

10-23-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Vote Biblical Values

Purpose: Provoke Christians to vote for candidates and parties that support Biblical values.

Truth for Today: Christians should vote for candidates and parties that support Biblical values.

Text: Proverbs 29:2

Topic: Politics, Voting, Biblical Values

Vote Biblical Values

I. Introduction

- A. What's the most divisive issue among Christians? Type of water baptism, best Bible translation, worship style, or speaking in tongues? It's politics.
- B. Over the next 2 weeks we'll be voting to elect leaders to govern us. [Pr. 29:2 (NKJV) When the **righteous** are in authority, the people **rejoice**; But when a **wicked** man rules, the **people groan**.] I have a Biblical responsibility to teach you what the Bible says about the issues of our day. [Acts 20:27 (ESV)...I did not shrink from declaring to you the **whole counsel of God**.] Do you think God has an opinion about gender confusion, marriage, abortion, etc. Pic ³ A Va. lawmaker proposed legislation to lodge criminal charges against parents who oppose "affirming" their child as transgender. I don't want my government making laws like that because [Genesis 1:27 (NLT) So God created human beings in his own image...**male and female he created them**.]
- C. Center Screen; I want to ask you to resist the tendency to put me in a box and label me. Illustrate 4 boxes My hope is (1) the Bible will shape our thinking on politics, not modern culture, or personal feelings, and (2) we'll vote Biblical values. Our 1st loyalty isn't to the donkey or the elephant. We're for the Lamb, and we stand united by Jesus and committed to one another even if we disagree politically.
- D. Title: Vote Biblical Values
- E. Purpose: Provoke Christians to vote for candidates and parties that support Biblical values. Today we'll talk about (1) Why political platforms matter and (2) 5 key issues: Does God matter, religious freedom, abortion, marriage and family, and children: sex education and transgenderism.

II. Political parties and their platform (beliefs and priorities)

- A. In 2021, there were 209 state-level political parties in the US. Some parties are recognized in multiple states. For example, both Donkey party and the Elephant party are recognized in all 50 states. 3 minor parties were recognized in more than 10 states. T-Libertarian party, 33 states; T-Green party:17 states; Constitution party:12 states.¹¹ Other parties: Marijuana party, Communist party USA, Party for Socialism.
- B. The Bible tells us what to look for in governmental leaders, Context Jethro's advice to Moses, [Exodus 18:21 (NLT) 21 But select from all the people some **capable, honest men** who **fear God** and **hate bribes**. Appoint them as leaders...]

 - 1. The problem is we don't know who the candidates really are. We know who their marketing firms say they are, and we know who the media says they are but often candidates will say whatever the pollster says we want to hear. iVoterGuide.com

- C. *We can learn about their beliefs from their party platform. Studies indicate Donkeys vote according to the party platform 74% of the time, Elephants 89%.¹

D. Contrast party platforms, The Biblical Voter Booklet, pg. 6-12, Pic booklet¹ Today we're going to take 5 issues and see what the Bible says and what donkeys and elephants say. My job is to present Biblical and party facts; your job is to decide.

III. Issue #1: Does God matter?

A. [Genesis 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth. Psalm 14:1 (NLT) **Only fools say...“There is no God.”** They are corrupt, and their actions are evil...Psalm 33:12 (ESV) **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...**]

1. There is a God; you're a fool not to acknowledge Him but blessed if you do.

B. R platform mentions God 15x. ‘We affirm that all are created equal, endowed by their **creator** with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’⁷ ‘If **God-given**, natural, inalienable rights come in conflict with government, court, or human-granted rights, **God-given**, natural, inalienable rights always prevail.’ ‘We support the public display of the Ten Commandments...’⁹

C. D platform includes 1 reference to “**God-given potential.**” They had 7 in 2004. They removed all references to God in 2012 but after an uproar added 1 back.⁶ Their platform doesn't mention the role of God in government or the source of human rights but believes in, “the paramount importance of maintaining the separation between church and state enshrined in our Constitution.” (page 19)⁸ **I'VE DONE MY PART, NOW YOU DECIDE**

IV. Issue #2: Religious freedom

A. Noah's 1st act after leaving ark: Genesis 8:20 (ESV) [Then **Noah built an altar to the Lord...**] It was an act of worship. 1st amendment Bill of Rights: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or **prohibiting the free exercise thereof.** Communist, Muslim and Hindu nations don't allow or encourage freedom to worship God according to the dictates of one's heart.

B. D...the paramount importance of maintaining the separation between church and state...Rejects “broad religious exemptions” for “businesses, medical providers, social service agencies, and others. “We will fight to enact the Equality Act” – a bill that would remove religious liberty protections and even force churches to violate the tenets of their faith.

