Vote Your Values
A Call for Christian Citizens to Pray, Prepare, and Participate

As you go to the polls and cast your vote on November 6, you should know your candidate’s position on these biblical worldviews. This is not about which party governs, but by what principles this nation will be ruled … for years to come. Here are the paramount moral matters of our day. Ask yourself – “Where does my candidate stand on these godly issues?” Then, cast your vote according to your faith values.

Defending the Sanctity of Life
Psalm 127:3 says that “Children are a heritage from the Lord.” Psalm 139:13 acknowledges that God forms our “inward parts” and knitted us together in our mother’s womb. Clearly the Bible teaches that pre-born children are persons from the moment of conception; therefore, they should be given the legal protection equal to others in society and their innocent lives should not be murdered. Yet the U.S. Supreme Court has wrongly defined them as non-persons and the U.S. Congress has appropriated billions of dollars over the years to Planned Parenthood – America’s largest abortion provider and the leading abortion advocate internationally.

The candidate’s views should be explored as to life-related issues:
• Your tax dollars being spent on medical costs for abortions and contraceptives.
• Funding the harvesting of embryo stem-cells for destroying in medical research.
• Compelling the dispersing of drugs that cause abortions (i.e., “the morning after pill”) against a person’s or institution’s conscience.
• Federal funding to international groups that perform or advocate abortions.

Remember: A government that can define when life begins can also determine when it ends. Euthanasia – the deliberate ending of life for the aged or the infirmed – is a nature development of those who do not hold life as sacred. If you or someone close to you is a senior or terminally ill, you would be wise to know your candidate’s stance on laws against intentionally taking of life!

Defending Traditional Marriage
The Bible is clear that marriage is a lifelong union between one man and one woman; and that homosexuality, adultery, and divorce are contrary to God’s design. God created marriage (Genesis 1:27-28) and referred to Adam and Eve as husband and wife (Genesis 2:25). In Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus says, “He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and … ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ … ‘They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.’” Hebrews 13:4 declares that “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

In 1996, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly enacted the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). But in 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court struck down the state’s marriage law, and the state began issuing same-sex “marriage” licenses six times.

(continued … on page two)
months later ... despite no change in the law. And in May 2012, a federal appeals court in Boston declared DOMA unconstitutional.

All candidates should be asked how they will defend traditional marriage from the radical assault to redefine what God has already defined. Equal or like benefits for same-sex “civil unions” or “domestic partners” should be addressed separate from enshrining and devaluing the sacred definition of marriage. Let’s be clear: This is not a civil right; it is a sexual preference or orientation (no different than incestuous or polygamous relationships). Civil rights are based upon innate characteristics (like race and gender) and, therefore, homosexuality is not a protected class. Restricting marriage to one man and one woman does not discriminate or violate anyone’s fundamental rights.

Check out how the candidates stand on traditional marriage:
• The proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would impose the homosexual political agenda on the workplace.
• A constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union only between one man and one woman.
• New policies giving marital-like benefits to same-sex partners.

Taxes and Federal Spending

Government debt and taxation is a moral issue. 1 John 2:15-16 admonishes us: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.” The government is spending trillions of dollars that we don’t have. Thus, the federal government is effectively enacting our children and grandchildren to debt far into the future. Since the last general election, America has been on a spending spree ... from the $787 billion “stimulus” package, to the $1 trillion “healthcare reform” law, to the bailouts of various private industries. With federal charity there comes more dependence on government and less personal responsibility ... which goes against what the Bible says about caring for one’s own and others. Government spending creates new constituents for politicians, and at a higher cost than just money (i.e., forcing parents to spend more time in the workforce; thus leaving less time to devote to their spouses and children). When government expands spending and control in education, it crowds out parental responsibility. When it expands its role in providing social welfare services, it tends to erode a sense of responsibility among churches and other groups doing good work to help neighbors in need.

Candidates should be asked their position on taxation:
• Pledging not to raise taxes and to roll back government ... not make it bigger.
• Eliminating the complicated codes of a “progressive” tax rate and replacing it with a simplified flat tax in which all persons pay a percentage of their income.
• Permanently repealing the estate (“death”) tax.

