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D.C. ‘Result’ Alternatives

Are you satisfied with the productivity of Congress? In a recent poll, 82% of Americans were intensely NOT. Career politicians rank lowly, on par with used car salesmen and ambulance-chasing lawyers! What are the reasons for their inaction and ‘bureaucracy?’ Politicians complain it takes so much time and money to get re-elected (as if we guaranteed them a career in D.C.), but there are also some other barriers to getting things done in Washington!

Have you ever noticed much legislation passed is either thrown in with the kitchen sink in an unwieldy stack of paper, or gets passed only when a splintering few ‘break ranks’ to side with the other side? Those mavericks are then ostracized by party loyalists, and in general agreement on any bills is usually on small, insignificant matters or the rare occasions when crises supersede the company man/party man mentality (e.g., 9-11)?

1. **Kick All the Bums Out** (e.g., “I’m mad too, Eddie”) Our anger often leads to this attempted conclusion, but not all politicians are bums, and usually we feel another state’s or party has the bums, so all bums remain on our payroll. Also, if you kicked all politicians out, you’d be stuck with all green (inexperienced) politicians (with no understandings of the workings of DC) running the country
2. **Kumbaya Unity** (i.e., no extremes or differences, right or left). We have a two-party system for a reason, but when checks and balance morphs into gridlock, or the party in power thinks they have all the power, the system has broken down. No one wants both parties to merge, or forfeit their oppositional advocacy, but absolutely no common ground ever ensures perennial gridlock.
3. **Domination, Demonization & Decimation** (if not extinction; check mate/my way or the highway). Ex.: illegal immigration to secure voters to put the GOP out of business, etc.
4. **Ping Pong Politics** (i.e., bi-polar voting; do, then un-do). Every 4 to 8 years switching parties (i.e., letting the other party win), hoping for better results (i.e., un-doing much of what was done, which is not a solid basis for international trust in U.S. policy and long-term commitments).
5. **Gridlock** (Mexican stand-off; traffic jam/congestion). Politicians paid handsomely to do little-to-nothing (4⁺ times that of the wages of the average Joe). Could you keep your job with their productivity? We are their bosses. Give them a job evaluation. Our Founding Fathers never meant for checks and balances to grind progress to a halt!
6. **Bad Compromise** (i.e., give away the farm). Rarely now days does this occur, as parties are so vigilant to defend turf and ideals, but there have been bills passed in the past that heavily favored one side, with not nearly as much benefit to the ‘losing’ party. Politicians know this will engender ill-will with their constituents, so gridlock and using procedural rules and other mechanisms often prevents such outcome much today.
7. **Wheel & Deal/Let’s Make a Deal** (give a little, take a little). This result is often like a camel being the product of a committed debating whether to create a horse or a camel. Perhaps everyone gets something, but what American gets is not all that much or that great as a result. It’s almost impossible for this to end up 50/50, and the party slighted will always feel ripped off and in danger of losing their job for not representing their constituents well enough.
8. **Executive Fiat/Presidential Dictatorship** (~one- vs. three-branch government). Although this form of governing in the United States is frowned upon, with career gridlock politicians, sometimes it seems like about the only way to get things done in Washington.
9. **Win-Win/Innovation** (i.e., finding common ground and new solutions). Politicians are not famously creative, and with bad blood comes less willingness to work together to consider the other’s needs and good ideas, but we can at least hope that someday more legislation will be based on this time-valued tradition more often found in business than in politics. The closest thing to it that this author has devised is the following...

10. Pledged Politicians/'Pledgers.' A select group of politicians from any party whose commitment to common sense solutions supersedes all other loyalties, and whose numbers can literally force both parties to pass good law in the interest of the American people, devoid of a lot of concern for which party benefits the most (though as close to 'fairness' of gains is always a moral consideration in the big picture).

This 'Pledger' alternative finds common ground as much as possible without compromising core beliefs, but never asks for lack of vigorous debate, and acknowledges a range of differences of priorities and intensities even on common ground issues, as between the two main political parties. Where extremes have a point, it should be heeded. At the least they (along with everyone) should be heard.

POLITICAL TRICKS

(MORALLY ASSESSED)

Modern Politics: The opponent is always wrong, never agree with them,
and if something goes their way, spin it negative.

Why do we (the people) tolerate this?

I think you can be flexible about ideas, you shouldn't be flexible about your principles.

–**Marco Rubio**

Malice to none. Charity to all. –**Abraham Lincoln**

Both sides play by the rules. Republican candidates always 'stand up' for their beliefs and evoke the glories of the past... law and order, a strong military, rural values, the straight and narrow. Democrats care, and embrace the promise of the future, which means championing the working guy, civil rights and big city elitism.

