

Struggles and thoughts of politics and voting.

- moralism (not willing to vote for someone because of their lack of morality, from your perspective).
- apathy or dirty
- anger and outrage
- balanced understanding

I am going to attempt to walk a very careful line. We are going to talk about a few things.

1. What the Bible says about Government.
2. Based off what the Bible says, I would like to offer a warning of how a faithful christian can NOT vote this November.
3. Based off what the Bible says, I would like to offer 3/4 options for voting in November.

Turn to Romans 13.

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist have been appointed by God.”

(Romans 13:1 LSB)

v.1 Lays down the general expectations of scripture toward government. “Appointed by God”

Remember our previous study: QUESTION1- What do we know about God?

- Good
- Holy
- Righteous
- Intimately involved with His creation (NO disconnected God here)
- Sovereign

v.2 Lays out how serious God is about obedience to government.

“Therefore whoever resists that authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.”

(Romans 13:2 LSB)

v.3 We get to verse 3-4 and discover the two tracks on which the government train runs. Praise for Good and Wrath for evil.

“For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of that authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword in vain, for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.”

(Romans 13:3–4 LSB)

1 Peter 2:13 - 15

“Be subject for the sake of the Lord to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do good. For such is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.”

(1 Peter 2:13–15 LSB)

Think back to question 1 and ask yourself this question, What does God mean here by Good and evil? This must drive us to Q1 first, our good, holy, righteous, just God appointed the government. Then what good is praise by the government must be in line with the goodness of who God is. What is evil to be given wrath by the government must be the opposite of God’s holiness.

It doesn’t lay out in totality what good and evil are, but between our understanding of God’s holiness and goodness and the rest of the passage in Romans 13, we get a good handle on things.

v.5 Necessary to be in subjection, conscience.

“Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of that wrath, but also because of conscience.”

(Romans 13:5 LSB)

v.6-7 Paul orders us to pay taxes.

Matthew 17:24-27 - Christ pays the temple tax

Matthew 22: 17-21 - Christ commands taxes be paid to Rome

— But what about if they use those taxes to fund abortions...^^^

“For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

(Romans 13:6–7 LSB)

1 Peter 2:18

“Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are crooked.”

(1 Peter 2:18 LSB)

1 Peter 2:18-25 It’s not an accident that this section follows the discussion on authority Since when does God give you permission to ignore His command because someone else is sinning...

“For to this you have been called, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps, WHO DID NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; who being reviled, was not reviling in return; while suffering, He was uttering no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously. Who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that having died to sin, we might live to righteousness; by His WOUNDS YOU WERE HEALED. For you were continually

straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

(1 Peter 2:21–25 LSB)

V.7 custom, fear, honor

Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

(Romans 13:7 LSB)

1 Peter 2:17

“Honor all people, love the brethren, fear God, honor the king.”

(1 Peter 2:17 LSB)

v.8 fulfill the law

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

(Romans 13:8 LSB)

Which part of the law is the government responsible for?

v.9 Here is the foundation for good and evil that government responds to...

— You shall not commit adultery (Deuteronomy 6, Genesis [goodness of Male and Female, fill the earth Image of God, Jesus quotes Genesis when asked about divorce and adultery)

— You shall not murder (Image of God)

— You shall not steal (for stealing to take place, people must own personal property)

— You shall not covet (goes with stealing, wanting what someone else has, or is assumed to have, leads also to stealing, murder, adultery)

— summed up, Love your neighbor as yourself (whatever this means, it cannot include the NOTS listed above)

### **QUESTION 3 -** How does this play out for us?

— What government has God placed us under? Constitutional Republic (Ben Franklin’s quote - if you can keep it) which in this current time is a two party system.

— Our government is by the people, for the people. We are given a hand in our government, a say (depending on who you vote for) in what happens. This is the government God has given us. Like Paul who exercised his roman citizenship, we must also exercise our citizenship. What does that look like?

We vote. Most of us will have no other activity as part of the government, but our vote.

Others who can serve as alderman, county commissioners, mayors, governors, senators, general assembly members, congress members, president, judges, or in the festering bureaucracy, SHOULD. But most of us will not have that opportunity.

