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God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It

By Jim Wallis



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New York Times bestseller *God's Politics* struck a chord with Americans disenchanted with how the Right had co-opted all talk about integrating religious values into our politics, and with the Left, who were mute on the subject. Jim Wallis argues that America's separation of church and state does not require banishing moral and religious values from the public square. *God's Politics* offers a vision for how to convert spiritual values into real social change and has started a grassroots movement to hold our political leaders accountable by incorporating our deepest convictions about war, poverty, racism, abortion, capital punishment, and other moral issues into our nation's public life. Who can change the political wind? Only we can.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Secular liberals and religious conservatives will find things to both comfort and alarm them in Jim Wallis's *God's Politics*. That combination is actually reason enough to recommend the book in a time when the national political and theological discourse is dominated by blanket descriptions and shortsightedness. But Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine, offers more than just a book that's hard to categorize. What Wallis sees as the true mission of Christianity--righting social ills, working for peace--is in tune with the values of liberals who so often run screaming from the idea of religion. Meanwhile, in his estimation, religious vocabulary is co-opted by conservatives who use it to polarize. Wallis proposes a new sort of politics, the name of which serves as the title of the book, wherein these disparities are reconciled and progressive causes are paired with spiritual guidance for the betterment of society. Wallis is at his most compelling when he puts this theory into action himself, letting his own beliefs guide him through stinging criticisms of the war in Iraq. In his view, George W. Bush's flaw lies in the assumption that the United States was an unprecedented force of goodness in a fight against enemies characterized as "evil." Indeed, although both the right and left are criticized here, the idea is that the liberals, if they would get religion, are the more redeemable lot. Wallis's line between religion and public policy may be drawn a little differently than most liberals might feel comfortable with, and while he pays some lip service to other faiths most of his prescription for America seems to come from the Bible. Still, for a party having just lost a presidential election where "moral issues" are said to have factored heavily, *God's Politics* is a sermon worth listening to.

--John Moe

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

God's Politics has struck a chord with contemporary Americans who, according to bestseller lists, are buying Wallis's book in droves. Regardless of how critics feel about the author's religious beliefs (evangelical Christian) and political leanings (traditional on family values; progressive on issues like poverty and social justice), they are hard-pressed to argue with his central tenets: God belongs to no single political party and true faith transcends political categorization. Wallis writes that liberals and conservatives alike should work for a "new spiritual revival ... that could transform our society." While at least one reviewer complains that Wallis glosses over the religious left's failures, no one denies that he has produced a timely, thought-provoking book.

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Review

How far should we go to understand each other's points of view? Maybe the distance grace covered on the cross. (Bono, lead singer of U2)

Jim Wallis is an inspiration to me-- for his witness of faith and his engagement with politics. (Bill Moyers)

Jim Wallis is compelling, provocative, and inspirational, with faith that can move mountains and can certainly move people and communities. (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

Wallis at his usual passionate and brilliant self: he will move you to examine your conscience and search your soul. (E.J. Dionne, author of *Stand Up Fight Back* and *Why Americans Hate Politics*)

Jim Wallis is the major prophetic evangelical Christian voice in the country. (Cornel West, author of Race Matters and Democracy Matters)

“Wallis provides a refreshing alternative voice to the polarizing rhetoric currently popular.” (Library Journal)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Raymond Garza:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

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