

Why I as a Christian Support Donald Trump in Good Conscience

Ever since the night of Donald Trump's inauguration, I have become increasingly aware of the contempt half of our society has for Donald Trump, especially with respect to his "character." But a few weeks ago the stakes for my political position became intensely personal to me when a family member of mine called me both "disgusting" and effectively a counterfeit follower of Jesus on the grounds of my approving any support at all to Donald Trump.

It is my view that absolutely essential in this matter of weighing competence and character of the recent Presidential candidates is that every person on either side of the debate commit to judging them by a single standard. This demands that not only individuals who need valid factual information, but also both the major news agencies who broadcast the news, but also social media which enables the free interchange of and opinions over ideas that are controversial. Tragically, either neglecting or prohibiting these means of communication the very possibility of trusting the accusations that blare out of our radios and screens. It is with sadness that amid the charges laid against me (above), the moral track record of Joe Biden were omitted altogether. As a voter of Donald Trump at both Presidential elections, I did so never under an illusion that he was (or is) a person high moral character. There are somethings I dislike about his mannerisms. But I judge that the future of our national principles are at stake in making the choice that was in both cases before us, demand discerning between the two flawed leaders as to which would ensure the governmental institutions which would free us to make the moral choices required of us.

Yet in fact (although moral character is both desirable and preferred) it was not the personal conduct of either one of the candidates that drove my vote either time, but instead both the political vision of the United States I agree with (adherence to our founding goals expressed in our Constitution and their likelihood to carry out the will of the people in accordance with our founding documents. The relative commitment of these two candidates can be validly assessed whenever they are studied with an open mind.

Gary Jensen, Pastor © June 23, 2021
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (NALC), Berlin, PA, USA