

ISSUE GUIDE

2024



This guide states a number of the biblical truths we hold that are related to issues being debated in our country today. The purpose of this document is not to tell you how or for whom to vote, but to serve as a reference with belief statements supported by Scripture to reflect on as you consider how to cast your ballot.

01 WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE?

God created us in his image, after His likeness. Life begins at conception and only God, who gives life, may take it away. The right to life, even for the unborn, should not be taken away by law or man, though medical circumstances may demand difficult decisions when the mother's life is in jeopardy during pregnancy or childbirth. The sacredness of life begins from the moment of conception to a person's final breath. The sanctity of life must be upheld for all people: from the unborn to the elderly. Life is a sacred gift. Our view on the sanctity of life does not address the loss of life during wartime in defense of the right to life and the moral freedom of human beings.

Genesis 1:26-27; Exodus 21:22-25; Luke 1:44; Psalm 139:13-14; Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 44:1-2

02 WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY?

God made all humankind in His image. Prejudice, bigotry, racism and ethnocentrism in all their manifestations, both individually and institutionally, are wrong. As Christians, we should be proactive in seeking equality and justice for people of all races. Jesus will welcome redeemed people from every nation, tribe, people and language before his throne. It is our goal as a church to be ministers of reconciliation.

Revelation 7:9; Matthew 22:39

03 WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT SEXUAL MORALITY?

God created people in His image, designed as male and female for relationships that reflect His love and faithfulness. Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman, symbolizing the union between Christ and the Church. Within this design, God intended sex to be experienced exclusively within marriage. Straying from this design, including rejecting God's creation of gender, leads to brokenness, as sin always destroys. People who struggle with unbiblical sexual practices need the ministry and restoration available through the power of Christ, and we desire to offer hope, healing, and support to men and women facing these temptations. While we support efforts to prevent oppression, we cannot endorse policies that promote unbiblical sexuality or force Christians to act against their convictions.

*Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-28
1 Corinthians 6:9-13;*

04 WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT CARING FOR THE UNDERSERVED?

God exhorts us to care for people who struggle with poverty. The Bible teaches that God has a special concern for the poor: He judges people and societies based on how they respond to the needs of the underserved, and Jesus Himself displayed a great deal of concern and compassion for people in difficult situations, including widows and orphans. We respect the dignity of every person, and we desire to love and care for underserved people. Eliminating poverty and caring for people well requires both personal and societal responsibility.

*Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Psalm 72:12-14;
Proverbs 14:21, 31; 28:27; Isaiah 58:6-11;
James 1:27; 1 John 3:17; James 1:27*

05 WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT IMMIGRATION?

Immigrants should be treated with the God-given dignity that He instills in every person. The Israelites, and even Christ Himself, were refugees. The Bible is filled with stories of immigrants, calling us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to welcome them into Christ's Kingdom. While legal considerations may guide the process by which we receive immigrants, our ultimate responsibility is to offer love, mercy, and tangible help. Where once the Church had to travel the globe to reach ethnically diverse populations, now God has seen fit to bring them to us.

*Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 10:19
Ezekiel 47:22; Matthew 25:35; Hebrews 13:1-2;*

06 WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION?

Religious liberty is a gift from God. For Christians, this involves the privilege and mandate to bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we affirm the divinely given freedom to speak and act as Christians in public life and culture. As we live under the American Constitution, we see the first amendment primarily as protecting, not prohibiting, the verbal and practical expression of our faith. While we do not advocate a special legal privilege for Christianity that would force our faith on non-Christians, we believe that the role of government is to protect, not deny, religious liberty.

Matthew 5:16; Acts 1:8; Acts 5:29

These values should guide us not just during elections, but at all times. Scripture offers many more truths that shape our faith. For more about what we believe, visit our website at fairhaven.church.