So the only real Christians are republican and conservative?

by Roland_S_Martin

I get a kick out of reading some of the pure junk that you see floating around the Internet.

Take, for example, the Web site NewsBusters.org, which is the official blog of the Media Research Center. The site's writers claim to be on the lookout for liberal media bias, but it's a joke to see them write about how it's a fact-based site.

Tim Graham, the director of media analysis at the Media Research Center, penned a piece titled "CNN's Obama Fan Roland Martin Claims He's Really Religious and Moderate." He was criticizing a profile done on me by Howard Kurtz in The Washington Post.

Now, if someone discusses his own faith and is open about it, how does he "claim" to be religious? I always have been a Christian, am married to an ordained minister, have been very active in the church, and have authored a Christian book. I "claim" I'm a Christian?

Then Graham used the word "moderate." First, I never have called myself a moderate. I've said that on some issues, someone may call me a liberal and that on other issues, someone may call me a conservative. I prefer to call myself an independent thinker.

Clearly showing his conservative bias, Graham wrote that I am portrayed on CNN "routinely as a liberal Obama supporter." I don't recall CNN having a seat for a "liberal" McCain supporter or a "conservative" Obama supporter. It typically was whose side you were on, Obama's or McCain's.

Are these folks lacking in basic critical thinking? Graham then tried to blast my pastor, the Rev. James Meeks, by pulling out salacious comments the Rev. Meeks has made regarding the N-word and by calling the Rev. Meeks a Democrat. True, but Zell Miller is a Democrat, and conservatives just LOVE Zell! The point I'm making is that you have some folks who are liberal when it comes to political causes they support but are conservative on social issues.

What Graham failed to mention is that social conservatives love the Rev. Meeks. What Graham also failed to tell his readers is that the Rev. Meeks was featured on the cover of Christianity Today and that the Rev. Meeks is an ardent pro-lifer and is against gay marriage. The Rev. Meeks also successfully fought to rid the community where his church is based of liquor stores. Poor Tim also failed to mention the racial reconciliation efforts the Rev. Meeks has been doing with Pastor Bill Hybels, one of the top conservative evangelicals in the country.

See, Graham doesn't want to tell his readers any of that because he doesn't want them to have the whole truth. He wants them to have only some of it. Those pesky facts always get in the way of a good story, right, Tim?

I bet that had he told his readers about the Rev. Meeks' other views, they would have said: "Wow! We agree with this guy!" The real aim of some of these conservatives is not to have Christians disagree with some of their policy positions.

Graham also cited an inane article by Matthew Balan, who had the nerve to say that I bashed pro-lifers as being "hateful"; slammed John McCain's voting record against the war in Iraq; said conservatives don't care about babies once the babies are born; and called Rush Limbaugh a big fat idiot.

This is an easy one. First, there are some hateful pro-lifers â€” you know, the fools who go to the funerals of troops shouting their nonsense and the idiots who blow up abortion clinics. Yeah, they are hateful.

Yes, I bashed conservatives who spout their pro-life mission statement but vote against prenatal care. Yes, I bashed conservatives who talk about the importance of life but aren't willing to fund inner-city schools the same way suburban schools are funded. Yep, I nailed them for their hypocrisy.

Did I call Rush Limbaugh a big fat idiot? Sure did! But I also have blasted Democrats for being stuck on stupid when it comes to some of their nutty ideas.

I'm ripped for blasting McCain and his war vote, but didn't I also rip then-Sen. Hillary Clinton for her war vote? Hmm. Isn't she a Democrat?

You see, these weasels are very selective in what they write. They know the folks who read their site take their comments as gospel and are unwilling to seek the full truth.

I've grown tired of the boxes â€” "liberal" or "conservative." Ask me about the issue, and I'll give you my opinion. I might sound like a liberal, or I might sound like a conservative. Thankfully, I choose to look at people and issues, not ideology.

The box we call that where I come from is "American."

Roland S. Martin is an award-winning CNN contributor and the author of "Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith."

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