

Can Christians Morally Justify Voting for Trump?

In my 2020 book, “Evangelicals at the Crossroads: Will We Pass the Trump Test?,” I devoted a whole chapter to the question, “Does Character Still Count and Does Morality Still Matter?” Four years later, that question still applies, especially for Christian conservatives. They (or, we) cannot possibly vote for Kamala Harris for a number of reasons. But can we, in good conscience, vote for Donald Trump?

Back in 1998, in response to the candidacy of Bill Clinton, the Southern Baptist Convention drafted a resolution stating clearly that “that moral character matters to God and should matter to all citizens, especially God’s people, when choosing public leaders.”

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In keeping with this, the resolution called upon “all Americans to embrace and act on the conviction that character does count in public office, and to elect those officials and candidates who, although imperfect, demonstrate consistent honesty, moral purity and the highest character.”

How do we reconcile this with our support for Trump (and I write this as a two-time voter for Trump)? Does he, “although imperfect, demonstrate consistent honesty, moral purity and the highest character”? Hardly.

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How, then, can we justify voting for him?

Many have responded, "We're electing a president, not a pastor (or priest). We're voting for a commander-in-chief, not a spiritual leader."

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