–**Michal Scherer** (*Time Magazine*, Oct. 27, 2014)

War has rules, mud wrestling has rules—politics has no rules. –**Ross Perot**

Politics is war. Don't forget it. –**David Horowitz**

Politics is not a sport. In sports, both sides know they are playing a game.

–**Unidentified comedian** (*Criminal Minds*, 11/10/14)

If you're going to play the game properly, you'd better know every rule. –**Barbara Jordan**

There are actually very few U.S. politicians who have integrity and vision. –**David Korten**

There is one sure way of telling when politicians aren't telling the truth—their lips move.

–**Felicity Kendall**

What generally happens in this county is that our politicians don't serve us well because they don't tell the truth, and they don't keep their promises. –**Peter Garrett**

Each party's unstated mission is to obliterate the other.

–**Cal Thomas and Bob Beckel**

Sincere changes of heart, adjusting to circumstances, and negotiating less than ideals are NOT evil compromises, or contradictions of claimed convictions.

"I reserve the right to be smarter today than I was yesterday." –**Konrad Adenauer**

Progress in Washington often gets gummed up and more heat than light gets shed, because professional politicians know lawyer-oriented tactics to sway public opinion. Often, the public is not even aware that such tactics are being used. The following section informs the voting reader of such tactics, and morally assesses them—something too few people ever care to do, if they “work.”

First is the more liberal source, **PoliticalStrategy.org**, which states that its list and descriptions makes no moral judgments as to their content. Please reference that website for a more thorough description of terms used.

Then comes the more conservative excerpts from a recent book entitled, **365 Ways To Drive a Liberal Crazy**, by James Delingpole.

BOTH SOURCES LIST SOME LEGITIMATE TACTICS, BUT THE LESS MORAL ONES ARE BEING FOCUSED ON,
AS THEY ARE THE ONES WHICH CAUSE THE MOST PROBLEMS AND ANIMOSITY,
AND NEED TO BE USED LESS.

NOTE:

Following Political Tricks is a segment on LOGIC AND ANALYSIS—skills so often *desperately* missing in political debate.

Don't miss our FIGURES OF SPEECH subject in our IDIOMS section for great *idea-generating methods* for political speeches, advertising, comedy (and even music and architecture).

#PoliticalTricks

Call your small band of supporters "the people." The people are ALL non-politicians in America--though pols are people too!

"The people" are RARELY unanimously for anything! It's usually a percent of the people who politicians claim as doing 'the will of the people!'

Find any and all negatives about your opponent, and any and all positives of your guy, and NEVER identify percentages or specifics of either.

Make a positive mountain out of a mole hill; exaggerate and warp other's perspectives by such words.

If any federal policy comes to loggerheads, or your promises are exposed as bogus, say "state's rights."

Change positions like you change clothes, and sound sophisticated by calling it evolving, pivoting, or walking it back VS. flip-flopping.

Claim a higher moral motive for a less higher motivated act. Examples are endless, if you think very hard!

Do things that can't be proven to have occurred. So long as you don't or can't get caught, rules don't matter.

Hide/conceal your true positions, until you secure buy-in from the less politically aware, or astute. Don't you love politics?

State your wishful thinking as fact.

Weak people play the blame game. Leaders play the let's FIX it game! It's easier to point fingers than to lift a finger!

To summarize, the predominant tactic is to demonize opponents, and make saints of your policies' advocates.

Always remember, labels do not establish legitimacy, spin does not negate substance, and dismissiveness do not cause facts to disappear.

Cover a lie with a legitimate reason which is not yours, like saying Florida has unique beaches, so it should be exempt from off-shore oil drilling (when their huge delegate count is the real reason; and, as if other coastal states are equal, but LESS equal than Florida, in their concern for keeping beaches clean).

Deflect and distract, like asking who paid Stormy Daniels, and/or whether it was legal, rather than addressing the core issue of victimizing one's family (wife pregnant with one's son), by unfaithfulness.

Has anyone noticed the latest political trick? Spin positive or negative, with a broad brush, in areas the public CAN'T know the truth. Ex.: CHUMP says there's a deep state, and the FBI and CIA are politicized, or corrupted. Another politician DISagreed. I do NOT believe that they are, though a handful of inside operatives (i.e., a PERCENT—NOT all) COULD oppose him.

