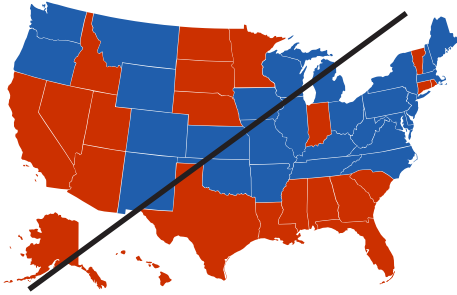


# Evangelicals and Politics in America Today

Key findings from "The Politics of Religion" study (2020-2022)

1

## A Divided Country



Evangelicals from across the political spectrum agree that division is one of, if not the number one issue facing the country



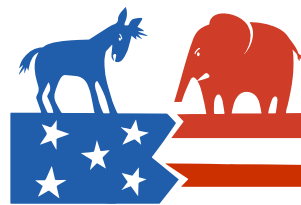
The cause of the division and solution for fixing it remain contested, though many point to the media as a key driver furthering division

2

## Pastors Feel Increasing Pressure



Some have left the pastorate as a result



Blame a hyper-politicised environment

Especially when it comes to the issue of race in America, many pastors want to champion racial equality but may receive critique from white congregation members

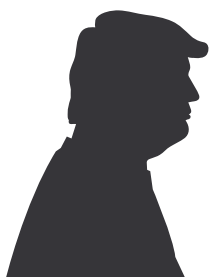
EQUALITY



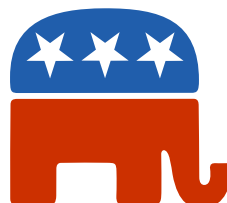
3

## Evangelicals & Trump

Donald Trump remains a divisive figure amongst evangelicals



Since 2020, many evangelicals have distanced themselves from him, instead supporting other GOP candidates (e.g. Senator DeSantis)



Even when evangelicals do not like him, they admit to voting for him

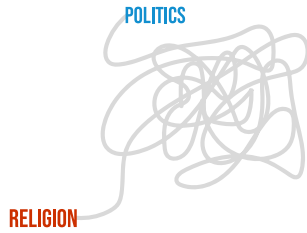
There was no better alternative

He furthered "Christian values"

And/or his policies overrode his personality

4

## Differences in How Evangelicals View the Religious-Political Relationship



The two have become entangled and not all evangelicals like this entanglement



"Which is more important:  
A political identity  
or Christian  
identity?"

5

## Abortion Remains a Top Issue



It's often not seen as a political issue but rather a "moral" or "Biblical" issue



This was a major reason many evangelicals voted for Trump in both 2016 and 2020, despite misgivings about his personality or personal behavior



The opposition to abortion is more strongly held by Christian leaders (including pastors) than Christian laypeople, who hold different views on *when* and *how* abortion should be illegal

6

## Immigration: Views Are Split

Evangelical leaders tend to hold more pro-immigration beliefs, whereas laypeople tend to hold more anti-immigration beliefs

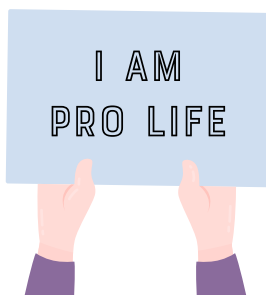


Those who hold anti-immigration beliefs tend to be more active, organized and involved in politics

7

## Youth Activism is a Major Channel for Evangelicalism-Politics

Political organizations pro-actively court conservative youths and combine evangelical values



with political beliefs  
(e.g. *abortion*)

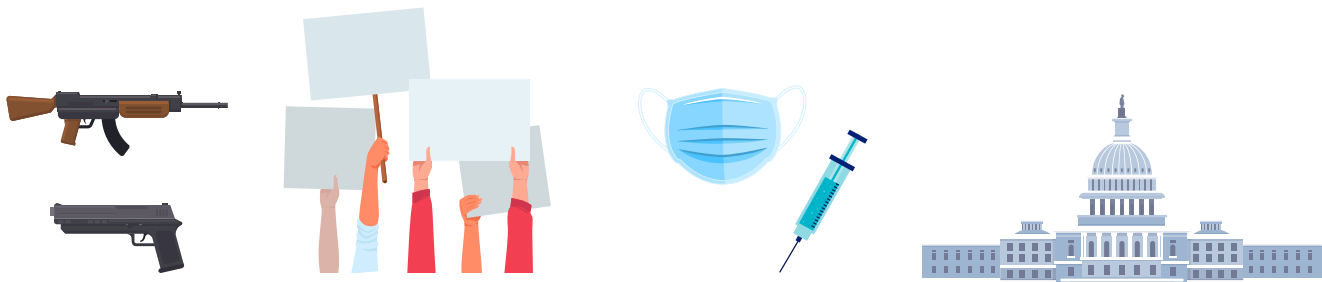


economic issues  
(e.g. *promoting capitalism*)

8

### Freedom & Faith

There is an increased importance placed on freedom since 2016. For example:



Freedom to use guns

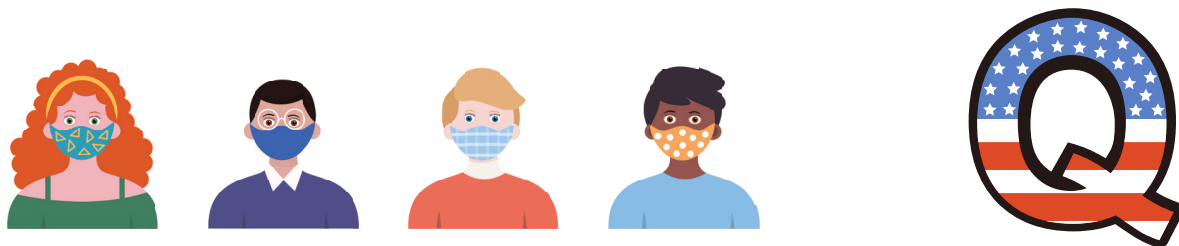
Protect Christians' rights

Medical freedom from vaccination and masking mandates

Freedom from the government

9

### A Heavy Emphasis on Protection of Children



Including sex-education programs taught in school, Critical Race Theory (CRT), and all Covid-19 mandates, including mandatory mask-wearing

This discourse links to conspiracy groups such as QAnon

10

### Evangelicals Feel Increasingly Victimized and Attacked Since 2016



By liberals, liberal values, non-believers, and even so-called "progressive Christians"

And point toward the decreasing number of evangelicals in the country to demonstrate their minority status

Some frame this in spiritual terms as a "holy war" against "Satanic forces"