

<p>Commentary by Dr. James Dobson written several days after the November 3rd election:</p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>There is a heaviness within my spirit today on behalf of our beloved nation. I'm sure I share that sentiment with many of you. In a sense, Shirley and I are also grieving over the potential passing of an era, during which I believe God gave America a spiritual reprieve. President Donald Trump was partially responsible for this crucial change of trajectory.</p> <p>He isn't a perfect man, and his relationship with the Lord is a very private matter. But he attempted during the first four years of his presidency to get acquainted with, to honor, and to learn from Christian leaders. He is very close to Rev. Franklin Graham, Dr. Robert Jeffress, Rev. Paula White, Dr. Jack Graham, former Governor Mike Huckabee, and at least 30 others, including myself. He once said while greeting us at a formal dinner, "This is your house. Welcome to it." He then led us on a tour upstairs in the private residence.</p> <p>Donald Trump is the first president to celebrate the National Day of Prayer (NDP) in the Rose Garden, which he did all four years of his presidency. President George W. Bush also took the NDP very seriously and held formal services in the East Room of the White House during his eight years in office. Shirley served as chairperson of NDP, and spoke at each event. Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush also celebrated the National Day of Prayer during their terms in office. Neither Bill Clinton nor Barack Obama held NDP ceremonies at the White House.</p> <p>Back to Donald Trump, he is the most pro-life president in American history. He is the only Chief Executive to have spoken at the March for Life, which is an annual remembrance of the millions of babies aborted since <i>Roe v. Wade</i> in 1973. One of Trump's most significant decisions has been the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to be an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. She never wavered on her pro-life beliefs even during her contentious confirmation hearings.</p> <p>People who know the President best tell us he is one of the most hard-working and dedicated men</p>	<p>An Open Letter in response to Dr. James Dobson's commentary on the election:</p> <p>Dear Dr. Dobson,</p> <p>I have long admired you for your wisdom, and my wife and I raised our four boys and one girl largely following the teachings from your books and the ministry of Focus on the Family. Your influence on the Church has been huge and mostly for the good. However, your recent letter regarding this year's election troubled me deeply, and I felt I had to respond.</p> <p>You said that Donald Trump was partially responsible for a change in trajectory of the country, and in this I agree, but I think he changed it for the worse. You acknowledged that he isn't perfect, but that he sought out Christian leaders. This isn't new! Most presidents, including Obama have done this, but perhaps they weren't from your crowd.</p> <p>You seem enamored with the outward trappings of who is invited to the White House and where and how the President celebrated the National Day of Prayer. While I understand your desire to have the Christian faith promoted above all others, your focus on these outward events seems to ignore the fact that Trump revels in every chance for public recognition and that he routinely uses people for his own ends. Of course, he will invite Christians into the White House and celebrate the NDP; he even dispersed peaceful protestors to stand in front of a church and hold up a Bible. I find all of this very troubling. First, as an American, I support freedom of religion and recognize that the Constitution gives no preference to any particular religion. The White House belongs to all people. Second, as a Christian, outward acts of piety to be seen by others was specifically condemned by Christ.</p> <p>You rightly acknowledge that Trump has been very vocal in his pro-life stance. This was, of course, not always his position, and there is no evidence that it is his personal conviction rather than a desire to appease his supporters. Nevertheless, I too am a staunch supporter of the sanctity of life and welcome efforts to promote that position. You applaud the appointment of conservative justices in the hope that <i>Roe v. Wade</i> will be overturned apparently believing that this is the answer to abortion in America. It is not.</p>
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ever to serve in the Oval Office. We saw that indefatigable nature during his final campaign, when he once held nine rallies in two days. He is also remarkably resilient. The media and his political opponents hammered him every day for four years. There was never a respite. President Trump arose every morning knowing he would be unfairly ridiculed and attacked from morning to night. This criticism began before he was elected and continued throughout his presidency. Nevertheless, he stood like a rock and his list of accomplishments could fill a book.

Yes, I admire Donald Trump. He is sometimes brash and aggressive. But as a New York entrepreneur and as a president under siege, he has had to be tough to deal with his challenges. But there is no doubt that he loves America and its people. Speaking personally, I will miss his presence on the national stage when he is no longer our President.

But by the way, we're told that 81 percent of evangelicals voted for Donald Trump this year, while only 14 percent voted for the Biden ticket. I think I know why.

I won't speculate on the voting controversy. If, however, American citizens have handed over the reins of power to the Biden/Harris ticket, it is important that we examine the platform on which they ran. Elections have consequences, as we know. The promises made in writing and on the campaign trail should disturb every conservative Christian. Let's look first at the sanctity of human life.

Mr. Biden has told us emphatically that he will bring an open season on the unborn child. This is what *LifeNews* wrote about him.