Restoring Health Care

Despite overwhelming public opposition, on March 23, 2010, the U.S. Congress enacted the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” which amounts to a $1 trillion takeover of the health care industry by the federal government, adding dozens of new agencies, and taxes. This so-called “healthcare reform” largely takes effect in 2014. In a surprising decision, the U.S. Supreme Court found the law constitutional ... provided that the individual mandate was viewed as a tax increase (and not an elastic use of the commerce clause). However, the whole bill was originally “sold” as being anything but a tax. In many ways, the 2012 election will be a referendum on this issue. It creates a system in which employers will face higher costs for insuring their employees, and could opt instead to drop coverage and accept fines. This could move millions into government-run insurance exchanges, which will destroy the private health care option. Government will effectively be the only insurer, thus giving bureaucrats socialized medicine, and life and death power over every American — a dangerous and unbiblical transformation of government’s role (to punish evil and encourage good according to Romans 13:1-7). The new law is already prompting government funding of abortion ... despite promises that it would not. It also lacks adequate conscience protections for pro-life medical personnel ... many of whom base their convictions about the sanctity of human life on the witness of Holy Scripture. So-called “Obamacare” mandates the economic rationing of healthcare by 15 non-elected (presidentially appointed) bureaucrats to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) who would determine which patients are eligible to receive what kinds of care (based on a “quality of life” rather than a “sanctity of life” criterion).

All candidates should be asked their position on government run health care:
• The repeal of the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”.
• An alternative plan to provide coverage for those who are unable to obtain health care.
• Laws prohibiting individual states from forcing companies to cover high-risk people at the same rate as everyone else, thus increasing costs for everyone.
• Congress passing medical malpractice reform (tort reform) that would bring medical costs down and limit the lawsuit awards.

Opposing Judicial Tyranny

Deuteronomy 16:19 declares: “You shall not pervert justice.” Judges are to evaluate cases fairly according to an established standard of law ... external to themselves. Yet judges routinely transgress the rule of law and the moral order established in God’s Word ... brushing aside laws against abortion, laws defining marriage, laws protecting children against internet pornography, and more. The separation of powers in the United States between the branches of government has become indistinct. From the U.S. Supreme Court to the lower courts, judges have seized legislative and executive powers. Liberal legal elites,
(continued … from page two)

including some U.S. Supreme Court justices, now argue that international opinion should trump statutes by elected American lawmakers. This violates their oath to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution.

Determine your candidate’s position on the judiciary:
• How they intend to reign in a rogue judiciary.
• Would they support “originalist” judges (according to the original intend of the Constitution) or “activist” judges (seeing the Constitution as a “living document” in which justices can discover new rights and laws).
• Term limits, impeachment and legislation that limits courts’ jurisdiction.
• The criteria for confirmation of nominees for appointment to judge.

Every vote for every candidate at the state and national level will tend to strengthen one party or the other; and will perpetuate either a liberal, activist system of judges or a conservative, originalist system of judges. In the case of appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court, it will decide whether we will once again be a nation with a government “of, by, and for the people” or forever be ruled by nine unelected, lifetime justices.

Environmental Tyranny

In Genesis, God requires us to be good stewards of the earth (Genesis 1:28). The biblical principle about the moral goodness of developing and enjoying the earth’s resources stands in contrast to the views of radical environmentalists, many of whom hold to “untouched nature” as their ideal, and therefore object to activities like the use of animals in medical research. They will attempt to block many new building projects through lawsuits claiming some species will be threatened with non-existence. They object to the hunting of deer or geese in residential neighborhoods … even when they are so numerous to be a public nuisance or a danger to health. They insist that man-made pollutants are causing “global warming.” And all of these matters necessitate severe government controls. Some of them give the impression that the major problem with the whole earth is the presence of human beings! God’s command to subdue the earth and have dominion over it declares His intent that all people have the moral right to enjoy the abundance of the earth’s resources with thanking to Him.

 Candidates should be asked their stand on the environment:
• The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulating the amount of carbon fuel used or to diminish the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
• The regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions” from automobiles that force Americans to drive smaller automobiles … often less comfortable and more dangerous.
• “Cap and trade.”
• International treaties like the Kyoto accord … that put U.S. industries under the thumb of global elites.

Protecting Israel

In Genesis 12:3 we read, “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” God created the world to demonstrate His glory; and He choose Israel to demonstrate His glory. The prophet Isaiah records, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.” (Isaiah 49:3) “Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor.” (Isaiah 60:21) Israel did not claim the land for themselves; God gave it to them! It was promised to them. (Genesis 15:18-20) God even promised that He would bring them back when they were punished for their sin. (Deuteronomy 30:1-5) Christians should support the Jewish people and their right to exist as a nation because God gave Israel the land forever. We are instructed to pray for Israel — “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure.” (Psalm 122:6) And if we don’t support Israel, God will judge the nations that harm Israel according to the prophet Joel — “In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.” (Joel 3:1-2)

On May 23, 2011, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress. He brought the house down with applause and ovations as he described Israel’s desire for peace and the special relationship between Israel and the United States. If this bond is ever broken; if the United States ever turns away from Israel; it will spell the end of God’s mercy on America.

