

# 2020 ELECTION GUIDE

## Choosing a Candidate in a Divisive Political Landscape

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY AN AUTHORITARIAN?

Authoritarian leaders use these four steps to concentrate their power:

**TRAIT #1** - Rejection of democratic rules of the game.

**TRAIT #2** - Denial of the legitimacy of political opponents.

**TRAIT #3** - Encouraging violence.

**TRAIT #4** - Willingness to restrict civil liberties.

\* Drawn from Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*. New York: Broadway Books, 2018

### ARE YOU LIVING UNDER TOTALITARIAN RULE?

Under totalitarianism, truth dies in four modes.

**SIGN #1** - Open hostility to verifiable reality.

**SIGN #2** - Repeating falsehoods in the attempt to give them credibility.

**SIGN #3** - Magical thinking or the open embrace of contradiction.

**SIGN #4** - Blind faith in the leader.

\*From Victor Klemperer

### BIBLICAL TRAITS OF GOOD LEADERS A GOOD LEADER . . .

. . . does not grow weary of doing good (Gal. 6:9);

. . . is self-controlled, respectable, not a drunkard, not violent or quarrelsome, not a lover of money (1 Tim. 3:2-3);

. . . does nothing from rivalry or conceit (Philippians 2:3);

. . . is a servant first (Mark 10:42);

. . . seeks righteousness and justice (Prov. 21:3).

### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE VOTING

1. Does this candidate reflect my views on social justice, human rights, and human dignity, and have a voting record to support that?

2. Does my candidate model the biblical traits of a good leader?

3. Does my candidate display any of the traits of authoritarianism?

4. Have I considered all candidates from an unbiased perspective? Am I guarding against being swayed by disinformation and propaganda?

5. Are you considering the needs of all God's children as you vote?



**Today's political landscape** is a source of hopelessness, despair, and confusion for many people of faith today.

This book is a call to action for people of all faiths and perspectives to:

- draw strength from the Bible as the story of a God who liberates people from all forms of tyranny and oppression;
- feel empowered to demand dignity and justice for all because God makes it clear that all are created in God's image;
- see that our spiritual growth is dependent on our participating in God's plan to dismantle white supremacy, racism, misogyny, bigotry, and economic injustice;
- recognize where tyranny exists today, what it looks like, and how to counter it faithfully;
- understand that we are never required to tolerate the abuses of human dignity, even if such abuses are the status quo find your voice in faithful resistance to tyranny.

**ORDER NOW**



For fifteen years, Jennifer Butler has been uniting people across the country through her organization, [Faith in Public Life](http://Faith in Public Life), in an effort to align them in heart and mind for a common cause.

She has worked with faith leaders, policymakers, and activists to effect change, secure social justice, and unify efforts around the idea that we all truly are equal and our laws and systems should reflect that.

Marching shoulder-to-shoulder with progressives who are impacting public policy, Jennifer has established a network of people seeking to right wrongs and speak truth to power.

**FAITH  
IN PUBLIC LIFE  
ACTION**

[www.faithinpubliclife.org](http://www.faithinpubliclife.org)