

10-13-2012, COTR Texarkana

Title: Politics and the Bible

Purpose: Compare what the Bible teaches about the issues facing America to the party platforms of the Democrats and Republicans.

Spiritual Truth: God's Word should be the moral foundation for American government.

Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-3

Topic: America, Politics, Election, Bible

Politics and the Bible

I. Introduction

A. A pastor's job description...Paul is writing to his son in the faith, Timothy.

1. 2 Tim 4:1-2 (NCV) ¹I give you a command...² **Preach the word of God (NLT)...**
tell people what they need to do. (NCV) Tell them when they are wrong...
2. The Bible is God's Word and the source of eternal, absolute truth. A pastor's job is to tell people what the Bible says.
3. For 23 years I have tried to help you apply the Bible to everyday life. We've had candid conversations about marriage, money, sin, alcohol, sex, etc. whatever America is talking about I've tried to offer you a Biblical perspective.

B. Props: Move donkey and elephant to the left and right of the Bible.

1. Today America is talking about the election so I'm going to compare parts of the Republican and Democrat party platforms to the Bible. As you'll see they offer 2 very different visions for America.
 - a. Party Platforms at the back: This is a small portion of the platforms that deal with moral issues of greatest concern to those who believe the Bible.
2. I am talking to you today as a conservative, Bible believing Christian pastor. I am not here to represent Republicans or Democrats; I realize there are sincere Christians in both parties. Our Christian relationship is more important than our party affiliation. I realize politics is one of the most divisive subjects in our country and in the church but God's Word should instruct us and guide us in the voting booth. I am here to 'Preach the Word'. Fasten your seatbelt, Lol. There will be something to offend everyone. ☺

C. Title: Politics and the Bible

D. Purpose: Compare what the Bible teaches about the issues facing America to the party platforms of the Democrats and Republicans.

E. Spiritual Truth: God's Word should be the moral foundation for American government.

II. Biblical Comparison of the Republican and Democratic Party platforms

A. God and Religious Freedom

1. The Bible

- a. Ge 1:1 (ESV) **In the beginning, God** created the heavens and the earth.
- b. Psalm 33:12 (ESV) Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...

2. The Republican Platform

- a. The 2012 Republican Party platform mentions God 12 times. It was 2 in 2008, the Democrat's Platform mentions God once as they did in 2008.

- b. “We offer our Republican vision of a free people using their **God-given talents. . .our rights come from God**, are protected by government, and that the only just government is one that truly governs with the consent of the governed... the **God-given natural beauty and resources** of our country... defend the law-abiding citizen’s **God-given right of self-defense...** **May God continue to shed his grace on the United States of America...**”

3. The Democrat Platform

- a. "We need a government that stands up for the hopes, values and interests of working people, and gives everyone willing to work hard the chance to make the most of their **God-given potential**."
- b. Prior to the Convention the platform committee had removed this reference to God and replaced it with “each one of us should be able to go as far as our talent and drive take us.” 3 floor votes were taken, half the delegates wanted to keep God and half booed.
- c. If Supreme Court opens by saying “God save the US and this court. Why was the Dem party even debating whether to include His name?”
4. What does it mean when one party mentions God 12 times and the other once? It seems to me secular people don’t want anything to do with God. This does not mean Republicans are all Christians or even better Christians than Democrats. There was probably as much drunkenness and adultery at the Republican Convention as the Democrat. Sadly, we don’t have a Christian party and Moses is not a candidate but a party platform is the document that spells out what the party stands for.
5. “If a sparrow can't fall to the ground without His (God’s) notice, how can a nation stand without His guidance." -- Benjamin Franklin
6. This also sends a signal for religious freedom for Christians. I’m concerned that:
 - a. Catholic bishops were denied government grants when they refused to refer victims of sex trafficking for abortions.
 - b. Catholic adoption agency quit in Mass because they were forced to do same sex adoptions.
 - c. Christian colleges, hospitals and business like Hobby Lobby, are suing the federal government because they are being forced to provide abortion pills in healthcare in violation of religious convictions.
 - d. Walter Reed Army hospital forbids bringing Bibles while visiting a patient.
 - i. Conservative, Christian religious freedom is under attack in America. Our next President will determine if this gets better or worse. Our vote counts.

B. The Sanctity of Life: Abortion and Euthanasia

1. The Bible

- a. Genesis 1:27 (ESV) So God created man in his own image...
- b. Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
- c. Exodus 20:13 (ESV) “You shall not murder.
- d. Declaration of Independence: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,

- i. Rick Warren, Tony Evans

2. The Democrat Platform

- a. The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay...The Affordable Care Act (*Obamacare*) ensures that women have access to contraception in their health insurance plans...Democrats support evidence-based and age-appropriate sex education. [18]
 - i. Democrats realize that there is a problem with unwanted babies but what was supposed to be safe, legal and rare results in over 1 million deaths of innocent children a year. There has to be a better way.