C. R: We pledge to defend the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard religious institutions against government control. We support the right of the people to conduct their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs... We...affirm the rights of religious students to engage in voluntary prayer at public school events and to have equal access to school facilities.⁷ **I'VE DONE MY PART, NOW YOU DECIDE**

V. Issue #3: Abortion

A. [Psalm 139:13 (ESV) For you (*God*) formed my inward parts; **you knitted me together in my mother's womb.** Exodus 20:13 (ESV) “**You shall not murder**”]

B. R “...we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution...” (page 13)⁸

C. D believe every woman should be able to access... reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortions.” Supports “codifying” the right to abortion. Opposes current FDA safety restrictions on chemical abortion pills.⁹ **I'VE DONE MY PART, NOW YOU DECIDE**

VI. Issue #4: Marriage and family

- A. [Matthew 19:4–5 (NIV)...at the beginning **the Creator** ‘made them **male and female,**’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a **man** will leave his **father and mother** and be united to his **wife,** and the two will become **one flesh**’?
- B. D “applaud last year’s decision by the Supreme Court that recognized that LGBT people...have the right to marry the person they love.”(2016 platform)⁸ We...reaffirm our opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1996 which defines marriage as only between a man and a woman...¹⁰
- C. R. Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a free society and has for millennia been entrusted with rearing children and instilling values.⁷ Every child deserves a married mom and dad. We do not accept the Supreme Court’s redefinition of marriage; we urge its reversal⁷
I’VE DONE MY PART, NOW YOU DECIDE

VII. Issue #5: Children: sex education and transgenderism

- A. Sex Ed, [1 Thes. 4:3–8 (ESV) For **this is the will of God**...that you **abstain from sexual immorality;** 4 that each one of you know how to **control his own body** in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God...8 Therefore whoever disregards this, **disregards not man but God**...]
 - 1. R Supports “sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior.”⁹
 - 2. D Supports “LGBTQ+ inclusive” sex education with a full range of “family planning services.”⁹
- B. Transgender, [Matthew 19:4 (ESV) He (*Jesus*) answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning **made them male and female,**]
 - 1. D We will work to “guarantee transgender students’ access to facilities based on their gender identity.” “We will fight to enact the Equality Act” that would allow biological men to play in women’s sports if they identify as transgender women.⁹
 - 2. R We “embrace the principle that all Americans should be treated with dignity and respect.” Supports “the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children.” Opposes...Title IX transgender bathroom edict. It is “illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues.”⁹ **I’VE DONE MY PART, NOW YOU DECIDE**

VIII. Conclusion

- A. We don’t have a Christian party with the Bible as our platform. Both parties have corrupt people and do things against the Bible. Nevertheless, the people elected to office will make laws that affect us, our children, and grandchildren. I hope you will join me (1) educate yourself (table in the lobby, Pic booklet¹) (2) vote: early/ Nov 8 (3) Maintain Christian unity with believers who have different political views than us.
- B. America’s problems and solutions are ultimately not political but spiritual. Israel in trouble, [2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT) Then if my people who are called by my name will **humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,** **I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.]**

IX. Response

- A. Prayer
- B. Souls

X. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. The Biblical Voter Booklet, an initiative of The Salt and Light Council, page 5,7
2. <https://www.pastortownhall.town/speakers/bishop-art-hodges>
3. <https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/virginia-rep-proposes-bill-that-would-jail-parents-for-refusing-gender-affirming-care-for-their-kids/>
4. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/o-rourke-says-churches-against-gay-marriage-should-lose-tax-n1065186>
5. <https://newswithviews.com/baldwin/baldwin267.htm>
6. <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/nov/02/facebook-posts/democratic-party-2020-platform-includes-mention-g/>
7. <https://congressionaldigest.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Republican-Platform-for-website.pdf>
8. http://jim4ncgop.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Political-Party-Values-Flyer_English-Version.pdf
9. <https://downloads.frcaction.org/EF/EF18H05.pdf>
10. <https://thenewamerican.com/democrats-to-add-legalizing-same-sex-marriage-to-party-platform/>
11. https://ballotpedia.org/Political_parties_in_the_United_States

XI. Supplemental info.

- A. R “If God-given, natural, inalienable rights come in conflict with government, court, or human-granted rights, God-given, natural, inalienable rights always prevail.” • “We support the public display of the Ten Commandments as a reflection of our history and our country’s Judeo-Christian heritage.” • Entire platform mentions God 15 times.⁹
- B. R mentions God 15x and LGBT 0x; D mentions LGBT 26 and God 1x¹
- C. The Republican Platform supports “...the public display of the Ten Commandments as a reflection of our history and our country’s JudeoChristian heritage...” (page 12)⁸
- D. R The American family... is the foundation of civil society, and the cornerstone of the family is natural marriage, the union of one man and one woman.”⁹
- E. R Marriage, Family, and Society. The data and the facts lead to an inescapable conclusion: Every child deserves a married mom and dad. Our laws and our government’s regulations should recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman and actively promote married family life as the basis of a stable and prosperous society. We do not accept the Supreme Court’s redefinition of marriage, and we urge its reversal,⁷
- F. We believe that people are the ultimate resource — and that the people, not the government, are the best stewards of our country’s **God-given natural resources**.⁷
- G. Politics and elections are about right vs. left, conservative vs. liberal but pulpits and voting Biblical values are about right vs. wrong.
- H. Pic ⁴NBC reported Beto O’Rourke said...churches and other religious institutions that oppose same-sex marriage should lose their tax-exempt status,
- I. What does the Bible say? [Ge. 2:24 (ESV) Therefore a **man** shall leave his **father and his mother** and hold fast to his **wife**, and they shall become one flesh.]
- J. Quote John Jay is one of America's most celebrated founders. He was America's first Supreme Court Chief Justice and also co-authored the Federalist Papers. Jay's

influence upon the founding generation was immense. Jay is credited with saying, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."⁶