- He will force Americans to fund abortions during his first week in office
- He will implement abortion on demand nationwide without any limits
- He will force Americans to fund Planned Parenthood, the biggest abortion provider¹
- He will force Christians such as the Little Sisters of the Poor to fund abortions in [their] health insurance plans²

Your position demonstrates a narrow view that focuses exclusively on the supply of abortions rather than considering the demand. There is much evidence here in America and around the world that indicates that abortion rates are lowered with lower poverty and better healthcare. You also ignore that fact that the President's role (and even the impact of *Roe v. Wade*) is limited and that abortion rates have been declining under Democratic presidents as well as Republican. Indeed, a strong argument can be made that better healthcare, more generous maternity leave, better access to contraception, and good sex education will reduce abortions faster than overturning *Roe v. Wade* ever will.

You commend Donald Trump for being hardworking; yet many of the people who have worked with him say just the opposite. Yes; he loves the rallies and adulation of the crowds, but no President has spent more days golfing or more time watching TV, calling into TV shows, Tweeting, or holding press conferences. The reason the "media" has criticized him from Day One is that every day he does or says something that is unbelievably false or foolish or cruel. He has told nearly 24,000 falsehoods since he took office! I reject completely your picture of him as a brash businessman. I have never met anyone in any profession who has acted with such public cruelty and selfishness, routinely underpaying contractors and publicly humiliating not just those who oppose him but even those who work for him. It is appalling, and no Christian should excuse it. Jesus said that what comes out of our mouths is an accurate representation of what is in our hearts. Trump's heart must be dark indeed.

Now to the Biden platform. Let's examine your statements a bit more critically.

- He will force Americans to fund abortions. (Americans already do fund abortions!)
- He will implement abortion on demand nationwide without any limits. (He doesn't have the power to do this.)
- He will force Americans to fund Planned Parenthood. (PP received more government funds in 2019 under the current president than ever in their history.)
- He will force Christians such as the Little Sisters of the Poor to fund abortions in their

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will stack the courts with pro-abortion judges who would keep abortions legal for decades to come <p>That should break the heart of every lover of God’s children. We, as American citizens, will be complicit in the deaths of millions. How can Joe Biden say he wants to be president of ALL the American people? What does he have to say to the half of us who vigorously oppose abortion on demand, paid for by taxpayers through nine months of pregnancy and perhaps beyond, in America and, by inference, in nations around the world? If Donald Trump has been the pro-life President, Joe Biden will be the radical abortion president from his inauguration forward. If Biden does become president, I will do what I can to oppose his pro-death policies every day he is in office.</p> <p>Biden’s regime will also usher in other forms of moral depravity. For example, he recently suggested that kids as young as eight or ten years old should be able to undergo irreversible transexual transformation. That’s what the man said! Kamala Harris, who may be our next vice president, said she wants this country to legalize all prostitution.⁴ What other moral outrage will come from this godless administration? Heaven only knows!</p> <p>Joe Biden and the Democrats also support open borders. So much for the wall! That means that people around the world will be invited to enter this country legally and take up permanent residence within it. From the day of their arrival, they will be entitled to free welfare, free legal services, free medical care, free education, and who knows what else. Millions of people must be out there thinking, "How can I get to that promised land?"</p> <p>We have also been told to expect trillions of dollars to be spent for the foolishness of the Green New Deal, with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez at the helm. That could bankrupt the nation. And can you imagine how Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will deal with hostile governments, including those in China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea? That is an international nightmare in the making.</p> <p>The institution of the family will find no friends in the White House or in the halls of Congress. Taxes are likely to skyrocket for middle-class parents and others. We can also expect</p>	<p>health insurance plans. (The Little Sisters have won twice in the Supreme Court and likely will again.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will stack the court with pro-abortion judges who would keep abortions legal for decades. (The Supreme Court cannot eliminate abortions; they can only permit states to do so. Abortions will remain legal regardless of the court.) <p>Rather than focusing on laws to restrict abortions, Christians should focus on laws that take better care of people. We need look no further than our neighbor to the north where there are no restrictions on abortions, but abortion rates are much lower than in the US. The fastest way to reduce abortions is to reduce demand by providing universal healthcare, generous maternity leave, easy access to contraception, and better sex education.</p> <p>Your characterization of Biden’s position on transgender surgery is false. According to the AP, “Biden said transgender children should not experience discrimination, but he did not say they “have a right to transition.” Your characterization of Harris’ position on prostitution is also false. She supports decriminalization, not legalization; there is a big difference.</p> <p>Biden and the Democrats do NOT support open borders! That is just another Trump talking point. I expect much better from someone with your education! However, yes, Democrats will not spend the billions of dollars that Trump wants to spend in order to build a 30-foot wall from sea to sea. This is universally recognized as an incredible waste of money. The Democrats, as they have always done, will secure our borders.</p> <p>However, America has always welcomed immigrants. It has been a haven for the tired, poor, huddled masses. The Bible speaks strongly in favor of welcoming the stranger and caring for their needs. You may recall the story of the Good Samaritan as just one example.</p> <p>Caring for the environment should also be something that concerns every Christian. God made a beatifical world and He commanded us to fill and replenish it. That means ensuring that everyone has access to clean air and water and</p>
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unprecedented assaults on religious liberty and churches could be stripped of Constitutional protection. Also at risk are our Bill of Rights, the Second Amendment, and other provisions within the U.S. Constitution. Democrats are talking about defunding the police and even the military. Radical change is about to descend on the nation. America is about to be over-run by the most leftist regime in history.

