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Good People Don't Defend A Bad Man

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At times in this life it can be a challenge to figure out who the bad people are, but sometimes they help you.

Sometimes they do the work for you.

Sometimes with their every vulgar, bitter word from their mouth, they testify to their personal malignancy and they make it easy to identify them.

Generally speaking, there are things that good people do and things good people don't do.

Good people don't refer to entire countries as "shitholes"—most notably countries that have given birth to our very humanity; ones that for hundreds of years have been colonized and poached and mined of their riches by powerful white men; countries whose people have been enslaved and sold and forced to come and build your country.

Good people by any measurement we might use—simply don't say such things.

Of course good people also don't say they could grab women by the genitalia, either. They don't defend racists and nazis and call them "fine people," days after murdering a young girl and terrorizing an American city.

They don't brag about their penis size during debates, or suggest protestors at campaign rallies should be roughed up, or crack jokes about captured war heroes, or make fun of the physically disabled.

They don't.

Good people don't tweet anti-Muslim rhetoric in the moments immediately following a bombing in order to bolster a position.

They don't leave American territories filled with brown skinned people without power for months upon months, after publicly ridiculing their public servants and questioning their people's resolve.

They don't erase protections for the water and the air, for the elderly, the terminally ill, the LGBTQ.

They don't take away healthcare from the sick and the poor without an alternative.

They don't gouge the working poor and shelter the wealthy.

They don't abuse their unrivaled platform to Twitter-bait world leaders and to taunt private citizens.

Good people don't prey upon the vulnerable, they don't leverage their power to bully dissenters, and they don't campaign for sexual predators.

But this President is simply not a good human being, and there's simply no way around this truth.

He is the ugliest personification of the Ugly American, which is why, as long as he is here and as long as he represents this nation, we will be a fractured mess and a global embarrassment. He will be the ever lowering bar of our legacy in the world.

And what is painfully obvious in these moments, isn't simply that the person alleging to lead this country is a terrible human being—it is that anyone left still defending him, applauding him, justifying him, amending him, probably is too.

At this point, the only reason left to support this President, is that he reflects your hateful heart; he shares your contempt of people of color, your hostility toward outsiders, your ignorant bigotry, your feeling of supremacy.

A white President calling countries filled with people of color shitholes, is so far beyond the pale, so beneath decency, and so blatantly racist that it shouldn't merit conversation. It should be universally condemned. Humanity should be in agreement in abhorring it.

And yet today (like so many other seemingly rock bottom days in the past twelve months) they will be out there: white people claiming to be good people and Christian people, who will make excuses for him or debate his motives or diminish the damage.

They will dig their heels in to explain away or to defend, what at the end of the day is simply a bad human being saying the things that bad human beings say because their hearts harbor very bad things.

No, good people don't call countries filled with beautiful, creative, loving men and women shitholes.

And good people don't defend people who do.

You're going to have to make a choice here.