

Guest Commentary¹

“Obama’s Judgment”

Much has already been said concerning Senator Obama and Reverend Wright, and much more will be said before the Presidential campaign is over. With apologists rushing to Senator Obama’s aid, I would encourage Black political leaders to consider why whites are so offended and not just claim we don’t understand blacks. The fact is, most of the country is shocked and dismayed by Reverend Wright’s racist, white-loathing, inflammatory rhetoric. Not only are whites portrayed as the cause of all evil, but the Reverend chooses to believe and promote demonstrable lies (i.e. our government invented HIV/AIDS to kill people of color; Jesus was a Black man; we are greater terrorists than al Qaeda).

But what concerns me even more is that a man claiming a long, close, personal friendship to Reverend Wright, one who describes him like family, a mentor, a personal spiritual leader who brought him to Christ, is seeking to be President of the United States.

Senator Obama’s 18 March speech was masterfully delivered, touched many hot buttons needing open public discourse, but fell far short of being convincing about his honesty and judgment. To have known Reverend Wright for as long and intimately as Senator Obama has indicated, yet to show “surprise” by his disdain for the white race and far left conspiratorial beliefs, is misleading at best and crass political expediency at worst. But even beyond that I think the most startling revelation is the lack of any attempt by Senator Obama to confront Reverend Wright’s obvious racism and false beliefs. To downplay on one hand long standing, deep seated racial bigotry and on the other hand to claim to have not been aware of it over twenty years of friendship and sermons makes one wonder how perceptive Senator Obama is, or whether he understands how the flames of racial hatred are fanned.

But let’s consider even further, if Senator Obama had admitted to confronting Reverend Wright about his views, and had tried to reason with him but to no avail, I could actually be sympathetic to his situation. But that never happened. Instead, Senator Obama gave a shallow condemnation of the rhetoric, and a firm endorsement of the man, and no indication of ever challenging or even questioning his obvious vitriol towards anything white. This has to give me pause about Senator Obama’s true thoughts about race, and his incredible willingness to sit by (with his family) and passively endorse verbal poison that stokes more racial hatred than there already is. Reverend Wright’s words are not just “political views”, they’re racial doctrine. If Senator Obama claims to be a Christian but is unwilling to confront evil, this is more than an oversight or faithfully standing by your pastor, this is personal weakness and a potentially

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fatal character flaw. Is this who we want to run our nation, to “bridge the racial divide”, to decide how to deal with radical Islam? The “change” he constantly speaks of, is one that may actually reverse much of the racial progress that has occurred over our generation. I’m not willing to take that chance, are you?

One final note to consider. Who would a President-elect Obama invite to give the invocation during the Presidential inauguration? Would it be the most influential spiritual leader of his entire Christian life, or someone else? Who will continue to provide spiritual mentorship during difficult and challenging times? Maybe his political expediency will only last until the final vote is counted.

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