So, how do we vote...

1. As Christians. NOT as members of political parties.

As Romans 13 tells us that the government is given authority to praise the good and bring wrath on the evil, and the good and evil must be in alignment with God's goodness and justice.

So, with this in mind, let's work our way through this...

We are just going to take two of the moral laws of God, which He calls the government to punish evil, and reward good.

— don't commit adultery (v.9)

For faithful christians, this ties back to Genesis 1. God creating man and woman in his image. The first marriage, and expectation of faithfulness. So, on the ground issues that connect directly and indirectly to this is no-fault divorce, co-habitation, adultery, and the connected areas of the LGBTQ agenda and specifically, the Transgender initiatives dealing with gender dysphoria and genital mutilation.

The democratic party stands directly opposed to God in just about every issue I just mentioned.<sup>1</sup>

Yet, the republican party is not innocent. The acceptance of no-fault divorce, co-habitation as normal, punishing adultery and sexual promiscuity and the number of LGBTQ citizens who are starting to vote republican as well as being praised (flashback to in 2016 as President Trumps holding a pride flag with For Trump written on it. The removal of opposition to same-sex marriage has been removed from the republican platform.<sup>2</sup>

So is there a difference? The difference is that looking at the party's platforms, the democrats celebrate all of this and have made it a mainstay of their public agenda. The republican party has not, yet.<sup>3</sup>

— don't murder (v.9)

This is an immediate tie to the execution of pre-born babies and just-born infants. The democrats use the terms "women's healthcare" and "Woman's right to do what she wants with her body" to eliminate the morality of killing another human being. They refuse to put limits on murder of babies, celebrate it, and have a VP candidate who enshrined it into law in the state in which he is governor. Selfish of women is given a higher priority Than the image of God in the baby they kill. Like the previous topic, democrats have enshrined it in the public agenda as a pillar of their party.<sup>4</sup>

Republicans have weakened on this issue. After celebrating the over throw of Roe v. Wade in the Dobbs decision, and losing every single state battle since, they see the political expediency of waffling on the issue of life. Life used to be in the Convention

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<sup>1</sup> [https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024\\_Democratic\\_Party\\_Platform\\_8a2cf8.pdf](https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024_Democratic_Party_Platform_8a2cf8.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/gop-2024-platform-shift-same-sex-marriage-rcna164517>

<sup>3</sup> [https://prod-static.gop.com/media/RNC2024-Platform.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*rvzkaj\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MTUwMzk2NDI5OC4xNzI4NzgzMjcj&\\_ga=2.38293027.1263733984.1728783272-1089068845.1728783272](https://prod-static.gop.com/media/RNC2024-Platform.pdf?_gl=1*rvzkaj*_gcl_au*MTUwMzk2NDI5OC4xNzI4NzgzMjcj&_ga=2.38293027.1263733984.1728783272-1089068845.1728783272)

<sup>4</sup> [https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024\\_Democratic\\_Party\\_Platform\\_8a2cf8.pdf](https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024_Democratic_Party_Platform_8a2cf8.pdf) p.50

Platform for Republicans, but it no longer is. Pro-Life amendment was in the republican platform, its not any longer. Life is not even important enough for Trump/Vance that they will not take a stand on the fact that murder, regardless of the name you give it, should be a federal issue. It should.

What's the difference here?

Democrats have made it clear that anyone who is remotely pro-life in any form or fashion is no longer welcome in the party.<sup>5</sup> Interestingly enough, some members of Evangelicals for Harris have made the comment that the Republicans are not willing to stand for life (the removal of the attempt at a federal abortion ban) so they will vote for Harris. If they truly stand for life, they are not welcome in the democratic party. At least, once the votes are counted, they will either shift, or be hushed from the top down. There is no voice for life in the democratic party, period.

