



## INFORMATION

### **Non-Negotiable Issues: Focus on the Family's Encouragement to Christian Voters**

Voting is clearly our duty in this nation whose governance is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." But, it's not enough to just show up; as Christians we *must* carry our values – guided by biblical truths – to the polls and translate those unwavering principles into the marks we place on our ballots.

Focus on the Family, in accordance with our [guiding principles](#) drawn from Scripture, holds that there are indeed some non-negotiable issues.

#### **The Issues**

So, just what *are* these non-negotiables that should serve as a primary guide for serious Christian voters?

Focus on the Family adopts the view that, as believers, we must support the sanctity of human life, science guided by ethics and marriage between one man and one woman. In so doing, we oppose any policy which violates these values.

While a litany of lesser (though important) issues may exist, any candidate's stand within the following areas – regardless of party affiliation – should determine from our perspective whether they are worthy of one's vote.

#### **1. Sanctity of Life –**

##### *Abortion:*

Human life begins at fertilization. Abortion stops a beating heart; it hurts women and kills their preborn children. Abortion is no choice for a woman who thinks it is her only choice. Our women and children deserve better than abortion.

##### *Euthanasia:*

True compassion means suffering with those who are hurting, not pushing them off the proverbial cliff. Medical professionals say their terminally ill patients no longer want to commit suicide when the patients' pain and depression are addressed. Physician-assisted suicide is a poor excuse for caring for our dying loved ones.

## 2. Bioethics –

### *Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning:*

Young humans are increasingly the target of destructive scientific “research.” Cures for disease and treatments for injuries can be found without cannibalizing our young for their cellular spare parts. For instance, adult stem cell sources are already providing successful therapies for patients – without the destruction of human life. Human cloning for research is the intentional creation and destruction of human life.

## 3. Marriage –

### *Same-Sex Marriage:*

In Matthew 19 and Mark 10, Jesus clearly teaches that marriage is about one male and one female coming together in marriage as one flesh. Genesis 2:18 teaches us that God said it was not good for man to be alone. God gave Adam a wife, not *many* wives or *another* man, as the answer to his being alone. Marriage celebrates both male and female, saying both are necessary for the family and that children need their mother and their father. Same-sex marriage says husband or wife are optional for marriage and that mother or father are optional for children.

## **Casting Your Vote**

With this framework in mind, determine competing candidates’ positions and eliminate those who will not represent your voice and values on these matters. And, in the unfortunate event that each of the candidates listed on your ballot take a wrong position on some or all of the major issues, you might consider casting a “write-in” vote for an individual who shares your convictions.

## **Unwitting Compromises**

Beware, too, of certain unwitting compromises that can serve as pitfalls:

*“It doesn’t really matter – it’s just a local election.”*

Some individuals rationalize that it’s not important to hold candidates for lesser offices (for instance, at the state or local levels) up to the same scrutiny as those aspiring for national roles. This simply isn’t true.

While some government offices are less likely than others to take on certain roles and issues, the core beliefs connected to the non-negotiables are so fundamental that – when being consistent – one can’t help but have them permeate into many other areas of policymaking and leadership. Consider, as well, that most people who eventually ascend to higher offices made their start at the local level!

So, *no matter what the office*, find out where candidates stand on these issues. If they have not made their outlook known, then write or call their campaign headquarters and present your question.

*"I've always just voted a 'straight party-line ticket.'"*

Would you rather be loyal to a party or to your own biblical values? The answer is clear: Avoid traps and blind spots such as strict party loyalties or adherence to a "family tradition" of voting. These are at times poor and unreliable marks for supporting the person who most represents your values and the Christian principles of greatest import.

*"I'll choose the nicest and friendliest candidate who claims to be a 'devout' church member and 'pro-family American.'"*

Qualities such as personality, appearance, or even claims of integrity and Christian faith should not be taken as safe measures that the candidate will stand in line with the values that matter most. Take a deeper and more meaningful look into what truly emboldens and motivates the person for whom you plan to vote.

*"I vote for what is 'best' for 'my family.'"*

Understandably, people do not want to vote for a candidate perceived to bring negative outcomes to their families; however, there is much more to voting in accord with Christian principles than "looking out for number one." It is always a Christian's calling – as repeated by Jesus and the New Testament writers – to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; James 2:8). When your vote is guided by scriptural principles, you vote for the common and moral good of all and avoid the mistaken ethic of thinking, "What's in this for me?"

### **"Valuing Voting" and "Voting Values"**

Our duty as citizens demands that we vote; our identity under Christ calls us to do so with the greatest of conviction regarding the non-negotiables on which Scripture is clear. To do less not only squanders civic opportunity but neglects the defense of God's image for which His children must stand (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:13-14). Therefore, as Americans we must *value voting*, and as Christ's we must *vote our values*.

Further Information:

CitizenLink

[<http://www.CitizenLink.com>]



*Helping Families Thrive* <sup>SM</sup>