

# Is Ann Coulter Breaking Herself?

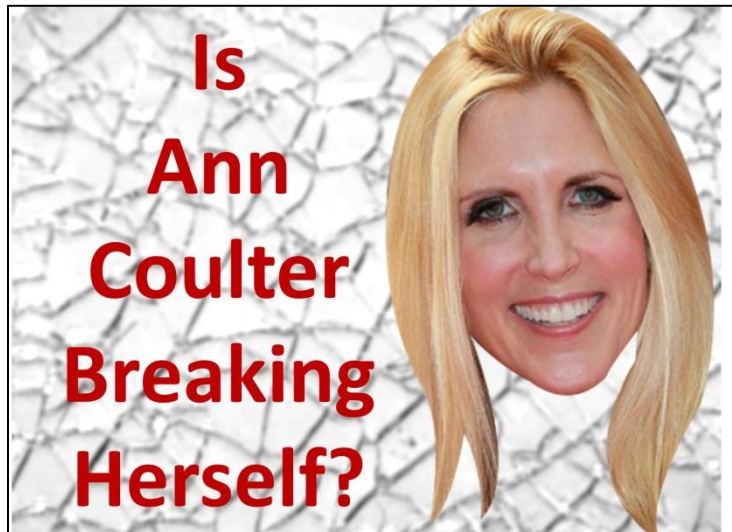
**“The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.”**  
– Samuel Johnson

## Broken Integrity

Last year, Ann Coulter wrote an incisive review<sup>1</sup> of the season finale of *Breaking Bad*, AMC’s critically-acclaimed mega-hit television series. The series creator defined “Breaking Bad” as “to raise hell,” and intended to portray a character whose deliberate choices led to becoming more and more depraved. I [praised her essay](#) and hoped her spiritual insights pointed to her “breaking good” or “raising heaven” in her life.<sup>2</sup>

Over the years, astute observers have noted Coulter’s serious character flaws, some waxing, others waning. In large measure, her *written* political commentary has dramatically improved in recent years, though her *extemporaneous* remarks often leave much to be desired. That is perhaps in part due to a spiritual battle being waged within and around her.

My issues with Coulter have always sprung from her demonstrated lack of integrity. Integrity speaks to wholeness. The two principal definitions of integrity are: 1) moral uprightness, and 2) the state of being whole. That Coulter has not been morally upright is a reflection of her lack of wholeness.



Samuel Johnson observed, “The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.” To become one of the most recognizable conservative leaders in America today, Coulter compromised in many areas.<sup>3</sup> She got caught up in herself and she developed habits which have doubtless seemed unbreakable to her.<sup>4</sup> She has broken herself.<sup>5</sup>

In the past two weeks, Coulter has provided three examples of her commentary which point to deep matters of the heart: arrogance, vindictiveness, and deceit.

<sup>1</sup> Ann Coulter, “Breaking Bad: A Christian Parable,” 10/2/13.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Borchers, “Is *Breaking Bad* Breaking Good for Ann Coulter?” [www.coulterwatch.com/breaking.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/breaking.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Daniel Borchers, *The Beauty of Conservatism*, 2011, available as a free download at [www.coulterwatch.com/beauty.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/beauty.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Borchers, *Vanity: Ann Coulter’s Quest for Glory*, 2012, available as a free download at [www.coulterwatch.com/vanity.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/vanity.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Daniel Borchers, *Never Trust Ann Coulter – at ANY Age*, 2013, available as a free download at [www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf).

The first example could be chalked up to over-exuberance, yet it reveals a continuing arrogant sense of superiority and a need for total control. In this instance, Coulter was determined to break a confidence and release information she was not entitled to release, breaking the journalistic code of ethics.

Payback is at the heart of the second example. Vindictiveness. A desire to destroy a person she once championed for President.

The third example is the most poignant, involving the death of a loved one (a friend's sister), but a death Coulter exploited for political purposes, with a callous disregard for the truth. Coulter is seemingly inured to the suffering of victims and their families, a pattern which began in the late 1990s and seems to continue to this day.

## Betrays Eagle Forum

In late January, Coulter deliberately disclosed information from what she herself describes as “an embargoed report,” meaning that it was not yet free to release to the press/public. In other words, journalists were *prohibited* from revealing it. “Someone” (presumably a friend or compatriot) “slipped” her the report. It was not given to her as a scoop, but as a heads-up.

