



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

*Reaching Capitol Communities for Christ™*

## What Values Are Important in Governing?

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Freddy Davis / 850-383-9756 / [freddy.davis@capitolcom.org](mailto:freddy.davis@capitolcom.org) / [www.capitolcom.org/florida](http://www.capitolcom.org/florida)



If you were to, out of the blue, sit down and make a list of values which are critical to governing, what would you put on your list? Enforced beliefs based on the whims of societal elites? Arbitrariness in law enforcement? Life and death decisions made by political leaders? Government control over the citizens? Arbitrary moral standards?

What happens when the above values rule a society? You have political repression, lawlessness, government bureaucrats deciding who lives and dies, enforced dependence, increased crime, poverty and lower achievement in education.

No, I don't think these kinds of standards make for good governance. And in truth, these values run completely contrary to our American tradition. Our nation has thrived for over two centuries because we have built our system on a different set of values: freedom of conscience, the rule of law, the value of human life, equality of opportunity, and the priority of individuals and the family.

And where, exactly, did these values come from? Well, the simple answer is, they came from our Judeo-Christian heritage. These are all biblical values.

And the other set of values? Where did they come from? They come from an entirely different belief system which does not accept moral absolutes and puts selfishness and the quest for personal power above the needs of individuals in society.

In Matthew 7:12 we read a general principle which expresses the Christian point of view. It says:

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

It is fascinating how the expressions in this verse epitomize America's traditional value system.

*So in everything* - A generalization that doesn't allow for exceptions (moral absolutes).

*Do to others* - Emphasis on the value of other people (freedom of conscience, the value of human life, equality of opportunity, and the priority of the individual).

*For this sums up the Law and the Prophets* - (the rule of law).

So, what values are important for governing? It is the values which are found in the Bible. When these principles are followed, we end up with a better world.

\* Capitol Commission Florida is a non-partisan, non-political pastoral ministry to the political leaders, their families, their staffs, their political networks and lobbyists. The Capitol Commission State Director for Florida is Dr. Freddy Davis. Please feel free to make contact anytime there is any way we can serve you.