

The Elders of Bible Evangelical Free Church Statement  
Regarding "Politics and Bible EFC"  
September 12, 2012

In a democracy we have both the right and the responsibility to be involved in the political process. As people who are committed to following Christ we desire that our elected government representatives move our country in a God-honoring direction. Thus, we are often faced with the question: "Why does Bible Evangelical Free Church not promote one political perspective or candidate over others?" That is an excellent question - one that strikes to the core of both who we are as a local congregation and how we should relate to our community.

Our choice not to take positions on political issues and candidates is not because we are trying to avoid moral issues about which the Bible speaks. Our goal will always be to teach what the Bible says about principles of morality and justice. However, applying those principles in a fallen world often involves compromises and political trade-offs about which reasonable Christ-followers can differ. The primary reason why Bible Evangelical Free does not get involved in politics concerns the more fundamental issue of how we as a local congregation should interact with our culture and society as a whole.

We believe that God's *primary* agent of redemption in the world today is the church – not politicians or theologians or reformers, and not governments. However, well-intentioned Christ-followers have historically disagreed on exactly how the church should interact with culture as God's primary agent of redemption. We believe that in our particular context (Tomah/Wisconsin/USA) we should relate to our surrounding culture as a mission field, not a battlefield. We desire to *influence* our culture, not to *battle* it. We want to view others as people created by God and in need of God, not as the opposition. We should seek the welfare of our city and intercede prayerfully on its behalf (Jer. 29:7). This is our town and these are our neighbors. We hope that all feel welcome at Bible Evangelical Free, regardless of political association.

Reasonable, Bible-believing Christ followers can disagree about both theological issues and political issues. As a local congregation, we will continue to affirm the things that Bible-believing Christians cannot deny. As a church, however, we will not take a position on political issues, candidates, or matters of legislation about which Christians can reasonably disagree. Jesus prayed that all followers of Jesus "may be one" so that the world may believe the gospel (John 17:22-23). Politics divides; the gospel unites.

The truths of scripture are timeless and we will continue to explore how current societal issues are impacted by these timeless truths. We will encourage people to become informed and then *to* vote, but we won't tell them *how* to vote. We will encourage people to become politically active because this is our community and these are our neighbors and we should all be working to make it a better place. Let us be united behind the timeless truths of the Bible, and let us be welcoming of our brothers and sisters who in good faith apply those truths differently.