

My consternation, since Trump was first elected and with the dictatorial fealty now shown him by the entire Republican Party, has been centered upon how any person with a mind and heart who calls themselves by the name of Christ or wears the symbol of Christianity around their neck, could rationalize how lying, defrauding, immorality, amorality, and other of his and their hideous pathologies are acceptable and applaudable. Let alone all the isms we can think of that are the history and present qualities of Trump and his sycophants. It just goes beyond my ability to comprehend how people so easily compromise the amazing grace of God shown in Jesus by casting their lot with a selfish, narcissistic, evil person(s) like Trump and the Trumpublicans. I'm someone who has relatives who do just this and, in their complete ignorance of anything bordering on ethical or rational, consider it part of their civic and even religious obligation. These family members are no longer welcome in my life. Without sounding pious or self-righteous, family relations simply cannot bridge such a wide divide.

And I can hardly contain myself about the silence of the Church or churches. We all probably grew up separating church and state and religion from politics. That worked at times when our elected leaders at least gave us the appearance that they cared about the people they were chosen to serve and seemed to have some level of character and sense. But self-serving has replaced service, and people are now simply votes to be courted and controlled, so the traditional relationship between these two dynamics no longer applies. I'm not the first to think or say this, but the lack of protest from those who claim to worship the Lord is deafening. The Church, with the exception of a Bonhoeffer or two, was also eerily silent in 1930's Germany and I'm sure many of my long-ago relatives thought Hitler was the best choice for their country and willingly died in service to Der Fuhrer. And I thought we were called by Jesus to give up our lives for the sake of the Gospel and our neighbor! Silly me. I must have attended the wrong seminary!

I'll stop for now and spare you any more diatribe. I look forward to reading your upcoming article with or without any assistance from me. We are living at time almost similar to the intertestamental times when "there wasn't a prophet in the land." The depressing part is that maybe "God's left the building" and we're now left to reap whatever it is our world is currently prefers to sow. Lord, have mercy.