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**Resolving Political Dissonance**

One of the oddities of human behavior is that people often vote and behave in violation of their own interests. A vivid example is the proclivity of a large percentage of evangelicals to support a president whose words and deeds contradict some of the most basic tenets of Christianity.

My purpose here is not to condemn this; others already have persuasively done that. Rather, I wish to illustrate how all of us — including me — have a natural tendency to become selfish, allowing our narrower personal gains to outweigh what we know is right and wrong.

I find myself confronted with this dilemma. I did not vote for Donald Trump and critique him extensively. However, I am faced with the selfish realization that during Mr. Trump’s tenure in office my 401(k) has grown and taxes have declined.

Whether that is directly due to his policies or simply coinciding with his White House occupancy is not the issue. What is noteworthy is that I often feel guilty for even entertaining the thought that it might be better for me to refrain from criticizing Mr. Trump, being content that as I approach retirement my financial future is solid. I also worry that my open criticism of Trump already has produced hateful responses from anonymous readers.

I suspect and hope that my concern for ethics and morality ultimately will prevail. But I would be lying if I said this isn’t a constant struggle.

*Richard Cherwitz*
*Austin, Tex.*