
4. Piper: The claim that voting for either candidate would compromise a person's Christian witness.

a. If a significant number of evangelicals follow John Piper's example, it will guarantee a Harris victory.

b. Supporting Trump for his good policies while criticizing his flaws and respecting another person's political judgment does not compromise a person's Christian witness.

c. Supporting Trump for his good policies while criticizing his flaws is supporting a pathway to cultural improvement, not a "pathway to cultural corruption and eternal ruin."

Wayne Grudem is distinguished research professor of theology and Biblical studies at Phoenix Seminary in Arizona and the author of Christian Ethics and Politics According to the Bible.

You can **LISTEN to or VIEW video**
of past PCI messages at www.pacificchurch.com

Policies Affect People: Factors in Voting

Platforms and Policies—part 9

October 6, 2024

Government –

- Role, power of government
- Crime

The economy

Immigration

Education

Free speech, censorship, history

"Threat to democracy." "Destroy the Constitution, end of democracy as we know it..."

Foreign policy

The military

Courts

Judges and justices

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and

quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Pro-life and abortion

Sexuality, gender, boys in girls' locker rooms/bathrooms

Character of the president:

John Piper and Wayne Grudem

1. Piper: The claim that the personal sins of a leader can be as harmful to persons and to nations as morally evil laws.

a. There is a difference between the personal influence of a leader's example, which may be rejected, and laws that compel obedience.

b. Political policies are not, *in general*, more important than personal character, but they are the primary factor to consider in a political election.

c. Christians who support Trump do not encourage imitation of his flaws but openly criticize them.

d. I have a more positive evaluation of Trump's character than John Piper does.

e. With Trump, we will get good policies and character flaws, but with Harris we will get bad policies and character flaws.

f. The Trump administration has brought to prominence many leaders with exemplary lives.

2. Piper writes, "Christians communicate a falsehood to unbelievers... when we act as if policies and laws that protect life and freedom are more precious than being a certain kind of person."

a. I agree with John Piper that, *considering all of life*, a person's character is far more important than his or her policies and laws.

b. But when an election determines what kind of policies and laws we will have, and when both candidates have character flaws, then differences in policies and laws have primary importance.

3. Piper writes, "Where does the wickedness of defending child-killing come from? It comes from hearts of self-absorbed arrogance and boasting (James 4:1-2). In other words, it comes from the very character that so many Christian leaders are treating us comparatively innocuous."

a. The primary motive behind support for abortion rights is a desire for sexual freedom without the responsibility of raising children.
