

OP ED

Our Parents Need Help! Can You Help Them?

My name is Alice and my brother's name is Will. We are teen agers, me a high school senior and my brother a junior. We love our parents and they love us. However we are concerned about them and hope you can help.

They have tried to bring us up in a Christian family based on the values that preach "Love your neighbor" and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", respect others, tell the truth and abide by the law.

We are trying to live up to their teachings but are confused by their behavior. They have become more angry, critical of other people and disrespectful of decisions that are made by government. They do not appear to be happy and we observe that their behavior seems to be "Do as we say, not as we do"?

They have been practicing Christians and take us to church every Sunday where we engage in a service that promises that we will go to haven if they routinely practice the basic teachings of our religion. However after church their behavior is quite different.

They are spending an increasing amount of their time with friends whose behavior is anything but Christian; anti any people who are different from us. They do not like Jews. They do not like African Americans, they do not like Latinos, they do not like Asians, and they do not like immigrants. They are outspoken about their increasing fear that these groups may be gaining power that will cause our parents and their friends to replace them as the historical ethnic group in power. Many of our friends are members of these groups and believe they are great contributors to our school and do not see them as a threat to our future, but an asset.

We don't understand this behavior! It seems to be the opposite of the behavior they have been teaching us and what our Christian religion tells us how to behave.

They have always been active in politics and members of the Republican Party which historically has been the party of Law and Order and equal opportunity for all American citizens. We have learned about today's Republican Party which no longer appears to be as it was. The party appears to be taken over by one person, ex-president Donald Trump, and has ceased to be a party that respects law and the Constitution but focuses all of its attention and resources on the self-interests of ex-president Trump.

We don't understand how our parents can be telling us that we should respect the law and be respectful of others when, when in practice the Party they continue to support has turned its back on these values. How can they continue to support a leader who has been indicted and convicted for has unlawful acts, is presently facing trial in three other cases in which he is charged with the citing of the assault of our Capital which both Bill and I watched in fear, his stealing of the government's classified documents and attempt to steal the last presidential election.

Will and I were shocked to learn that my parents continue to support ex-president Trump after being convicted for trying to influence the 2016 election by paying a newspaper to publish articles that were written to lie about other candidates for President, and that he paid money to this publication to prevent voters to learn about his sexual encounters with other women shortly after his wife gave birth of his son.

We did not know about his shameful and immoral behavior captured by the “Access Hollywood” video tape. This tape captures Trump’s behavior in disregard and lack of respect for women. His words confirm his inability control himself in of in sexually abusing women in detailed terms I, at that time did not fully understand. I asked my parents to explain. They claimed we were too young and refused to discuss this incident further. We did get the shocking explanation even though our parents did not want to discuss it.

If my brother Will were to disrespect the umpire in his baseball games and call the games he lost as “rigged” my father would have called him a poor sport and punished him. If I told my mother I was dating a classmate who had been convicted of rape and other behavior that was sexually abuse of women she would demand that I have nothing to do with this person. However they both continue to support a person who never is a good sport in accepting defeat and is a convicted rapist and felon. His refusal to accept defeat went to far as to cause the insurrection and assault on our nation’s capital to declare himself President even though all evidence proves he was a loser.

We do not understand how our parents as good Christians could tolerate the anti-Christian conduct of ex-president Trump and why they continue to regard him as a good Christian and a person they would want to support.

It is clear to us that if either Bill or I were to behave in the manner ex-president Trump behaved we would be admonished by our parents and told no uncertain terms that such behavior was not tolerable in their family. I expect we would be punished every time we behaved in a manner that ex-president Trump routinely behaves.

We love our parents but fear they have somehow been seduced into engaging in behaviors that are counter to our Christian values and behaviors which they we would not allow us to engage in.

Can you help us get our parents to see that they are trying to bring us up as good Americans, but are behaving in ways that are totally opposite from those they are teaching us? We are both confused as to how we should behave. We are unsure how we should respond to their behavior. We want to help them but want to avoid any negative effect on our loving family relationship.

Thanks for any help you can provide!

Alice and Bill

Written by: Thomas Paine

Date: June 1, 2024