



**October 12, 2026**

## **Faith Matters When You Vote**

There are very few people in human history who have had the privilege of choosing their leaders and lawmakers by voting them into power. We are some of those special people. Voting is not only a privilege, but a moral responsibility, for voting is a matter of deciding what is good and what is not.

As Christians we belong to a community of moral and ethical decision makers. Our leader, Jesus Christ, was primarily a teacher of morality. More than half of his parables were about moral issues: what is good and what is bad, what is right and what is wrong. Our obligation as Christian voters is to choose leaders who will do good for our nation and its people.

So how do we translate Christian morality into good leadership? Or more simply asked: what is a good leader?

When I look for a good leader, I do not look for a perfect person. I do not look for a "Jesus." But I do look for someone who has some of the qualities that a good leader, like Jesus, should have. One of these qualities is integrity. A person with integrity "walks the walk," as well as "talks the talk." There is continuity between what the person says and does. This involves the moral qualities of honesty and openness, sharing what one believes is good and right and how one intends to follow up on those beliefs. Integrity also means a

strong commitment to the Truth: speaking the truth and a commitment to discovering the truth and standing for it.

Another quality I look for in a good leader is holding moral principles, principles such as “do for others, as you would have them do for you,” and “be kind to all people,” or to put it the other way around: “be cruel to no one.” Another principle is “Serve others before self.” These are the things I look for in a leader I vote for.

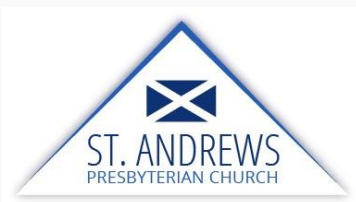
Also as a Christian I look for where a person stands on the matter of Justice. This means I ask, “Is this leader committed to upholding the law? Does this person have a sense of fairness to all, not just to certain groups and individuals? Just laws and the fair execution of these laws are the basis of a democratic nation. Justice for all was a major emphasis of Jesus’ teachings, starting with the Commandments and concluding with “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

Finally, it comes down to faith. Faith means “trust.” My religious faith is based on my trust in God, whom I know through Jesus. If I am going to vote for someone, it comes down to, “Do I trust this person to do what is right for me and our nation?” As a Christian, please vote.

~Written by The Rev. Dr. Ned Edwards

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