

How to Have the Dreaded "Trump Talk"



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Beacon

The "Trump Talk"

I'm trying to be winsome. Let's talk.

Donald Trump does not support conservative positions.

If you're a conservative--and especially if you're a Christian, there are some facts about Trump which ought to be taken seriously.

If you don't know the problems with Trump, go to his site. See what he believes. Watch him in interviews. Read what conservative sources are saying about him as a candidate.

Then look at the following facts. *Just* the facts for a moment.

I'm just asking nine questions that have objective, yes or no, answers.

Nine Factual Questions

1. Did Trump recently state, "Planned Parenthood does some good work"?
2. Several years ago, did he claim he was in support of legalizing partial-birth abortions?
3. Did Trump say he thought his sister would make an excellent type of person to be a Supreme Court nominee? (And isn't his sister a famous abortion advocate?)
4. Does Trump believe companies should be able to use eminent domain to take people's land?
5. Has Trump owned a strip club?
6. Has Trump donated money to Hillary Clinton?
7. Has Trump confirmed that he buys favors from politicians?
8. Has Trump stated that he has never needed to be forgiven by God for anything he has done?
9. Has Trump used vulgar terms to describe his opponents and women in general?

Those nine questions are not controversial or subject to interpretation. They are objectively searchable.

You can find out what kind of person Trump is. Your support of Trump tells the world what kind of person you are.

Agree so far?

If you're not sure about the answers to those nine questions, it's time to spend 9 minutes on Google.

Given the answers, and given that you're still reading, I'll take a chance and assume you're ready to reject Trump as a candidate.

Next problem:

How can you talk with people who have fallen under Trump's spell?

I suggest taking the approach that I did above with nine or so questions.

When you're talking with a Trumpling, do not let the discussion turn into speculation.

1. Don't focus on who has the best chance at winning the primary or the general election.
2. Don't discuss speculations about how much better the country would be under a "strong leader" such as Trump.
3. Don't let the discussion turn to how "crooked" or "deceptive" some other politician is.
4. Don't debate whether Trump's bankruptcies were okay or not.

If the Trumpling tries to talk about the need to protect the United States from this or that threat, or any other issue of this kind, **step in and clarify the kind of conversation you want to have.**

Tell the person that those other considerations are important and they are something you want to talk about soon—after you talk about some other questions. It's totally fair to do this.

Say this:

"I know you want to talk about a couple questions, and I have a couple I'd like to talk about too. I'm willing to listen to your point of view too. But before we get into our conclusions, I'd like to make sure we're in agreement about the basic facts about Trump."

Then go ahead and explain a handful of verifiable things Trump has said or done. But when you do that, you need to take this important step: **You need to frame the discussion.**

What does that mean? You need to explain what you are going to do before you actually do it. And here's what it looks like.

You say:

"I'm going to tell you some things that I think are facts about Trump. I've collected a lot of information and from that I came to a conclusion. So I'm going to name a couple of things about Trump that I believe are true, and after I name these things, I'd like to go back and give you a chance to tell me if you think I've made any mistakes about the facts themselves. I'm going to ask you, please let's start by finding out whether we agree about certain facts. Once we agree, then we can talk about which facts have the most weight and what our conclusion should be."

Focus on the Facts

Then go ahead and tell the person some facts, and find out if they agree. Keep them on track. They are going to try to change the subject. Don't let them. Say, "I want to keep talking about whether these facts are true or false. I'm trying to build a foundation for our discussion, so we need to agree on at least some basics."

You see, here's the situation:

Most Trump supporters are under-informed. And it's embarrassing. Don't make the mistake I typically make, which is to put them on the spot. For example, don't ask, "How many of the debates have you watched?" Why put them on the defensive?

Your goal is to get the person to acknowledge that there are some facts about which they are not yet knowledgeable. It's not embarrassing to say, "Gee, I don't actually know the answer to that specific question."

Once you move the other person into the frame of mind in which they can actually admit that there are things they have not thought about, you have disarmed them. They are no longer in the position to tell you their conclusion because it has become apparent that they have some work to do first.

That's about all you can hope to accomplish with a Trump supporter.

You cannot do his thinking for him. But you can encourage him to ask questions he has not thought to ask.

Namely:

1. Would it make a difference if Trump turned out to be a supporter of Planned Parenthood?
2. Would it matter if Trump supported partial-birth abortions?
3. Does it matter what kind of person Trump would nominate to the Supreme Court?
4. Is eminent domain an important topic?
5. Should we consider electing as president a man who has owned a strip club?
6. Do a person's past campaign donations matter?
7. Do we want a president who thinks it's okay to buy politicians?
8. Do we want a president who knows nothing about Christianity?
9. Do we want a president who uses vulgar terms to describe his opponents and women in general?

10. (Bonus!) How many of the above vices would you be willing to accept in a man who is asking you to help him become the most powerful person in the world?

When we think of the massive support that Donald Trump has from those who call themselves by the name of Christ, we realize just how confused the world has become.

We are living in an age like the time of Daniel and his friends. The kingdom does not belong to us. But we are still important in that kingdom. We are advisors to kings.

Let us do what Daniel did. Know the Scriptures. If need be, risk it all to become a man or a woman who prays and who takes godly leadership.

Daniel did not save Babylon. But Daniel played a great role in saving the Jews.

In our own story, we play the part of Daniel. Play to win. Win the nation if you can. But never compromise God's truth to win. Never support ungodliness.

Trump's rise to fame places Christians in an awkward position. Our intellectual nakedness is our shame.

But I have hope. Because "making America great" is only part of my mission. I also seek to make America good.

Ready to Stand for Liberty and Virtue?

Coming Soon:
"Social Justice and Scripture."

- What is Social Justice?
- Why is it wrong?
- What does the Bible say about it?

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