Overlooked in the midst of Coulter's cogent arguments regarding immigration (the substance of the report) is the reality that Coulter engaged in unethical behavior, this time leaking a report which was embargoed! Coulter did not have the right or authority to leak that report. It was not hers to reveal!

Coulter *scooped* the author and publisher of the report. Though she certainly did not take credit for the report, she deprived Eagle Forum of its right to release it when and how it chose.

This incident is actually a continuation of a pattern of behavior which was first evidenced in 1997, when she leaked attorney-client privileged material to betray her client to the detriment of her client. This is typical of her behavior throughout her media career.


Coulter felt the information in the report was “too important to wait.” But that decision was not *hers* to make! (Eagle Forum's 48-page report was released the following week.<sup>6</sup>) Coulter's arrogance placed her opinion and her desires above that of those involved in preparing and publishing the report: its sponsor, author, researchers, editors, et. al.

Like a little child, Coulter wanted to have it *her* way and she wanted it *now*!

### Ann Coulter *Still* Cannot be Trusted!

**GOP Crafts Plan To Wreck Country, Lose Voters**

Dear Fellow Conservative,



As House Republicans prepare to sell out the country on immigration this week, Phyllis Schlafly has produced a stunning report on how immigration is changing the country. The report is still embargoed, but someone slipped me a copy, and it's too important to wait.

**Yet again, Coulter betrays someone close to her – this time releasing an embargoed report – and again demonstrating why she cannot be trusted!**

**In 1997, Coulter betrayed her client, Paula Jones, by releasing attorney-client privileged information to thwart Jones' desire for a settlement. In 1998, Coulter used the research and words of her colleague, Michael Chapman, to write her first best-seller, then denied ever having heard of Chapman. In 2000, Coulter attempted to run a “total sham” campaign to trick Connecticut voters into not re-electing Congressman Shays. From 1997 to the present, Coulter does not grasp the meaning of integrity.**

Never Trust Ann Coulter – at ANY Age [www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Title: “How Mass (Legal) Immigration Dooms a Conservative Republican Party.”


## Buries Chris Christie

In her essay the following week, “A Bridge Too Far-Fetched,”<sup>7</sup> Coulter skewered her former idol, Chris Christie, for his largeness of size and smallness of character. Her opening sentence belies her intentions: “New Jersey governor Chris Christie deserves to be defended.” Coulter’s barbs skewering Christie on the barbie include these gems:

- “Christie is not a bully. If anything, he’s a pansy ...”
- “It’s a good bet he’s afraid of his own shadow. (In fairness, his shadow is probably pretty big and scary.)”
- “... quick make-out session with Obama ...”
- “... the main theme of his convention speech was: Chris Christie, Augustus Corpulus.”
- “Christie’s daily checklist appears to consist of two items: (1) *Suck up to liberals.* (2) *Ask waiter for more bread.*”
- “... he believes lawbreaking is no big deal.”

# Chris Christie is Dead to Me

**Coulter’s love affair with Christie is officially over! But why was she so enamored with him for so long – despite his obvious RINO credentials?**



- “If we don’t run Chris Christie, Romney will be the nominee and we’ll lose.” – February 2011
- “I don’t care if [Christie] wants to run, his country needs him, it appears.” – February 2011
- “I love him so much.” – June 2011
- “Every twenty years you get a politician who comes along and speaks the truth so plainly and everyone else is afraid to say it.” – June 2011
- “Now is the time, we need him [to run for President]. And we need a big man after that beanpole in the White House.” – June 2011
- “I’m a great fan of Chris Christie. I think he would be an excellent choice [for VP].” – April 2012
- “I’m warming to him again. I’m waiting for him to switch on amnesty, and I have confidence in his high I.Q.” – March 2013
- “There seems to be a concerted movement by both liberals and conservatives to lie about Christie and make him seem more liberal than he really is.” – May 2013
- “He is no longer my love.” – October 2013
- “Well, OK. Christie does have eight times John McCain’s IQ. That’s a rough estimate.” – November 2013

Never Trust Ann Coulter – at ANY Age [www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Ann Coulter, “A Bridge Too Far-Fetched,” 2/5/14.

Finally, Coulter sees the *real* Christie!

In her essay “defending” Christie (I come to praise Christie, not to bury him), Coulter begs the question: Why did Coulter have such a love affair with Christie for so many years? Christie has *always* been a RINO, moderate on almost everything. And *now* Coulter finally sees it?

