

# (Christian) God's Politics

*The legacy we leave behind for our children, grandchildren and this great nation is crucial.*

John Eun

This may sound unconstitutional or overly ambitious. Or maybe, just right. While religious institutions should be separate from state, I would strongly disagree with anyone who claims that religious faiths should be separate from state. Because, as Dr. John Lennox pointed out during the Veritas Forum on Monday, a religious faith is not a belief in the lack of evidence but a trust that manifests in a theistic worldview, just as different materialistic worldviews are derived from the faith in no God. So I believe that "people of faith" have an important place and responsibility in the political discussion because worldviews ultimately inform support of public policies, and as a follower of Jesus Christ, I want to participate in our Davidson community's.

On October 22, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association ran two similar full-page ads in the USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and numerous newspapers in swing states. One of the ads says:

The legacy we leave behind for our children, grandchildren and this great nation is crucial. As I approach my 94th birthday, I realize this election could be my last. I believe it is vitally important that we cast our ballots for candidates who base their decisions on biblical principles and support the nation of Israel. I urge you to vote for those who protect the sanctity of life and support the biblical definition of marriage between a man and a woman. Vote for biblical values this November 6, and pray with me that America will remain one nation under God.

Considering Pastor Billy Graham made a personal commitment to avoid picking sides after the Nixon debacle (which I had to research) in 2002, it is indeed surprising to see him (or his ministry organization) make an implicit political endorsement in this year's elections. While I write this in response to the ad and the now-finished presidential debates, I will not argue for one candidate over another or argue which "biblical principles" are more important than others. Rather, I am writing to 1) call on Davidson's Christian community to unity (not uniformity) and 2) share with the Davidson community what I understand the Bible says about politics.

First, I want to urge and encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ to engage in political discussions with discretion. We are called to be a people of one faith in Jesus Christ, even if the same faith informs our support of public policies differently. Now, "Biblical principles" are different from public policies. Biblical principles are rooted in our faith in Jesus, and thus, I believe principles do not change, just as our faith doesn't. Public policies are more complex, and I do not have the adequacy to

explain their complexity. For example, serving the poor and the oppressed is a Biblical principle, while public policies, like welfare programs and balanced budgets, seek to achieve the principle with different philosophies. In my opinion, it is appropriate to debate whether one public policy is more Biblical than another based on the principles, but it is dangerous to claim ownership over one policy as "God's policy." Such claim not only offends other Christians but also people of other religious traditions as well as no religious tradition. Simply, it not a display of meekness and humility that Christ displayed.

Second, I want to express my belief to everyone that the Christian God's politics is not just about Israel, abortion, and the biblical definition of marriage. To list a few, poverty is a religious issue (Galatians 2:10). Family (not restricted to marriage) is a religious issue (James 1:27). Making peace in America's urban neighborhoods, Middle East, and wherever there is a conflict is a religious issue (Matthew 5:9). I make these claims based on the New Testament, not the Old Testament, to erase any doubts. In fact, the New Testament, contrary to popular belief, is more radical than the Old Testament: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back" (Luke 6:27-30). It even tells us to pay taxes (Romans 13:6-7).

I believe the Bible teaches us that poverty, family, and making peace are as important political issues to Jesus as Israel, abortion, and the biblical definition of marriage. If so, poverty, family, and making peace should be as important religious issues to Christians as the latter three are. These issues will vary among Christians in terms of order of priority and informing policies. But I

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do not want anyone in our Davidson community to have a misconception that God only cares about certain issues. Our Christian God is God of Israel as well as God of Gentiles, which includes Palestinians, Iranians, and North Koreans, (Romans 11). He is God of the unborn as well as God of the impoverished, uninsured, and unemployed. He is the Father of all families: traditional, LGBTQ, and broken.

P.S. Although we only have two weeks until the election, I highly recommend Jim Wallis' "God's Politics."

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# Energy at Davidson

Charles Shirley

We might not think about it each time we boot up our computers, turn on the lights, or run the faucets in our rooms, but energy remains an incredibly important subject at Davidson.

Duke Energy supplies our college with facilities such as the ones mentioned above. This company delivers clean, sustainable energy to Davidson College. More than half of that energy takes the form of electricity. The other portion includes water and natural gas. These are used for heating, cooling, irrigation, steam, and furnaces, among other things. In the past, Davidson has taken on many

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environmentally friendly energy projects. Baker houses some of these projects. The building utilizes many energy-saving, cost-cutting technologies, which have now become essential to student athletics here at Davidson. If one went onto the top of the building, they would see 64 solar panels on the roof of the south side of the building. Additionally, the building utilizes Smart grid integration technology, which collects information on the usage of energy to help reduce costs, and improve efficiency and sustainability here at Davidson.

This past fall, there was an energy panel hosted here on campus. On the panel were Vincent Davis, Anthony Foxx, and Graham Bullock, to name a few. Many attended, and the questions posed reflected both the interest and willingness to act of the audience.

In comparison to several other small liberal arts colleges, Davidson consumes less fossil

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fuels and energy as a whole. Additionally, these consumptions have been steadily decreasing over the past seven years due to a dedicated staff and willing student body. Also, energy unit cost for fuel is significantly lower for Davidson than it is for the other same colleges used in the comparisons above.

There is still room for improvement at Davidson, despite all of the significant recent advances. Our average energy consumption for the past seven years is still above that of many similar small colleges. Additionally, the solar panel idea can be expanded across campus, to the roofs of many buildings, not just Baker alone. It will take a large amount of effort on the part of everyone here at Davidson to maintain the positive effects of the work done in the past.

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