If that sounds discouraging and hopeless, we have to remember Who is in charge here. I believe the Almighty has had His hand of protection on this land since the days of its founding fathers. Our ancestors cried out to Him at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Midway, and Normandy. I don't believe He has forsaken us now. So how do we explain the predicament that confronts us? I don't know. Millions of people have been praying about the outcome of this election because we knew it would have such profound moral and spiritual implications. But who can discern the mind of God?

I grappled with such matters in my book, *When God Doesn't Make Sense*. I wrote one morning after pacing back and forth in my study, "We must never forget that He is God. He is majestic and holy and sovereign. He is accountable to no one. He is not an errand boy who chases the assignments we dole out. He is not a genie who pops out of the bottle to satisfy our whims. He is not our servant—we are His. And our reason for existence is to glorify and honor Him . . . even when nothing makes sense. I then heard Him say, "Trust Me."

And trust we shall. Still, we ask, "Why did this election come tantalizingly close to a victory for life and morality, only to end tragically?" Could it be because America has abandoned its moral convictions? I wrote in my general letter several months ago that our popular culture has become utterly wicked. If that is accurate, how could a nation murder 62 million babies, fresh from the hand of the Creator, without expecting judgment to fall upon them? Clearly, we stand guilty before Him.

If this explains the disaster that has now befallen this great nation, there is only one biblical response. It is repentance. It is for us to kneel humbly before our righteous and all-seeing God and beg for forgiveness, both corporately and individually. That alone will save us.

that we don't do damage to the planet through unbridled consumption of fossil fuels.

How will Biden deal with foreign powers? Oh, please! Under Trump, Russia, China, and North Korea have become more emboldened than ever! When Trump backed out of the Trans Pacific Partnership, guess who jumped right in to organize something new? China!

Taxes? Donald Trump cut them at a time when the economy was booming adding trillions to our national debt. He provided much more relief to the wealthy than the middle and lower classes. Will some taxes go up? I am sure they will as they should, but if those funds are used to ensure that every American has healthcare, that would be a good thing!

To be honest, your dystopian view of America under Biden is starting to sound like an unbalanced rant. Let's get real. Did the Democrats take away your guns under Clinton? Obama? No. Might you have to register your gun? Yes. Oh, and guess who has a nice majority on the Supreme Court? Your second amendment rights aren't going anywhere!

"Defunding the police" is probably the worst slogan ever invented. It won't happen, so put yourself at ease about that. However, wouldn't it make sense to send social workers to speak with someone who is drunk and disorderly rather than a police officer? Of course! We can do better as a nation so that police officers no longer suffocate detainees to death in broad daylight.

It saddens me that someone with your background and evident wisdom would exercise so little critical judgment and succumb to what are essentially Republican talking points. In doing this, you do not help the Church.

America is a pluralistic country where everyone gets a say. Like it or not, most of the country supports permitting some abortions, but they also support setting limits. Like it or not, most of the country supports some form of universal healthcare, and some restrictions on guns, and fairer taxation, and improving the environment. In fact, most of the country, in the last several decades have voted for Democratic presidents. It is only due to the undemocratic nature of the

We may have lost this election battle when it comes to the policies that matter most to us. Yet, the culture war rages on, and the gospel message of Jesus Christ is our banner and greatest hope. This is why we do what we do at the Dobson Family Institute. Faith and family remain the mission, and our conviction has never been more ardent. We are ambassadors for Christ, and we still have work to do. Are you with us?

Let us pray:

Lord, this is my prayer for my nation. Forgive us for our profound sinfulness, our arrogance, our pride, and our hands that have shed innocent blood. Restore our marriages and our churches. Bring a spirit of renewal and revival across this land. And Lord, in Thy wrath, remember mercy.

Amen and Amen.

electoral college that they have not been "elected."

However, as a Christian, this is not something you should fear. In fact, Christians above all should be supporting many of these plans, at least in principle if not in the specifics. Consider this: Jesus healed the crowds, taught the crowds, and fed the crowds. He was all about health, education, and welfare. If the Church wants to take all that over, they certainly may, and when they do, the government can get out. But to simply oppose government efforts to care for the sick, the poor, and the helpless without a better solution is not Christian at all.

I am proud to say that I am a born-again, Bible-believing Christian who is part of the 14% who voted for Biden. I am a staunch progressive-conservative who believes in pro-life, traditional marriage, individual initiative, and free enterprise. However, I also see that the government has a role to play in every area to ensure that those with wealth and power do not abuse those without and that the poorest among us have access to the necessities of life and health. I believe in an America with liberty and justice for all.

Dr. Brian Hazeltine, father, teacher, professor, committed Christian.