As one grassroots observer noted:

Ann Coulter's infatuation with Chris Christie is OVER.

It was really hard reading this piece knowing how much she fawned over him in the POTUS primary run-up to 2012. I couldn't get past thinking ... We Knew All Of This Back Then, Ann ... but you were completely clueless and blind.

Some have remarked on the oddity of Coulter lashing out at Christie this late in the game after so many others have already piled on. Is Coulter venting? Or distracting us from the real outrage that she still considers Romney a better candidate than Reagan. (Why don't conservatives challenge Coulter on that contention?)<sup>8</sup>

### Exploits the Recently Deceased

For decades, Coulter has exploited personal and national tragedies to promote herself and her agenda. In the beginning of February, Coulter told a remarkable tale of a death due to ObamaCare.<sup>9</sup> It was an astonishing and poignant human interest story of a life unnecessary lost due to the legal, medical and bureaucratic nightmare of government-run health care. Coulter claimed:



I got up in the morning and got an email from a friend saying, “My sister almost died because of ObamaCare.” She had been thrown off her insurance plan. You know, Blue Shield’s completely just pulled out of California. A lot of insurance companies have just had to pull out and there is no competition.

I mean, there is state competition. There are a million insurance companies but they all have to provide, under federal law, the exact same product. ...

And anyway, she’d been thrown off her insurance, she was trying to get insurance some other way and get on ObamaCare. She couldn’t get through the website. She started to get a fever but she didn’t want to go to the emergency room – she didn’t know what it was – until she got her insurance. So she put it off. ... On Thursday, she went into septic shock.

I was giving a speech yesterday [Saturday] and I went down and mentioned this [situation] during the speech ... got up to my hotel room after the speech and my friend sent me an email saying “my sister died from ObamaCare.”

<sup>8</sup> See *Vanity: Ann Coulter’s Quest for Glory*, for a series of case studies in Coulter’s ego-driven nonsense (including the Romney debacle and Christie adulation). It is available as a free download at [www.coulterwatch.com/vanity.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/vanity.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Ann Coulter, *Fox & Friends*, FNC, 2/2/14.

Critics of the president's signature political achievement naturally took Coulter at her word and saw this tragedy as a natural outcome of this draconian beast known as ObamaCare.

### Truth-O-Meter

As it turns out, *Coulter's story does not pan out.*



## **A friend's sister "died from Obamacare" because Blue Shield "completely just pulled out of California."**

[Ann Coulter](#) on Sunday, February 2nd, 2014 in an interview on "Fox & Friends Weekend"

Politifact's Truth-O-Meter ranked portions of Coulter's claim "Pants on Fire."<sup>10</sup>  
They report:

We don't know the name of the woman (beyond Julie), the type of coverage she had or anything about her medical history, and Coulter did not respond to our request for more information. But the claim that someone "died from Obamacare" because Blue Shield "completely just pulled out of California" is something we can fact-check. ...

But more germane to this particular fact-check is Coulter's assertion that the woman found herself without insurance because Blue Shield pulled out of the state of California.

That did not happen. ...

Coulter said a friend's sister "died from Obamacare" because she was "thrown off her insurance plan, you know Blue Shield completely just pulled out of California."

We're not fact-checking whether someone died. We're looking at the circumstances Coulter presented.

Blue Shield did not pull out of California, and the company did not leave people without insurance. In fact, customers were allowed to keep their existing insurance plans through March. If the basic facts of Coulter's story are accurate, the woman in question elected to drop insurance coverage.

Whatever the story of Blue Shield, saying someone died "from Obamacare" is incendiary and grossly misleading.

Coulter's claim rates Pants on Fire.

How did Coulter get it so wrong?

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<sup>10</sup> Politifact, 2/5/14, <http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/statements/2014/feb/05/ann-coulter/ann-coulter-says-friends-sister-died/>.



## Was Coulter's Story a Hoax?

Readers of my book, [Never Trust Ann Coulter - at ANY Age](#), know that I am rightly wary of anything Coulter writes. In recounting her story, Coulter appears to be truthful. Certainly, as a human interest story, the death of her friend's sister is both heartbreaking and compelling.

But did Coulter *verify* what her friend told her? Did Coulter follow-up to *confirm* the merits of this particular case? In my view, ObamaCare is abominable-care. Though this particular anecdote fits that narrative, is it *accurately* reported?

