

## Have white Christians lost sight of good and evil?

According to the Pew Research Center, exit polls show that clear majorities of white Christians, Protestant and Catholic, voted for Donald Trump. Among evangelicals, Trump's support rose to 81%. I can hardly overstate how dismaying these results are.

Here's what troubles me: There's no way to reconcile core Christian values and teaching with support for Donald Trump. I see no way around it. This profane servant of Mammon grotesquely embodies the opposite of almost everything I have come to value and cherish as a person of faith and a citizen.

Consider the Old Testament call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly." That at least means trying to be fair, not cheating people, giving the disadvantaged a real chance, practicing forgiveness rather than retribution, not boasting or making oneself out to be great or pretending to be smarter than everybody else. Nobody measures up to all this, but some people sincerely make the effort. However, our President-elect boasts instead of how he has enriched himself at the expense of others, how he's going to make people pay if they do "bad" things, how he alone can fix things to make America great.

Then there's Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors (whether Mexican, Chinese, Muslim, undocumented, doesn't matter) as ourselves, and to care for "the least of these" by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, welcoming and sheltering the stranger. It doesn't stop there. To the rich man who seeks eternal blessing, Jesus says to sell all his goods, give the proceeds to the poor, and follow him. I don't expect any President to be a saint, but I do look for some hard evidence that he or she regrets and wants to remedy the extraordinary injustices and suffering caused by great inequalities in wealth and power.

I'm not sure what Jesus would have done in our election, but surely he would not have voted for Trump. Yet the majority of white Christians voted for him. Most Christians of color did not. Nor did most non-Christians. What can explain this? Are most white Christians not paying attention? Or have they disregarded the teaching of their faith?

I know, many claim Trump was the lesser of two evils – but seriously? That's a perverse misjudgment, beyond reasonable justification. People who cannot see that have lost sight of good and evil. Greater moral and spiritual discernment is indispensable.

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