

Imagine the Impact

that Americans of faith could have
on the **future** of our nation,
the **character** of its leadership
and the **moral health** of its
people if we all applied biblical
principles to every aspect of our lives
— including our participation in the
democratic process.

Taking Action

Register to Vote

It's easy.:

1. Obtain a voter registration form by visiting www.ivotevalues.org or contacting your state government.
2. Mail the completed form to your Secretary of State. (Addresses may be found at www.eac.gov.)

Register Your Friends

Help organize a voter registration drive in your church or community. A special Voter Impact Toolkit is available from Focus on the Family. Call 1-800-A-FAMILY for information.



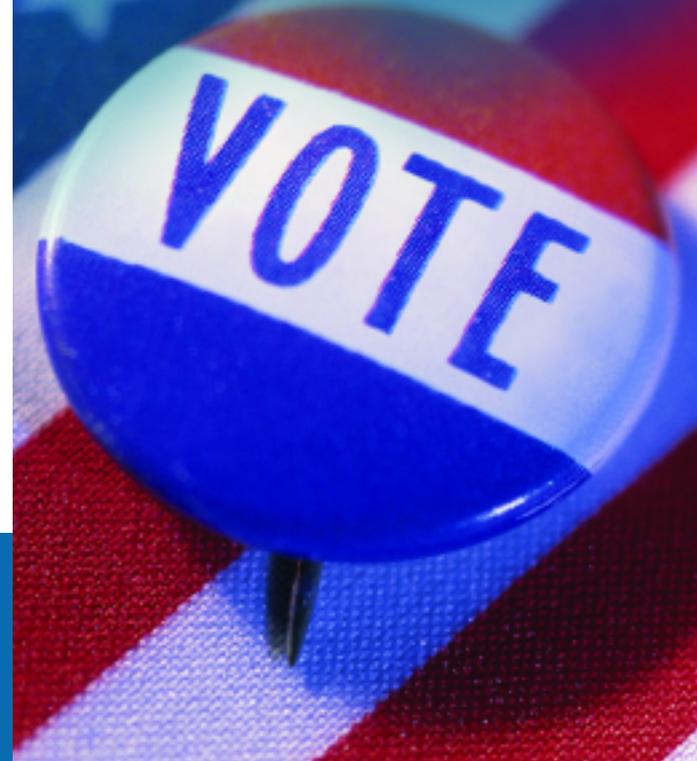
Vote Your Values

- **Educate Yourself on Election Issues:** The www.ivotevalues.org Web site is a great place to start.
- **Pick Your Party:** Consider how each political party's views on moral issues line up with your core values.
- **Choose a Candidate:** Know what the candidates stand for. Weigh the candidates' values against the life principles found in God's Word, and choose the candidates whose views most closely match Scripture.

Pray for the Election

Election Day is fast approaching, and there is much at stake. In many ways, the future of our nation hangs in the balance. We encourage all concerned Christians to devote themselves to focused prayer for the election and for our nation.

Why Christians Should . . .



Colorado Springs, CO 80995
1-800-A-FAMILY
www.family.org



Honor, Privilege, Duty

Americans are blessed to have a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” But democracy has one key requirement: our participation.

The most basic democratic participation is voting, yet it can also have the most profound impact. When you vote, you help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws and protect our liberties.

More than a right, voting is a privilege that millions of people in other parts of the world can only dream about. Still, many Americans choose not to vote.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as many as 35 percent of eligible Americans are not registered to vote – that’s 45 to 65 million people! Less than half of the voting-age population actually votes in any given election.

What’s worse, Christians often vote at an alarmingly low rate. For example, in 2002, the last non-presidential election year, only 43 percent of evangelical Christians actually bothered to vote.¹ When people of faith fail to vote, is it any wonder that policies are enacted that are contrary to believers’ core values?

The Influence of Faith

Our faith in God should influence our values in life, and includes the political arena. We shouldn’t be bashful about injecting notions of right and wrong into public debates. These ideas come from moral standards, which help prevent a free society such as ours from sliding into social chaos. People of faith, grounded in moral truth, must be prepared to discern those candidates best able to uphold moral values.

As Christ’s representatives on earth, we are under a mandate to be “salt and light” in our culture (Matthew 5:13-16). Dr. James Dobson has said, “We live in a representative form of government where we are its leaders. It means that every citizen has a responsibility to participate in the decisions that are made, and that includes people of faith using their influence for what is moral and just.”

“If America is to survive, we must elect more God-centered men and women to public office – individuals who will seek Divine guidance in the affairs of state.”

–Billy Graham, Evangelist

Voting Your Values

Here’s more sobering news: Many believers fail to consider their biblical values when voting, often choosing candidates whose positions are at odds with their own beliefs, convictions, and values. A study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions.

The Ministry of Voting

That’s right. Your vote can be a form of ministry. After all, when you vote, you are directly and indirectly impacting people’s lives. By the people you select and the ballot measures you support, you are making a practical difference – for good and bad – in the lives of:

- unborn children (abortion policy)
- impressionable youth (pornography laws & education policy)
- husbands and wives (marriage & divorce laws)
- hurting souls (religious freedom laws)

And that’s only the beginning. So this election year, prayerfully resolve to:

- 1) Be registered
- 2) Be informed
- 3) Vote your values

Source: 1. Candi Cushman, *Remember Florida, Citizen*, July 2004, p. 24.

A Final Word

It is absolutely critical that Christians be registered, be informed and vote our values. As believers, we have a duty to be involved in the democratic process.

But our charge is not simply to vote the way our friends or family vote, or the way our political party wants us to vote, or even with concern only for our pocketbook. Instead, we must vote our values, our beliefs, our convictions.

An informed vote takes effort. The choice is not always easy, but it is always significant.