As a constitutional attorney and investigative journalist who boasts of doing her own research, I'm surprised that Coulter did not verify the basic facts of the story. Why are there discrepancies?

Though we now know that Coulter did not make up the story and that it is not a hoax, we do know that Coulter certainly embellished and grossly exaggerated this tragedy for her own purposes.


ObamaCare is dying on its own. It's tombstone is being sculpted. We don't need to lie – as its architects did – to put it out of our (and America's) misery. But Coulter, in her arrogance, chose to do so. Where is her integrity? Where is the integrity of those who continue to hold her up as a conservative and Christian role model?

## Doug Graham Speaks Out

Eight days after breaking her story on national television, in an unprecedented action, Coulter posted guest commentary on her website.<sup>11</sup> Her friend, Doug Graham, corroborated *part* of Coulter's story.<sup>12</sup> Graham's column is emotional and political, but it is not a eulogy. His version of events differed from Coulter's in several key respects. First, he made no mention of the state in which his sister lived (she said California) and no mention of Blue Shield (as Coulter claimed).

As noted by Politifact, people in California did not use the ObamaCare website and Blue Shield did not drop people from coverage.<sup>13</sup> Coulter broke the story – without fact-checking – and her version of events remains *false*. Without vetting the story, Coulter repeated an unverified accusation, sharing it with an audience, on her twitter account, and to a national TV audience. And her version is wrong in key details.

### Is Coulter Conservatism's Sharpton?



**A friend's sister "died from Obamacare" because Blue Shield "completely just pulled out of California."**

Ann Coulter on Sunday, February 2nd, 2014 in an interview on "Fox & Friends Weekend"

However, the truth is BlueShield did NOT pull out of California and ObamaCare did NOT kill her friend's sister!

Why the discrepancies? There are three possibilities:

1. Coulter reported on the death of her friend's sister **without checking the facts** or **verifying** the (very significant) **details**.
2. Coulter **exploited** her friend's loss by **creating a false political narrative**.
3. Coulter **fabricated a hoax**.

### Was it all just a hoax?

Never Trust Ann Coulter - at ANY Age [www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/never.pdf)


<sup>11</sup> Doug Graham, "ObamaCare Killed My Sister," 2/10/14.

<sup>12</sup> My cynical side questions *why* Coulter chose this time – for the *first* time in 15 years – to publish a *guest* column on her website. Is Graham her first close friend to experience a tragedy? Or did the incendiary political nature of his charge take precedence? Or did Coulter want the pathos of his story to distract from the errors in her premature reporting?

<sup>13</sup> Author interview.

Coulter regards herself as an investigative reporter and she boasts of doing all of her own research, yet she has utterly failed to investigate this sensational charge. This is not the first time that Coulter has exploited personal (and national) tragedies to further her political agenda.<sup>14</sup>

**GUEST COLUMN: OBAMACARE KILLED MY SISTER**  
by Doug Graham

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This Wednesday, my little sister, Julie, will be buried. She died because she delayed seeking health care for what turned out to be a catastrophic condition after her private health insurance policy was cancelled because of Obamacare. As she waited for a new Obamacare-approved policy to kick in, her condition deteriorated to the point that it was too late.

Strikingly, in *Godless* (2006), Coulter decried “the Left’s doctrine of infallibility” wherein “victims” are used as spokesmen to prevent discussion. As Coulter wrote, “Finally, the Democrats hit on an ingenious strategy: They would choose only messengers whom

we’re not allowed to reply to. That’s why all Democratic spokesmen these days are sobbing, hysterical women. You can’t respond to them because that would be questioning the authenticity of their suffering.”<sup>15</sup> Coulter condemned these spokesmen: “Democrats with a dead husband, a dead child,” claiming, “Liberals prey on people at a time of extreme emotional vulnerability and offer them fame and fortune to be that month’s purveyor of hate. Victory goes to the most hysterical.”

Back then, Coulter railed against “the Left’s invocation of infallibility based on personal experience” and asked, “If these Democrat human shields have a point worth making, how about allowing it to be made by someone we’re allowed to respond to?”<sup>16</sup> Now, Coulter uses her own “human shield.”

Mr. Graham believes ObamaCare is to blame for his sister’s death, but that belief does not make it true. Feelings are not facts. Other factors fell into play in this tragic event: an ill-timed illness, economic concerns, and personal choices. The bereaved brother writes, “She died because she delayed seeking health care.” The deceased made a *choice*, as many people without health insurance must make every day. (I myself was without health insurance for almost a decade and faced similar quandaries.) Blaming ObamaCare itself may ease his grief, but it is not necessarily true.

