

I have an acquaintance from long ago, a man who graduated from high school a few years before I did. I haven't seen him for a number of years, although he lives just a few miles away. We don't have much in common anymore, and since the pandemic, I don't have as much contact with others. But, something has been very troubling to me. I know that this person is a Republican, and as such, seems to have not recognized the difference between what that political party has become these last decades and the mainstream conservative party his mother undoubtedly voted for all her life. I see his Trump sign in front of his house, so I am pretty sure he has made up his mind who he is going to vote for this year, too.

But, this is where I have such difficulty understanding this. The person I am thinking about, as I remember him, was a very kind person. There was a younger boy in school who was afraid to walk the few blocks from his home to school because there was another lad a few years older who threatened to beat him up, and probably did, at least once. So, this other older boy began walking to school with the fearful child, and in doing so, protected him from this bully.

How can a person, years later, support a bully that is trying to intimidate not only one person, but an entire segment of the American population.? How can a kind, normal man support a bully who threatens to extract "retribution" for the actions of their political opponents? And how can a person who espouses Christian ideals stomach a profane, mean, filthy-talking person like Donald Trump?