



# New Jersey Christian Coalition

*"The worst thing that can happen to a good cause is not to be skillfully attacked, but to be ineptly defended." — Frederic Bastiat, 1801-1850*

The Christian Coalition is a grassroots organization that seeks *a return to Judeo-Christian values* in public policies. But we've been misrepresented and shown hostility by those who claim to love tolerance and inclusion, because they oppose our political agenda, our religious values and respect for God and life.

Since 1994 an unprincipled (untruthful) liberal assault has attempted to demonize and alienate us from churches and the American people. The truth is that we're traditional, not radical and cannot be (based on our numbers- *see #3 below*) on an extreme end of the political landscape. We work to educate voters and improve our government. Coalition volunteers are sincere believers who attend your churches and care about their families, communities and nation.

We believe that the primary mission of the church is spiritual not political. Sharing the gospel, caring for the needy, helping people grow in Christ. But the battle for this nation's soul is spiritual, and the only thing that it takes for evil to advance is for good people to do nothing. Political activity played a significant role in early American churches, and our ought to have a place in the fellowship somewhere above baseball or bingo.

When surveyed, at least 60% of the American public *agrees* with the agenda of the Christian Coalition. We represent a *majority* of Americans, but a secular media would want you to believe that the Coalition represents the interests of a unattractive minority. When the Washington Post said that Coalition members were "uneducated, and easily led." their fax machine rang off the hook with resumes and tax returns of involved Christians.

Our major mission is to educate voters through voter guides. The voter guides clearly state the position of candidates on specific issues. After an 8-year battle, they are legal and proper for distribution in churches without effecting their tax-exempt status. These guides show where the candidates stand on issues, so that as many as possible can be informed participants in our democracy.

The Christian Coalition is not aligned with any political party, but is an advocate of issues which align with the concepts and truths of God's Word. We believe in separation of church and state, and are more interested in providing a bright promising future for our families and protecting our children than in legis-

lating against the sins of others. Our legislative agenda centers on practical matters aimed at improving the culture and preserving society - being salt and light.

We want good things for this country, and practical improvements to public policies. We also want representation in our government that supports traditional families, traditional morals and religious freedoms.

We are alarmed by the spiritual and moral freefall that is taking place in our nation. We work across denominational, racial, and theological boundaries because, in the words of Rabbi Daniel Lapin, "the overarching philosophy that fuels the Leftist agenda is a ferocious determination to extirpate all religious influence in American public life." (*America's Real War*) To the influential secular left we are the single most serious threat to their political agenda.

Consider —

1. USA Weekend, the Sunday magazine insert, did a story on religious conservatives in Sept. 1994. Ralph Reed was on the cover. They surveyed readers and requested their response to the statement, "Religious values are essential to democracy or are religious values a threat to democracy?" In the largest response in USA Weekend's history (almost 60,000) an overwhelming 86% agreed with Reed. Only 14% said that they were threatened by religious values!
2. The church-going population in this country is the largest single demographic that votes. It is larger than males, females, unions, or any race.
3. Fully 33%, a third of the US population, who voted in November of 1994 were self-professing conservative evangelicals or Roman Catholics. How can a third of the country be portrayed as extreme, right wing, or radical? On any bell curve... that percentage occupies the middle. The Clinton administration and media have been deceitful with a vengeance since the election of the first conservative Congress in 40 years was widely accredited to the Coalition.
4. President Clinton won office by only 43 and 49% of the vote. Yet, 89% of Washington journalists voted for him — twice the national average! Not only are politically active conservative Christians to the right of the media, but by this statistic, so are most Americans.
5. Scientific content analysis studies by the Media Research Center <http://www.mediaaresearch.org>, clear-

ly demonstrates that comparative coverage strongly favors liberal, secular, pro-abortion candidates. There are too many examples to list. What is not covered is equally revealing.

We have a right to ask why is the mainstream media providing partisan coverage?

7. Our Letter to the Editor of the Press was heavily edited. This is what was *edited out*:

"Current public policy is encroaching on our freedoms and is increasingly insensitive to our sensibilities and convictions. As shareholders in the American dream, and partakers in the democratic process, even those who have faith in God, should have no less opportunity to affect the policies that affect them, and elect the candidates that represent them, be they Democrats or Republicans...

"Educating voters is important since the media has an interesting, but not quite constitutional sense of responsibility when it comes to covering politics. Was not freedom of the press granted so that we could have an informed electorate? Yet ABC's NightLine left the Republican Convention because it was not newsworthy. Christian Coalition volunteers are sincere... They are motivated by conviction and conscience. ....The sexual revolution, the "me-first" mentality, the devaluation of life, increased drug use, the lack of a work ethic, and the thought that relativism somehow replaces truth, were not part of the American culture that contributed to making this a powerful and free nation. These social ills are bankrupting us and causing us to lose our freedoms. Getting back to traditional moral values is worth working for if you have children and want them to have a future."

Analyzing what was edited out, supports our contentions. The local Press of Atlantic City, just like the major media, does not want to acknowledge:

1. public policies offend or oppose Christian values;

2. Christians have a right to be involved;
3. the media is failing in their constitutional responsibility to inform the electorate by promoting their agenda;
4. erosion of Judeo Christian values, which is the basis of our morals and civility is not good for society;
5. our cause is right and will preserve the future of this country for our children.

According to Paul's letter to II Thessalonians 2:10, people will perish "because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." The truth is not the standard in politics or journalism, but, if you are a Christian, it must be your standard!

The Christian Coalition is one resource for you and your congregation to help them to ferret out the truth in this current atmosphere of deceptive campaigning and media malpractice. Because, unlike our opponents, we have an obligation to tell the truth. We are also obliged to work with the system that our country's founders wisely (divinely) devised to preserve our freedoms. We must be involved in the political arena on issues that matter to our families and to Him. This country needs an informed electorate. We need to educate ourselves and others, and vote our values.

Christ enlightens us, He makes us aware of what is going on and responsive to it in love - He has not given us a spirit of fear. If this nation will recover from its current moral crisis, *it will be because we participated in the process*. Who else is called to this task? But it needs to be done in a spirit of love and of service... which is what we are pursuing.

We need your assistance this fall with voter registration and voter guide distribution.

**Contact NJ Coalition offices**

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