There are a few who are making stands for life in the Senate (Senator Tommy Tuberville<sup>6</sup> from Alabama is one) and the House of Representatives, much to the dismay of others in the Republican Party, who are literally giving up on the issue of life for expediency. Most recently, Republican politicians are still listening to the people. President Trump refused to speak out against Amendment 4 in FL (where he lives) which is an Amendment on the ballot there much like the Bill Tim Walz<sup>7</sup> signed in MN making abortion up to an including birth legal, except in FL it will be a constitutional right. Conservatives got loud. Loud enough that President Trump<sup>8</sup> had to back pedal and come out against it. In the Republican Party, voices for life are still heard.

There are many other things we could bring up.<sup>9</sup>

Evangelicals for Harris would say things like, "meanness, bigotry" are reasons to turn to the democratic party. (Yet, democrats are guilty of the same meanness and bigotry against anyone who disagrees with them). Others comment on the "vitriol and acceptable violence" that Trump normalizes in politics. (How many times have democrats made violent remarks against someone they disagree with, Or just burn cities down.) Others would say Taxes, Climate, the Border issue, crime. (not moral issues) Also said by an Evangelical for Harris supporter was that the GOP's decision to abandon the commitment to ban abortion with a constitutional amendment and to soften the silence against same-sex marriage in the platform. (yet, you will vote for two people who have no problem executing infants even after they are born alive).

These people, who claim to be believers, will answer to God for their decisions, as well as be responsible before God for the people that follow them as trusted voices.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2022/05/27/abortion-democrats-supreme-court-midterms>

<sup>6</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/senate-military-nominations-holds-tommy-tuberville-e38d853526de044ac59338d32d7a0e10>

<sup>7</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/abortion-politics-minnesota-state-government-timothy-walz-11c3b1d5269c929e442b979ff1bac73b>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2024/08/29/g-s1-20187/trump-abortion-amendment-4-florida-ivf-funding-reproductive-rights>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/these-evangelicals-are-backing-kamala-harris-tired-of-watching-meanness-bigotry>

How can you say you will not vote for republicans because they no longer support an abortion ban, or have gone silent on same-sex marriage in the platform, but in the same voice say you will vote for a candidate who 1) was the first President/VP to visit AND CELEBRATE the visit to a planned parenthood abortion mill, 2) a VP candidate who signed an all inclusive abortion bill which even take away rights of parents to know what is going on with their daughters seeking an abortion, or allows for the killing of the baby even after birth when an abortion doesn't work. Add to that, Harris' claim that should an abortion bill show up on her desk as president, she would sign it. To use the claim of the failure of the republicans to support this is dishonest or plain ignorant of the facts.

““Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.””  
(Matthew 12:33–37 LSB)

The other issues are important (Taxes, Climate, the Border issue, crime) but are not moral issues like the ones already discussed. Honest and thoughtful people can fall in different places on these issues.

Let's apply this specifically:

1. Faithful Christians cannot vote for a democrat. By your fruit you will know them. Is.5, I believe, based off what we just covered it would be a sin to vote for a democrat.
2. Conscience Issues: I would not call any of these sin.
  1. You could choose not to vote. However, Based off what was just discussed, I would say it is the most unwise option.
  2. You can vote for Donald Trump. (Explain - Lesser of two evils)
  3. You can vote for a third party.
  4. You can write in a candidate

I don't know where most of you stand. Based off what I know of you here at Grace, I would think none here would vote for a democrat based off the reasons I have given (however, I never thought I would see a Southern Baptist Pastor use irrational logic to vote for a democrat, and we have seen that), but like myself, I would wager that some of you did not vote in the previous election cycles (2020 and 2022) due to disgust or apathy.

My desire was to provide a foundation for understanding faithful voting, and give you the options you have coming in November. I also wanted to give you time to think through this, talk through this, ask questions, debate with me. More than anything, I hope you will think carefully and deeply about election season, and how you can be faithful to live in this society that God has placed us.

**Further Listening**

Christ Over All Podcast

**<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/christ-over-all/id1643555956>**

Episodes 3.45, 3.47, 3.48, 3.49, 3.50, 3.51

The Bully Pulpit Podcast

**<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-bully-pulpit/id1762637785>**

9 episodes

Room for Nuance Podcast

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Episodes 5, 7