Here's a political trick/deception/ruse: Lower taxes to an unreasonable level, to force your opponents to raise them (Ex.: tRump), and look like hams to the people. No one asks what the budget needs, or how the debt will be lowered! EVIL politicians promise people money, in some form, from the public dole! #Sin (8/23/18)

I just heard two Christian talk DJ's wishing they could be a gal's spoiled cats, who got well more than they needed, and lacked for nothing. This subtle humor depicts why Christians in the U.S.A. are primarily carnal! We REALLY worship worldliness, we just WON'T admit it. It is a sin to want to be rich as one's number one, deepest life goal! (I Tim. 6:10; (8/24/18)

Taking that further, when you want to be rich, there's NO room for money to help OTHERS, so you embrace Trumpian selfishness philosophy, that asks of government so many things, wants to pay for NONE of them, and bemoans it doing what we'll NEVER do ourselves... help others via money! Slander it as 'Socialism!' All from "Christians!"

Here's a liberal TRICK: Use America's value/belief in helping refugees and the downtrodden, and the mantra, 'America was founded on immigrants,' to have ZERO standards for who we let in, and allow a take-over and a flood that warps if not harms what America is, all in the name of an otherwise good deed.

Political Tactics & Strategies

(ethical assessment listed in parentheses)

If you're going to play the game properly, you'd better know every rule. **–Barbara Jordan**

In debating politics, you have die-hards, possibly convinceables, the open-minded, the could-care-lessers, and trolls, just out to hassle others. The open-minded are receptive to facts; the possibly convincibles take time and effort to be receptive to facts.

GRIDLOCK

Democrats will spin Romney as RADICAL because of Ryan, Romney will deny it and Ryan will defer as just the 'VP,' then attack. What's new?

DEM/GOP play book rule #1: Anything our people do is GOOD.

DEM/GOP strategy session: Our guy just screwed up—how can we spin it positive?

Breaking News! The Republicans opposes everything the Democrats espouse, and vice versa, and nothing gets done for biased gridlock. (Sarcastic joke, and truth).

SPINNING

Political spinning is often the ability of a politician to lie or argue something he doesn't believe in with the same sincerity as truly held convictions. It is *insincere sincerity*.

It is a political trick to use 'evolved,' 'pivoted,' and/or 'walked back' to soften an immoral flip-flop. If your opinion sincerely changed, admit and apologize, and say you were wrong before.

Cover a lie with a legitimate reason which is not yours. Example: Florida has unique beaches—which is true—so it should be exempt from off-shore oil drilling (when their huge delegate count is the real reason, & as if other coastal states are equal but LESS equal than Florida)

CONTRADICTIONS

Conservatives are pro big business, yet David Dewhurst (R-TX) says that shipping jobs overseas is not conservative. You can't have it both ways.

Tweets @JamesMeroney

A. Left-Winged Source...

1. **Accuse Your Opponent of Being Deceptive.** (Only if true/only if he is)

Example: 2016 (movie ad): You may love him or hate him, but you don't really know him

2. **Accuse Your Opponent of Being Un-American.** (Only if he is; single acts may be such)

Conservatives are 'un-American.' **–Ed Schultz**

3. **Act Against Your Own Self-Interest.** (Powerful, but do it wisely when you choose to do so)

4. **Aim for the Stars, Compromise to the Moon.** (Practical, but don't give in quickly on priorities)

Political promises are much like marriage vows. They are made at the beginning of the relationship between candidate and voter, but are quickly forgotten. **–Dick Gregory**

5. **Allow Listeners to Come to the “Correct” Conclusion.** (Not always. Just answer it, unless it's confidential, personal or top secret)

WEAK "leaders" hide behind surrogate attack dogs to appear "NICE."
Don't let politicians fake you into believing they are likeable with this good cop/bad cop trick. **Tweets @JamesMeroney**

6. **Allow Others to Persuade Themselves.** (Fine, but give them enough information to make that occur)

Political conventions put great lipstick on pigs—
perfectly scripted to say what they think you want to hear.
Promises, promises—deeds are everything. **Tweets @JamesMeroney**

7. **Always Remain Cool.** (Not always—You’re human, and showing emotions aren’t a sin, per se)

8. **Appeal to the Lowest Common Denominator.** (OK, if you don’t dumb-down content).

Money is easier to solicit with a negative approach to the other candidate.

–**Cal Thomas and Bob Beckel**

The world is governed by opinion. –**William Ellery Channing**

9. **Appeal to Your Audience’s Deepest Fears.** (No. Fear-mongering is wrong)

Example: Using JFK’s ‘absolute separation of church and state’ to make naive Christians believe their views are never welcome in the public arena. –**Rick Santorum**

Bad Example: Biden IRRESPONSIBLY accuses the GOP of wanting blacks on plantations. They HAVE advanced. Is their thinking advanced to not buy this LIE? **Tweets @JamesMeroney**

10. **Appear as Though You are Not Trying to Persuade.** (Better—educate them. ‘Appearing’ to not do something you’re doing can be deceptive)

Example 1: “Get the facts without the spin.” –**Mark Levin’s** delusional ad promo.

