

Five Reasons Evangelicals Continue to Support Donald Trump

A continuing source of frustration for many on the left, and even some on the right, is how evangelicals continue to support Donald Trump. If Trump doesn't love his enemies, [the argument goes](#), aren't Christians complicit in evil by supporting a president who so directly opposes Christ's commands?

Here are five possible reasons why evangelical Christians continue to throw their support behind Trump.

1. "Promises Made, Promises Kept"

President Trump recently made "Promises Made, Promises Kept" into a new campaign slogan. At least [eleven of the claims](#) in his State of the Union address were valid, including building the border wall and increasing American stability. His achievements in removing key leaders from ISIS, the documented strengthening of U.S. manufacturing, and historically low minority unemployment rates also catapulted Trump from being "better than the alternative," to an established defender of the policies many evangelicals care about.

2. Defense of Religion

It's troubling to some to see Trump supporting the importance of "God, family, and country" while disagreeing with [the faith claims made by Mitt Romney or Nancy Pelosi](#).

Yet during [his prayer breakfast address](#), President Trump also brought attention to the plight of persecuted Christians and religious minorities, which has led to his administration's founding of the International Religious Freedom Alliance. Strides such as these, securely tying Judeo-Christian heritage to America's culture, serve to make evangelicals open to

continuing to support Trump.

3. The Threat of Secular Socialism

On May 20, 2019, [a Gallup poll](#) revealed that 43 percent of Americans embraced some form of socialism, while 51 percent believed its implementation would be bad for the country. We seem divided between those who see the “free stuff” and social support promised by governments of countries like Sweden or Venezuela, and those who remember Stalin and the slaughter of the kulaks (pointing out the eerie similarities in the rhetoric coming from Bernie Sanders’ camp), Pol Pot and the killing fields, and Mao’s starvation of his own people.

Many evangelicals recognize that while the early church shared their possessions in a manner some view as socialism, they were not proponents of socialism as an ideology, for they weren’t mandated to share with all people. Neither were they commanded to love their neighbor by Caesar, but instead by Christ. In other words, many evangelicals recognize that free associations and love for individuals provide social support in better ways than mandated participation in government safety nets.

4. The Derangement of Critical Theory

The contrast between the Judeo-Christian priority of the individual and neo-Marxist tendencies to make a virtue out of being a minority is scary to many evangelicals. Critical theory, at its core, is a philosophy that reduces individual relationships to power dynamics. In a just society, if I’m weaker than you, I should be helped by your breaking the power of my oppressor group. Ironically, this plays off of Judeo-Christian assumptions that echo the virtue of Christ crucified to save others, the picture of virtue in the Western psyche.

The greater the oppressor identities (cis-gender, straight, white, male), the greater the castigation. The greater the oppressed identity (trans-gender, bi, POC, female), the greater the implicit virtue. [Christians are concerned](#) about

what [this “trojan horse” is doing to their communities](#). They find that the Gospel narrative classifies individuals as those who fall short of God’s glory and individually need Him to transform them, rather than dividing them into [classes of skin-based identities](#) that can only find God through listening to others.

5. Commitment to the Pro-life Movement

Trump is the first President to attend the March for Life and has appointed hundreds of pro-life justices, thus abating the fears of [many skeptical Christians](#).

While confessing Christians like Pete Buttigieg [might argue that “life begins at breath,”](#) the union of body and soul in the womb caused most Christians from the early church onward to identify abortion as infanticide. As early as A.D. 110, the Didache, an early Christian tract for teaching converts, said that Christians “shall not murder a child by abortion nor commit infanticide.” With Bernie Sanders excommunicating pro-life Democrats, Trump seems to be one of the few voices at the national stage whom evangelicals can trust to uphold their viewpoint on life.

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