one of the most controversial religious groups of his time and faced federal charges for withdrawing from the Vietnam War. In discussing his resistance, he said,

"No, I will not go 10,000 miles to continue the domination of white slave masters over the darker people of the earth."

Just in the way, that people continue to shame Kanye West for speaking out about anything and everything he believes in, we're scared about Robert Sherman. As Issac Saul writes,

"[Robert Sherman] taught us that no matter what you overcome in your life, we're still a country that can't accept someone if they're a little louder, a little prouder, or a little different from the people we surround ourselves with."

Kanye West actually spoke about how mediocrity and complacency is more celebrated than self-esteem and confidence in today's society. That societal norms push people to blend in, assimilate and be quiet about their ideas and feelings. Things that make them unique and human. I hope this helps shed some light on a different perspective, and I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

[Here you can read about Robert Sherman's reaction to the world's backlash about his interview!](#)