Let's Stop Playing Politics

This article is ***not*** political. In fact, it is just the opposite. Politics, particularly in recent decades, is more and more about mental and emotional manipulation than policy and principle. The more money a candidate has, the more advertising he or she can buy, then use to hire well-trained advertising manipulators to play on public opinions and emotions. Madison Avenue, the seat of the American advertising industry, is populated by university trained advertising agents who have spent their careers learning and using psychologically proven manipulative techniques.

Quite unfortunately, very few Americans have been taught how to distinguish emotional manipulation from policy. Because of that, our citizens, on average, are quite vulnerable to ads depicting what they simply like rather than actual policy. In other words, Americans, by and large, fall for carefully crafted, emotionally appealing ads without carefully assessing the actual policies and plans of any particular candidate. Likewise, we fall prey to emotional manipulation of identity politics and character attacks.

There is a **far better** approach for thinking people. It's actually quite simple.

a. Stop believing political ads from ***anyone.*** More than likely the candidate didn't write the ad and had little or nothing to do with its publication (particularly if the ad is published by a political action committee (PAC).
b. Stop being swayed by the number of ads you see or hear, on TV, radio or internet. "Well, I've heard a lot that such and such a candidate is thus and such," not recognizing the fallacy of that reasoning. When you allow your opinions to be formed by ads or the sheer volume of ads, you are falling prey to money. Period.
c. Use the logic that God gave you. Proverbs 18:17 states, ***"The first to plead his case seems right, Until another comes and examines him."*** Of course an ad can be persuasive; I've never seen one political ad that properly allows the *other* side to cross-examine the claims presented in the ad!
d. Logical and practical approach:
   1. Write down, literally on paper, what you believe about several major topics. (Abortion, same sex marriage, foreign wars, federal spending, federal and local programs, immigration, border security, etc.
   2. Determine which, if any, of those topics are biblical topics addressed in the Bible.
   3. Read the actual published platforms of each major political party and candidate (or even minor, local candidates) to see which party is more aligned with scripture and with your deeply held convictions.

By using your own logic, not cleverly crafted ads, you can see beyond the professional manipulators and their psychological tricks. *By comparing God's word to the actual* ***written*** *platforms, (****not*** *speeches or ads), you will be miles ahead of the average American in proper and logical evaluation of what a party or candidate actually believes and where he or she will take our nation.*

As "We the People," we are truly in a decisive, authoritative position to affect our future. Like the kings of old, God holds responsible those who actually have authority. God held King David responsible for Uriah's death, not Joab who was on the battlefield - 2 Samuel 11.) Choose wisely.

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