

HOW CAN A CHRISTIAN LIKE YOU SUPPORT AN IMMORAL PERSON LIKE TRUMP?

I received the following letter from one of my listeners:

I'm a republican and I love the party. I also put the country in front of the party. But I did not and would not vote for a liar, womanizer, cheater, bully, con man, racist to be our leader.

To me, you are a prominent and highly respected figure in the Bay Area. You represent Christianity and your forum reflects what Christianity believes. Is supporting and promoting an immoral person the right thing to do? I definitely do not want that person to be my children's role model.

I respect your personal belief and point of view, but supporting and promoting a person with multiple problems publicly makes me wonder if religion should be mixed with politics.

Here is my long answer to this listener who, by the way, is not yet a Christian:

In the last General Election, we were being given a choice of either Trump, who sincerely wants to do something for America and Americans, and Clinton, who has a long history of corruption, greed, incompetence and contempt for national security (the way she treated her emails, the way she approved the sale of 20% of America's uranium), the choice became easy. Do not forget 63 million other Americans made the same choice as mine.

Trump is far from being perfect. We can point to his many shortcomings. But like everyone he also has his strengths. Look at his family, they all have good upbringing. Trump neither drinks nor smokes. But the most important quality I see in him is his love for America. At first I was quite offended by him (mostly because of his casino ownership, and I have dealt with so many broken families due to gambling so I instinctively did not like him at all). But what changed my mind and supported him are:

1. Devout Christians like Cruz (my first choice) is unelectable. He had no chance against Clinton. Jeb Bush is weak, also had no chance against Clinton.
2. Trump was sympathetic to Christians and Christian value right from the start, so many evangelicals rallied around him. I understand he accepted Jesus during the campaign but he kept it quiet because he did not want to be seen as using it as an election tool.
3. God can use the worst person for His purpose, and throughout history some of the people He chose were not good people. In the process God could change a person's character.

But, above all, the most important thing for me is his Supreme Court judge short list, including Gorsuch who is now on the Supreme Court. All the other judges on his list are conservatives who respect the constitution. The fact that he puts out a list and stays with it confirms he is the one used by God at a time like this.

I am not asking you to like Trump. But I am asking you to see the bigger picture that we are not nominating a pastor or a saint, but one who can be used by God to fight back the dark evil facing America at this time. Can you imagine what direction the country will be heading if Hillary is the President? When we look at the broader picture then personal flaws of political leaders should not become an issue. Also, even though you are not yet a Christian, I do want to point out that the bible clearly tells us that it is God who selected the leaders, and we should honor and support whoever He chooses and pray for him or her so God's will can be carried out.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Tim2:1-2)

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2:17)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (Roman 13:1-2)

The bible tells us, and our experience confirms this, that all human is sinful. We all fall short when it comes to morality. There is a story in the Gospel of John, Chapter 8, which I hope you will read carefully:

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

These "teachers of the law and the Pharisees" are people who know the laws well and abide by the law. They are the most moral people in the society. They catch this adulterous

woman who is most immoral and sinful. They take her to Jesus and want to see how Jesus deals with her. Jesus tells these people: "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." These "moral" people know in their hearts that none of them are without sin, so they leave the scene one by one. Then Jesus asks the woman to not sin any more. Jesus demonstrates his love and righteousness. He also tells us that God is the judge of man's morality, not us.

What does this story have to do with whether or not we support or do not support Trump? These are the points:

1. We should not judge others' morality because none of us is without sin. We could be self-righteous and claim that "but my sins are smaller than Trump's". But who is to be the judge? Ourselves? In God's eye, we are all sinners.
2. Even in the human realm there is such thing as repentance, turning over a new leaf, forsaking past sins and do better, etc. That is what we tell our children when we catch them doing something bad, right? As long as a person is still living there is room for repentance and improvement. We all remember some of the silly and sinful things we do when we were young, but we do not do them anymore. We simply must allow others (and ourselves) to become a better person than we were yesterday.
3. In supporting Trump, I am not endorsing his past behavior. I am supporting him to make America better, and thereby making lives of Americans better. I do not just mean financial betterment. I am also referring to holding the moral degradation of America in check. Such moral degradation includes abortion, homosexuality, same sex marriage, drug legalization, gender confusion, legalization of euthanasia, etc. Strangely, God could be using someone like Trump (who is surrounded by Christians including VP Pence and a number of his cabinet members) to temporarily reverse the moral degradation.

At a practical level, let me ask you what would be accomplished by our holding contempt and resentment against a sitting president who was elected by 63 million fellow Americans? And what has he done in the last 209 days in office to harm your interest? How do we make things better by holding such negative feelings against this guy who, at age 70, is working day and night to make things better for America? Do I overlook things he is trying to do for the country just because he had not lived an exemplary life in the past?