

## I don't know if you're a fascist, but.....

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One of the perverse facts in our society is that it is, apparently, worse to call out a racist than it is to be a racist.

Similarly, it is worse to call out a fascist than it is to be a fascist.

The lesson on how to manage this issue was provided by the amazing black rights campaigner, James Baldwin. This is from an interview he gave on the Dick Cavett show in the 1960s:

<https://youtu.be/WWwOj17WHpE?si=qp3Cq7D7CFsC84T3>

The most famous quotation to come out of this was Baldwin saying “I can't believe what you say, because I see what you do.”

The argument Baldwin made was so powerful because the citation of its source of authority was implicit within it. The actions of the person about whom the comment is made provides the evidence to validate the observation.

So, instead of calling out the fascist these could be said:

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see you promote the cult of an infallible leader.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see that you treat migrants as enemies to be removed.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see that you're attacking women's rights.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see that you are seeking to control what universities and schools can teach.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see you promote the role of Christian religion within the state.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see you have a disdain for the rule of law.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see you are opposed to human rights.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see that you're opposed to free speech and the right to protest.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist, but I see that you're biased towards the interests of those with wealth.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist but I see you're dedicated to creating narratives about the enemy within.*

*I don't know if you're a fascist but I can see you promoting false narratives.*

Thoughts?