Example 2: Fox News: “Fair and Balanced.” [TRUTH: Often fair, not as often balanced, so balance it with some more ‘mainstream’; NBC news coverage, I recommend]

Good Example: Bill O’Reilly’s ‘No Spin Zone’ approach has truly become more balanced the past 5 years [acknowledging a stock market uptick as an economic indicator only helps the wealthier/investors and that not all welfare recipients are lazy].

11. **Appear Humble.** (No. Be humble; appearances and ‘image’ is nothing—be the real deal)

Bad Example: Many of my personal friends are NASCAR **owners** [vs. fans]. –**Mitt Romney** (as with references to the ‘average Joe’ or ‘the Bubba factor’ (i.e., laid back or Cowboy, with blue jeans (usually in a fatty- or fast food restaurant).

12. **Appear Likeable.** (No. Be likeable; people see through fakery and resent the attempt)

13. **Appear to Present Both Sides of the Issue.** (Not if you have any convictions)

He’s going to skirt around the issue like a politician. –**Deadliest Catch** (6/4/13)
[Are pols lower-esteemed than used car salesmen?]

14. **Ask Questions that Suggest the “Correct Answer.”** (Maybe, but can be deceptive).

15. **Ask, “Are You Better Off Now?”** (Has been used before, by Reagan, and may be worn out)

Example: There’s something wrong with the kind of job [Obama’s] done as president when the best feeling you’ve had was the day you voted for him. –**Mitt Romney**

16. **Associate Your Opponent with Undesirable Individuals.** (Questionable. OK if they are truly associated with them and supported their undesirable deeds)

Example: Obama with Jeremiah Wright and Bill Ayers.

17. **Associate Your Opponent with Unseemly Activity.** (Only if it’s true and important/significant/

relevant)

Mudslinging is the name of the game for Democrats. Just get people ('the sheep') talking about favorable issues (war on women, etc.), even if you have to lie. –**Buck Sexton** (4/23/14)

They [Democrats] use fear and ignorance to keep themselves in power. –**Sean Hannity** (4/5/14)

18. **Attach Derogatory Labels to Your Opponent.** (Usually not. Can be good for entertainment or inciting)

The problem with smear campaigns is that too often they work. –**Mark Shields**
(Ex.: SafeLink.com vs. "Obamaphone")

Example: Trickle down government. (GOP spins DEM's derogatory term in 2011 debates)

19. **Attack Individuals, Not Institutions.** (Not good to attack individuals a lot, and some institutions are bad, and need criticizing).

~Example 1: If you really want to diminish a candidate, depict him as the foil of his handler. This is as old in American politics as politics itself. –**Karl Rove**

20. **Be Aggressive.** (Better, be assertive; No one likes the know-it-all with a 'my way or the highway'-type person)

A politician weakly and amiably in the right,
is no match for a politician tenaciously and pugnaciously in the wrong. –**Edwin P. Whipple**

Demonizing the opposing political party with derogatory labels is great for stirring up a STUPID, ignorant base, but should be outlawed. **Tweets @JamesMeroney**

21. **Be Entertaining.** (OK, but don't fake it if you're boring at heart, or you'll likely fail trying).

Example 1: In the United States today, we have more than our share of the nattering nabobs of negativism. –**Spiro T. Agnew**

Example 2: In my lifetime, we've gone from Eisenhower to George W. Bush. We've gone from John F. Kennedy to Al Gore. If this is evolution, I believe that in twelve years, we'll be voting for plants. –**Lewis Black**

22. **Be Informed.** (Duh 101)

23. **Be Overly Dramatic.** (No. Again, a lie, which seeks to engender the non-thinker's emotions)

Example 1: The Republicans have a me too candidate running on a yes but platform, advised by a has been staff. –**Adlai Stevenson**

Example 2: Ambassador Stevens' (et al) killing blown out of proportion by conservatives because it was the last month of the campaign and a *black mark* against their opponent. It's ironic to see Republicans defending government workers! Those brave public servants serve in a dangerous area of the world, and if enough radicals rebel, horrible things happen.

24. **Be Passionate.** (Duh, or get out of the race)

25. **Be Prepared.** (Duh, See: Be Informed)

26. **Be Relentless.** (Better, never give up—Have tenacity, or "sticktoitivity," as Dr. John Bisagno called it)

When it comes to political fighting,
Congress is as stubborn as a donkey with a memory of an elephant. –**J. Meroney**

27. **Be Ruthless.** (No. That is the low road, and implies 'mean-spirited' behavior)

Example 1: Obstructionism and gridlock made Obama look inept at leading—a direct, purposeful and evil, Republican strategy (when non-extremist left proposals were made).