Candidates should be confronted on their stance regarding Israel:
• Support for Israel in diplomatic circles, especially in the United Nations, as a favored ally in all the Middle East.
• Defend Israel’s right to exist and to protect itself against the same Muslim jihadists that would seek to destroy western civilization.
• Recognize Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel.

Immigration

The Old Testament has many verses that command the people of Israel to treat the “sojourner” (other versions say “alien”) fairly and with kindness (Exodus 22:21; Exodus 23:9; Leviticus 19:33; Deuteronomy 10:19). And God’s establishment of government (read Genesis 9:5-6) as “God’s servant for your good” (Romans 13:4) means that immigration policies should be designed to bring benefit to that nation. This would imply giving priority to accepting those people who will most likely make a positive contribution to society, and excluding those with a criminal record, those having communicable diseases, or those who otherwise give indication that their overall contribution would likely be negative in terms of advancing the well-being of the nation. But in the last decade or so we have a
different situation from our entire history of past immigration.

There are many immigrants (estimated as high as 13 million or 4 percent of our population) who have come here illegally – outside of the normal system for entering the United States. These illegal aliens impose billions of our tax dollars in medical expenses, food assistance, childcare, aid to schools, prison and court systems. And many legal immigrants within the past forty years do not seem to be assimilating well into American culture … having formed their own ethnic communities in which their primary loyalty is not to the U.S. but to their nation of origin. Being a nation ruled by law, the U.S. must enforce its laws on immigration.

Candidates should be challenged as to their position on immigration:
- Closing the boarders.
- Plans for comprehensive reform of the immigration system.
- Stopping chain migration.
- Patriotic and educational reforms in schools and in immigration processes.
- Expanding the admission of skilled workers.
- Enforcing regulations on employers of illegal immigrants.
- Deporting of illegals.
- Making possible a path to full citizenship for those illegals who are contributing to society.

Religious Liberty

The prophetic Psalmist, David, describes a generation where the leaders of the world rise in revolt against both Christians and Jews. He said, “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.’” (Psalm 2:1-3) The focus of this rebellion is God and Christ. The kings of the earth take their stand by “breaking their chains” or the restraints that the Word of God imposes on society. Perhaps we are living in that generation. Just look at the worldwide movements whose purpose was and is to cast God out of society: Communism, where the state is god; Atheism, where there is no god; Secular Humanism, where man is god; and New Age, everything and anything is god. There is freedom of religion … as long as you are not a Christian and it’s not in the public square. Under the false pretext of “separation of church and state” … always misquoted as the First Amendment of the Constitution … Christians have been legally targeted (i.e., denied Bible reading in public schools, repugnated for a prayer huddle at football games, prohibited from referencing Jesus at commencement addresses, disciplined for wearing faith-based shirts bearing a godly message). Yet, Muslims in our public schools wear Islamic grab, and are offered rooms for reading the Quran and praying to Allah. Despite the fact that the First Amendment is supposed to enable our freedom of worship, our laws have prohibited it.

Other attacks on Christianity include: prohibiting military chaplains from praying in Jesus’ name or preaching the absolute truth rather than political correctness; removing public displays of the Ten Commandments; eradicating crosses from federal property; requiring religious institutions to violate their principles (i.e., contraceptives, adoptions, employment, etc.); encroaching upon pro-life health care professionals to perform abortions against their own conscience; and so on and so on.

Candidates should be asked their position on religious liberty:
- Repeal of the 1954 IRS policy penalizing churches from any political advocacy.
- Faith-based programs (i.e., shelters for homeless, drug rehab, prison ministries, etc.) receiving federal funding being required to refrain from religious activities or conversation.
- Military chaplains having freedom of expression and protection from forced censorship without fear of reprisal.

The Bible tells us to listen to the voice of God and to obey His Word, and He will bless us. America has been blessed, yet we have failed as a people to maintain godly principles; we have failed to use the freedom to vote that our Constitution has afforded us. It is time to take a stand for righteousness. Register to vote, and cast your vote according to your faith values!

“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual—or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”

- Samuel Adams

If you vote in Minnesota …

The MN Marriage Amendment seeks to change the constitution so that the only definition of marriage in Minnesota is between one man and one woman. The text, as it will appear on the ballots, is this — Shall the MN Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?

A vote of Yes would be a vote in support of changing the constitution, and defining marriage as being between a man and a woman.

A vote of No would be a vote against the amendment, and not change the constitution.

Note: If you choose not to vote on the MN Marriage Amendment, then your vote will be counted as a No vote.