

WHY DO SO MANY CHRISTIANS SUPPORT HOWARD DEAN?

**Dean exemplifies many basic Christian values,
especially ones ignored or under attack by the current administration –
as in these examples. Therefore he deserves serious consideration
by people who care about Christian values.**

1. Thanks to Dean, political apathy is dropping. Many who have not voted for years are becoming enthusiastic – a very good sign for American democracy. Hundreds of thousands from various parties are actively following and supporting the campaign. Dean came from way behind to take the lead among Democrats in California before the campaign had any paid workers in the state. As they say it, the grassroots “want our country back.”
2. He believes all Americans should have access to health care. He was successful as Governor in pursuing that goal for Vermont, and will pursue that goal from the White House for all of us.
3. He believes all Americans should have access to decent jobs. He was successful as Governor in pursuing that goal for Vermont, and will pursue that goal from the White House for all of us.
4. He believes in rural revitalization and in giving family farms a chance to come back as real players in the ag economy, and he has intelligent, workable plans to promote that. He was successful in promoting these issues in Vermont.
5. He believes in fiscal responsibility, unlike the current Administration and Congress. Budgets were balanced during Dean’s tenure in Vermont even though he was not required by law to do that. He found the state with a large deficit, and left it with a surplus over \$10 million. The fiscal sanity he implemented in Vermont was practiced WHILE achieving health insurance coverage for over 90% of adults and 99% of children – WHILE increasing support for agriculture and rural communities – WHILE increasing employment and job quality.
6. He does not believe fiscal soundness requires pampering the wealthy while casting the unemployed, the working poor, and the middle class adrift from the benefits of living in this powerful economy.
7. He does not believe in “trickle down” economics – the idea that if you pile vastly more wealth on the already extremely wealthy, it will somehow “trickle down” to the rest of us. He will undo the massive tax-cut gifts this administration has given to the exceedingly wealthy. These gifts have not trickled down into jobs for the rest of us, but have generated record-setting and on-going deficits that will cripple the government for decades to come. Our children and grandchildren will pay dearly for our short-run excesses.
8. He stood against our invasion of Iraq when polls showed 70% in favor of it – he has the courage of his convictions and stood with many of our religious leaders. As it turns out his concerns were valid and are increasingly reflected in public opinion. He acts from independent research and honest thought. He will not pressure government agencies to report what he wants to hear.
9. He knows how necessary US military might and presence are in promoting peace and stability around the world. He strongly advocates using the US military intelligently and cooperatively for those purposes. He supported our military entrance into Afghanistan.
10. He says that – having gone wrongly into Iraq (with poor evidence, unrealistic planning, and very few allies) – the US is now obligated to be in Iraq to provide stability for picking up the pieces and constituting a government of, by, and for Iraqis. He will energetically pursue a collaborative approach to this massive project.

11. He believes we should return to a collaborative approach in international relations across the board. And he believes it is wrong and dangerous to unilaterally break treaty obligations, as the current Administration has done so frequently.
12. Evenhandedness and effectiveness in dealing with Israelis and Palestinians is the Carter - Clinton legacy. He will restore that more balanced and productive approach to replace the dangerous practices we are engaged in now.
13. He believes in free trade, but only if labor and environmental standards are enforced for all trading partners. This will help eliminate the abuses that free trade is inflicting on the poor and working classes in other countries, and will make American business interests slower to take actions that undermine the welfare of American workers.
14. He opposes the so-called Patriot Act, and the destruction of American rights that it pursues. We are losing the freedoms the 9/11 attackers had hoped to make us lose; they have to that extent succeeded. We should, for example, be putting our money and effort into protecting our ports rather than secretly snooping into the library and bookstore records of American citizens.
15. He calls "No Child Left Behind" – the Administration's education reform bill – just what it is, an unfunded mandate that makes it much more difficult for school districts to do a good job of meeting the needs of children at the local level. And he points out that the legislation is under-funded by the Administration by an amount that would have been more than covered by the recent \$87 billion request for Iraq adventures.
16. He says what he thinks. "With me, what you see is what you get. And you're not going to like every bit of it, but you're always going to know where I stand and why I stand there." He does not adjust his message on the basis of poll feedback, the desires of potential blocks of voters, or the private interests of groups of large-gift donors.
17. He appreciates religious diversity and is concerned to see our government begin acting again in ways that honor the ethical standards underlying our great religious traditions. Dean's background is Methodist and Congregational. His wife is Jewish.
18. We will know where he stands, what his goals are, and who is influencing his thinking and decisions. Unlike our experience with the current resident of the White House, there will be no need to guess ahead of time or read between the lines to know what he cares about and what he will really go to work on.
19. This campaign is founded on the ordinary people of this country, Dean raised over \$7 million in the second quarter of this year – a VERY impressive amount – and the average donation was under \$70 – an even MORE impressive figure. Dean does not depend on the mega-buck election-buyers who have been so successful in recent years.
20. Dean and his wife are both Medical Doctors. They worked together in private practice until he became Governor of Vermont upon the unexpected death of his predecessor. She remains in full-time practice and hopes to continue in medicine after they move to Washington, D.C. He is not a Washington or Wall Street insider, and is neither a lawyer nor a lobbyist.

All these issues have moral resonance. In these things Dean is consistent with Biblical and historically Christian priorities. For these reasons it is not difficult for many Christians to feel they should support Howard Dean for the Presidency.