3. The Republican Platform

- a. ...we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life... We support a human life amendment to the Constitution...We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortions or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize health care which includes abortion coverage...We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life...We oppose the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment from people with disabilities, including newborns, as well as the elderly and infirm, just as we oppose active and passive euthanasia and assisted suicide. [13-14] We urge Congress to strengthen the Born Alive Infant Protection Act...We call for a ban on the use of body parts from aborted fetuses for research...we oppose the killing of embryos for their stem cells...We seek to protect young girls from exploitation through a parental consent requirement; and we affirm our moral obligation to assist, rather than penalize, women challenged by an unplanned pregnancy. We salute those who provide them with counseling and adoption alternatives and empower them to choose life, and we take comfort in the tremendous increase in adoptions...[14] We renew our call for replacing "family planning" programs for teens with abstinence education which teaches abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior...We oppose school-based clinics that provide referrals, counseling, and related services for abortion and contraception. [36]
- b. In 1973 the Supreme Court invented a right to an abortion out of thin air. When the Founders wrote the Constitution they knew they couldn't foresee every future issue but they expected future generations to go to the Bible for moral questions.
- c. Senator Daniel Webster, 1845 If we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.

C. Marriage

1. The Bible

- a. Mark 10:6-9 (ESV) **But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'**⁷ **'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother**

and hold fast to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh...⁹ What therefore **God has joined together**, let not man separate.”

- b. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV) Do not be deceived: neither the **sexually immoral...nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality**,¹⁰ ...will inherit the kingdom of God.

2. **The Republican Platform**

- a. We reaffirm our support for a Constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. [10] We embrace the principle that all Americans should be treated with respect and dignity. [31] We will enforce and defend in court the Defense of Marriage Act [43]

3. **The Democrat Platform**

- a. We support marriage equality and support the movement to secure equal treatment under law for same-sex couples...We support the full repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act. [18]

D. **Care for the Poor**

1. **The Bible**

- a. Galatians 2:9-10 (NIV) James, Peter and John...¹⁰ All they asked was that we should continue to **remember the poor**, the very thing I was eager to do
- b. Matthew 26:11 (NCV) **You will always have the poor with you...**
- c. 2 Thes. 3:10 (ESV) ...**If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.**

2. **The Democrat Platform**

- a. We must make ending poverty a national priority...We will continue to fight for equal pay for equal work, a strong labor movement, and access to a world-class education for every child...We will continue the improvements in refundable tax credits for low-income families to encourage work and education while lifting families out of poverty. [19]

3. **The Republican Platform**

- a. Instead of undermining the expectation that low-income parents and individuals should strive to support themselves, benefit programs like food stamps must ensure that those benefits are better targeted to those who need help the most. For the sake of low-income families as well as the taxpayers, the federal government's entire system of public assistance should be reformed to ensure that it promotes work. [31]
- b. Thank God truly needy people in America can get help but we can't afford the growth rate of entitlement programs. The government is going broke. There has to be a better way. There was a day when churches and families took care of each other.

E. **Prosecuting pornography and obscenity**

1. **The Bible**

- a. Matthew 5:28 (NIV) ... **anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**
- b. Job 31:1(NIV) I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl
- c. Ezra 9:11 (The Msg)'The land you're taking over is...polluted with the **obscene vulgarities** of the people who live there; they've filled it with their moral rot from one end to the other.

2. The Republican Platform

- a. **We urge active prosecution against child pornography. Current laws on all forms of pornography and obscenity need to be vigorously enforced.**

3. The Democrat Platform

- a. Nothing
- b. Have you noticed that TV is pushing sexual boundaries and filthy language further and further? I believe we need a moral change of direction.

F. There are many more issues in the handout that I don't have time to address.

1. Israel: both parties express their commitment to Israel's security. Both say they believe Jerusalem is its capital but during the Democrat convention they tried to pull back support for Israel when they tried to remove God. I'm concerned. Israel is on the verge of war with Iran and our President has time to meet with Whoopi Goldberg but doesn't have time to meet with Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu.
2. Opinion (Eat watermelon; spit out seeds): On a personal level I'm very concerned about our economy and out of control debt; I believe government needs to be smaller and individual freedom greater; I believe the states need more power and the federal government needs less; I believe we should enforce existing immigration policy; I believe in American sovereignty and don't believe the UN should control or tax America; I believe we're all paying too much in taxes already; it concerns me that our President wants to reduce our military and nuclear weapons when Russia, China and other nations are increasing theirs. I believe in peace through strength because the #1 job of government is to protect us.
3. I don't see myself as a Republican or Democrat, I am a Christian conservative. My allegiance is 1st and foremost to Christ, the Church and His Kingdom.

III. Conclusion

A. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

1. We're all bombarded with TV spots, radio ads, mail outs, social media posts about the election. It's overwhelming and confusing.
2. Today I've done my job; I've preached "The Word". Now you must decide which vision is right for America. If you disagree with my opinion throw it out but don't ignore the God's Word.

B. How should a Christian vote?

1. People vote for candidates for lots of reasons: how they look, policies, race, party, union affiliation, the economy, benefits promised, etc. as a pastor I suggest you vote based on Biblical values.
2. Pastor Tony Evans, African American mega church pastor in Dallas, chaplain to the Cowboys and Mavericks has a recommendation for voting: make a sheet of paper with 4 columns. 1st column list the issue; 2nd column what Democrats say; 3rd what Republicans say; 4th what God says. Pray, prioritize the issues, & vote.
3. Ushers have Party Platforms at the door. Give one to a friend.

IV. Response

A. Pray for America

B. Prayer: America's in a crisis; maybe you're in a crisis