

The popular question a few years ago was “What would Jesus do?” This year the question might be “How would Jesus vote?”

How should we as Christians approach this election? In *John 18:36 Jesus says “My kingdom is not of this world.”* Martin Luther (talk about a maverick reformer!) said “Society need not be run by the church in order to be ruled by God.”

The Bible is not a political guide. But, of course, it does shape our personal values. If we try to use a religious litmus test to choose a candidate or advocate a particular political agenda, we lose sight of Christ’s central message – salvation by grace through faith.

It’s vital that we, as citizens in a democracy, vote. There are many issues that decide how we vote. We can’t avoid, and shouldn’t avoid, having as a guide our Christian values.

I suggest that we approach this election in thoughtful prayer and ask the Spirit to help us. Our country is certainly in turmoil and polarized today. One of my favorite contemporary folk singers, Greg Brown, sings in his song “Speaking in Tongues” “...and I hope that this nation like that congregation will give it up and pray for our soul which is in misery and we may lay our hands on one another and seek the healing for ourselves, this earth, and our young.”