

God's Word and Your Vote (Part 3): Issues



The Introduction

- ❖ **The BIG Idea:** For God's glory, you should vote responsibly.
 - *God's Glory* ~ What does the **Bible** say about God and government? → The **Why?**
 - *Responsibly* ~ What laws does the U.S. **Constitution** allow at Federal, State, and Local levels? → The **What?**
 - *Vote* ~ How *should* Christians vote on the particular issues, *responsibly* considering what the Bible and Constitution dictate? → The **How?**

The Issues and Your Vote

❖ Overall Principles and Considerations

- Salt and Light

- **Biblical Axiom:** "Who we *are* (Christians and Americans) should determine *what* we do—belief determines behavior... including how we vote!" → *Principles* (Biblical and Constitutional) vs *Pragmatics* (unintended consequences spiral...)

- **** Our Priorities for the Issues:**
 - 1) Biblical: Morally Commanded? God honoring? Permissible? Practical? (**MSA!**—Moral)
 - 2) Constitutional: Allowed? What level of Government? ("Legal")?
 - NB: *Unlimited King* and *Limited Government* (Federalism and Separation of Powers)

❖ The Issues: Life

- Abortion
- Capital Punishment/Crime
- War
- Marriage
- Healthcare

❖ The Issues: Liberty

- Education
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Speech
- 2nd Amendment

❖ The Issues: Property (Pursuit of Happiness)

➤ Taxes

➤ Welfare/Economics

➤ Immigration

➤ Environment

➤ Support for Israel

The Conclusion

❖ So What?

❖ **Final:** We are *responsible* and *accountable* to God!

- Importance of foundational documents: Bible and Constitution
- **Biblical Axiom:** Who we *are* should determine what we *do*!
- For God's glory, we should vote responsibly!

Soli Deo Gloria

God's Word and Your Vote: Voter's Guide



❖ Abortion

- **Biblical View:** Yes (laws against)—strongly condemned as the taking of innocent life (*induced abortion*)
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic → “*Protect Life*” State/Local Laws—Yes
 - Federal Government → encourage/not hinder state laws that protect life.
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-life Candidates (function of government) → Importance of Supreme Court!

❖ Capital Punishment/Crime (in general)

- **Biblical View:** Yes—function of human government
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic → “*Protect Life, Liberty, Property*” State/Local Laws—Yes
 - Federal Government—Yes (certain areas) → encourage/not hinder states
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-law/Tough on Crime Candidates (function of government)

❖ War

- **Biblical View:** Yes—function of human government ~ protect citizens
- **Constitutional View:** Foreign → Yes—power granted to Federal Government
 - Enumerated Powers: 1.8.11-16
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Strong Defense Candidates (function of government)

❖ Marriage

- **Biblical View:** Yes—Creation Mandate ~ pattern for all “one man, one woman” (biblical institution)
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic → State/Local Laws—Yes
 - Federal Government → encourage/not hinder state laws that preserve traditional marriage.
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-Traditional Marriage Candidates (biblical institution) → Importance of Supreme Court!

❖ Taxes

- **Biblical View:** Yes—“permitted” as function of government
- **Constitutional View:** Foreign/Domestic → Federal/State/Local—Yes
 - Enumerated Powers: 1.8.1 and 16th Amendment (Income Tax)
 - Permitted to function *constitutionally*...
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Fiscally Responsible Candidates—that don’t abuse “*General Welfare*” (1.8.1) and “*Commerce*” (1.8.3) Clauses to buy votes from special interests...

❖ Immigration

- **Biblical View:** Yes—but immigrants had responsibility for assimilation (~ circumcision!)
- **Constitutional View:** Foreign → Yes—Federal Government should protect US borders (help the states!)
 - Enumerated Powers: 1.8.4 “*Citizenship*” and “*Naturalization*” and 14th Amendment
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-Legal/Positive Immigration Candidates who will protect our borders and national sovereignty (function of government) → E.g. wise use and control of Worker’s Visas...

❖ Welfare and Economics

- **Biblical View:** Yes—encouraged as act of *responsible* compassion
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic → “*Protect Life, Liberty, Property*” State/Local Laws—Yes (encourage private sector)
 - Federal Government—No (don’t usurp state/local/private sector rights ~ bribery)
- **Conclusion:** Vote against Government Welfare “*Champion*” Candidates → vote for local compassion with helping agencies...

❖ Healthcare

- **Biblical View:** Yes—salvation includes the *physical* ~ God is concerned about His people
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic → “*Protect Life, Liberty, Property*” State/Local Laws—Yes (encourage private sector)
 - Federal Government—No (don’t usurp state/local/private sector rights ~ bribery)

- **Conclusion:** Vote against Big Government Health Care “Champion” Candidates → vote for local/private control ~ pure insurance... (Similar to issues with Social Security: *honor commitments*, but needs fixed!)

❖ Environment

- **Biblical View:** Yes—Creation mandate (recognizing priorities ~ mankind is the pinnacle of creation)
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic (Primarily) → “*Protect Life, Liberty, Property*” State/Local Laws—Yes (to protect from citizens from danger/hazards)
 - Federal Government—Very Limited (to protect citizens and mediate between states)
- **Conclusion:** Vote against Big Government “Environmental Champion” Candidates (worldview issue) → Limited Government “Regulation” (which *does not equal* Restriction) → to protect life, liberty, property...

❖ Education

- **Biblical View:** Yes—Commanded
- **Constitutional View:** Domestic → State/Local Laws—Yes
 - Federal Government → encourage/not interfere with state education laws (and bathroom policy!)
- **Conclusion:** Vote for “Local Control” Education Candidates → “knowledge is good”...if it is the right knowledge!

❖ Freedom of Religion

- **Biblical View:** Yes—genuine faith can’t be forced
- **Constitutional View:** Constitutional/*1st Amendment* → “*Protect...Pursuit of Happiness*”—Yes
 - Congress shall make no law *respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-Freedom of Religion Candidates (biblical function and “pursuit of happiness”) → Importance of Supreme Court!

❖ Freedom of Speech

- **Biblical View:** Yes
- **Constitutional View:** Constitutional/*1st Amendment* → “*Protect...Liberty*”—Yes
 - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or *abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-Freedom of Speech Candidates (biblical function and “pursuit of liberty”) → Importance of Supreme Court!

❖ 2nd Amendment

- **Biblical View:** Yes—self-defense (stand against evil ~ national defense)
- **Constitutional View:** Constitutional/*2nd Amendment* → Protect “*life, liberty, property...*”—Yes
 - A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, *shall not be infringed.*
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-2nd Amendment Candidates (biblical function and protect “life, liberty, property”) → Importance of Supreme Court!

❖ Support for Israel

- **Biblical View:** Yes—biblical institution
- **Constitutional View:** Foreign → Yes—treaty power granted to the Federal Government
 - Enumerated Powers: 1.8.3 “regulate trade” and President (Art. 2.2.2) “make treaties with the advice and consent of the Senate
- **Conclusion:** Vote for Pro-Israel Candidates (biblical institution) → Support God’s People!