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## **The Mocking Disrespect Continues**

*Steve Bakke*  *January 27, 2021*

It's not surprising, then, they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.

*Barack Obama, 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President*

As Americans settle into the reality of a new presidential administration, there are a lot of unfortunate emotions bubbling up. Trump is history, but the Trump Derangement Syndrome is alive and growing bolder. The new inquisitors in our land are looking to cancel, or at least punish, reprogram, and reeducate supporters of Trump. And it's becoming clear that, for many pundits, the strength of Christian support for Trump is baffling. "Trump Christians" are characterized as falling prey to conspiracy theories, false nationalism, and lack of reason and evidence.

These charges are really an attempted coup de grace, a stroke of mercy, coming from several corners regarding Christian supporters of Trump. I've read several commentators expressing how mystified they are that devout Christians could have been so taken in and conned by Trump that they could be so foolish as to support such a person, and still come back for more. To those tunnel-visioned, self-righteous pundits I say, "you're showing shallow thinking and gullible tendencies to grasp liberal talking points."

Don't over-analyze Trump voters' motivations, nor demean them. The explanation is quite straight-forward. The mocking of Christian Trump supporters is evidence that democrats turn their backs on objective comparisons of Trump with his political opponents. For many Trump Christians, it's difficult to look past phony dossiers, smashed computer hard drives, and the Clinton Foundation. Many of these things are well-documented and currently under investigation. How about the well-documented clandestine influence peddling by another candidate and his family members regarding Russia, Ukraine, and China. It was shady, but lucrative, and is now under investigation. Democrats turn a blind eye to those things. They completely ignore the transgressions of their "favorites," which is an indication that democrats are the ones being conned, not the Christian Trump supporters.

Christian Trump supporters don't reside in a foggy netherworld. They haven't been put under a mysterious spell. They don't swoon in the presence a cult leader. And they are aware of all his flaws. All things considered, neither Hillary Clinton nor Joe Biden could display the moral rectitude necessary to shove Trump to the corner.

Trump Christians didn't have to approve of words or personality traits in order to be thankful for policies and accomplishments. Clear thinking, not cult-like blindness, caused these folks to settle on a simple analysis of policies to make their decision. They put everything on a scale, including morals, style, past and pending investigations, and policies. Many Christians supported Trump, but it had little to do with their religion. It simply boiled down to common sense policies. Let's take a look at some of the things they like, don't like, and try to avoid at all costs.

Many Christians, along with other Trump supporters, appreciate having achieved the lowest black and Hispanic unemployment in U.S. history, and the increase in their per capita income. Border security, including an effective barrier, is a priority of Trump supporters, as are the opportunity zones Trump created in many cities. They oppose Democrat HR 1, a new bill that would outlaw requiring voter identification, notary, or witness signature as part of a process for obtaining an absentee ballot.

Many Christians join other Trump supporters in opposing the destruction of female sports programs by permitting access to teams and locker rooms by transgender women. They worry about policies affecting Israel, bemoan throwing away harsh sanctions against Iran, and praise the Abraham Accord for its furthering peace in the Mideast.

I could go on analyzing conservative policies regarding energy development and independence, lawless cities, urban poverty plantations, Big Tech, minimum wages, forgiving student loans, family issues, the rule of law, police departments, personal pronouns, federal judges, abortion, conflating evangelical Christians with white supremacy, abortion, "de-radicalization" programs, and on and on. There are many reasons for conservatives from all religions to support Trump.

Trump supporters, including many pesky Christians, put these common sense policies on the scale of political choices. For many, the element of style, morality, investigations and obvious transgressions were tossed into the corner of consideration because the Clintons and the Bidens don't have good grades in those areas. These Trump Christians, using nothing but common sense, got down to the substance of satisfying their policy preferences.

It seems the thoughts and comments of Obama from years ago started a train going down the wrong track and it's gobbled up many in its travels. He mocked the bitter Christians who cling to their guns and bibles. How disgusting. How unfair. How unamerican. That mocking disrespect continues.