My heart goes out to the bereaved for the tragic loss of their loved one. Deaths like these are unbearable and it is understandable why the family would blame ObamaCare – a grossly inept and unconstitutional health insurance system – for their loss.

Mr. Graham, you and your family have my deepest sympathy. May God’s grace comfort you and yours.<sup>17</sup>

## Humpty Dumpty Restored

Feedback from my readers has been largely positive. A few suggest I haven’t gone far enough. A couple think I am overly critical – and they may well be right!

Let me apologize, at this point, to my readers and to the subject of my writing, for anything I have written and published which is inaccurate or unfair. None of us is perfect. Certainly not me.

<sup>14</sup> A series of case studies is provided in the book, *Vanity: Ann Coulter’s Quest for Glory*, which is available at [www.coulterwatch.com/vanity.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/vanity.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Ann Coulter, *Godless: The Church of Liberalism*, Crown Forum, 2006, pg. 104.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 146.

<sup>17</sup> A more in-depth examination of Mrs. Stovall’s death and Coulter’s exploitation of that death can be found at “Ann Coulter Exploits Death of Friend’s Sister,” [www.coulterwatch.com/files/exploited.pdf](http://www.coulterwatch.com/files/exploited.pdf).

In the well-known children's fairy-tale, no one could put Humpty Dumpty back together again. From a human perspective, it is an impossible task. And that is how we, as human beings, often see ourselves. Why even try to change? What hope do we have? How can we succeed? It's impossible!

But there *is* hope! Jesus repeatedly said, "Nothing is impossible with God."<sup>18</sup>

Coulter may well feel that the chains of her besetting sins (Hebrews 12:1) are too strong to be broken. She – and we – should look to the heavens for rescue. Nicol Sponberg's hauntingly poignant song, "Resurrection,"<sup>19</sup> expresses so well what it is like to be broken and it extols the One who can put the pieces back together again.

Here's the chorus:

Here I am at the end, I'm in need of resurrection.  
Only You can take this empty shell and raise it from the dead.  
What I've lost to the world, what seems far beyond redemption,  
You can take the pieces in Your hand and make me whole again, again.

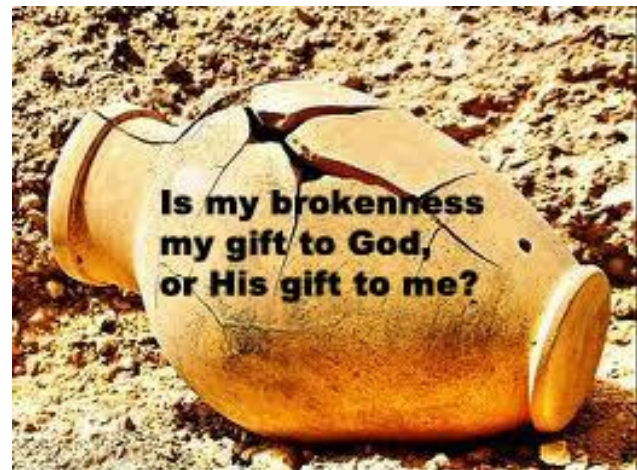
You speak and all creation falls to its knees.  
You raise Your hand and calm the waves of the raging sea.  
You have a way of turning winter to spring.  
Make something beautiful out of all this suffering.

Theologian Henry Nouwen put it well: "God didn't say, 'Blessed are those who care for the poor.' He said, 'Blessed are we where we are poor, where we are broken.' It is there that God loves us deeply and pulls us into communion with himself."

Isn't that remarkable? God wants to be in communion with us, in fellowship with us. And God uses our brokenness to bring us to Him. God visits us in our brokenness and He puts the pieces back together, where they belong, to make us vessels of glory for Him.

It is easy to break *bad*, that's human nature. It is more difficult to break *good*, that takes God's help. Breaking *out* of the chain of bad habits that ensnare us is not so easy. But letting Jesus break *into* our hearts and lives liberates us from ourselves.

Jesus said that He came to "heal the brokenhearted (Luke 4:18)." Let us all open our broken hearts to His healing.



<sup>18</sup> See Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23, 10:27; Luke 1:37, 18:27.

<sup>19</sup> See Nicol Sponberg, "Resurrection," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t8Sk6cZ-PA>.