Example 2: Mark Levin encourages no meeting in the middle, no negotiating—only defeating Democrats [as if you can only win if you obstruct 100% of the time]. (5/10/10)

Example 3: The “die off” theory of liberals indoctrinating youth in public schools to hyper-green, hyper-sensitive and Political Correctness, as the Baby generation (which emphasized free speech) will die off, eventually.

28. **Be Thick-Skinned.** (Yes, though it’s sometimes hard to do)
29. **Blame Conservatives First.** (No. Be impartial)—**Note the left-ward bias in their web site?)**
Another contributing factor to the general contentiousness is the failure of anyone in modern politics to take responsibility for anything and the obsessive need to blame someone else. (Greedy B stards, p. 182)
30. **Blame the Media.** (No, unless they’re guilty)
Example: I think the destructive, vicious, negative nature of much of the news media makes it harder to govern this country, harder to attract decent people to run for public office. And I am appalled that you would begin a presidential debate on a topic like that. **–Newt Gingrich**
31. **Break Down Your Opponent’s Attack.** (Fine, as simply calling for analysis)
Example: Obama specializes in knocking down straw men. "I reject the view that says our problems will simply take care of themselves," he said, implying that's the view of Republicans. It's the view of almost no one.
–Fred Barnes
32. **Build the Audience’s Confidence.** (Yes. No one wants some unsure of themselves to lead them)
33. **Bury Your Opponent with Accusations.** (No. We’re not at war; only competition—May the best man win—the best qualified one and one the public wants most)
34. **Buy Yourself a Media Outlet.** (Not likely, and impossible for most; Even owning it doesn’t make stories published news)—**Another left-ward slam likely aimed at Rupert Murdoch (Fox News), angry the liberal media monopoly got broken up by competition (now also including Newsmax)**
Example: Fox News seems to be the career back-up plan for any conservative culture war victims or failed political campaigns, like Juan Williams, Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee.
35. **Call Your Opponent on the Tricks He Uses.** (Fine. As the Bible says, “even expose them,” and *exactly* what we’re doing, here, to both sides.
Example: “Dirty tricks.” **–Ross Perot** (allegation vs. George Bush)
36. **Circulate Ideas as Rumors to Gauge Reaction.** (No, as it’s a form of lying; There are better ways to achieve your ends)
Example: Harry Reid’s associate suggesting Mitt Romney paid no taxes, then “walking back” the comment (i.e., waffling/CYA/softly addressing a lie).
37. **Claim Support From the Masses.** (Only if it’s true; People won’t believe it if you’re wrong, anyway, despite the adage ‘there’s a sucker born every minute’)
38. **Claim That Opponents Reap What They Sow.** (You can threaten it, but it is not true in every case. Sometimes you get better than you sowed, and sometimes worse, as with Job in the Old Testament)
39. **Claim That the World Your Want Already Exists.** (No, that’s lying. If true, why would you be

running? What change would you bring?)

I believe politicians should always remain realistic. **–Eduard Shevardnadze**

Example: Sean Interviews the Next Vice President. (Hannity email headline, 8/26/12, regarding Paul Ryan)

40. **Claim That You Have Seen the Light.** (Only if you had done wrong and your repentance was genuine. We don't need jailhouse conversions seeking a get-out-of-jail-free card)

41. **Claim That Your Opponent is Doing What You Are Doing.** (Fine, if it's true, and fine, unless you're *both* doing bad things; i.e., hypocrisy)



42. **Claim That Your View is Simply “Common Sense.”** (Fine, if it is. The public is not naive about its definition)

43. **Claim That Your Words Were Taken Out of Context.** (Only if they were. Often this phrase is a cover for lies, knowing few people heard the entire conversation)

44. **Claim to Be a Member of Your Audience.** (Only if you are)

Example: The Buffett Rule is attacking the middle class—he's attacking you (i.e., Levin's listeners). **–Mark Levin** (4/16/12) [when, in fact, it's *only* addressing millionaires and billionaires].

45. **Claim to Be a Moderate.** (Only if you are)

46. **Claim to Be the “Party of Freedom.”** (Every American's for freedom vs. domination by a dictator. Better, define freedom as it relates to policies you're for or against)

47. **Claim Total Nonpartisanship.** (Only if it's true, which is rarely the case)

48. **Communicate What “Everyone Knows.”** (Smart people will see you're assuming something you *want* to be true. Less informed people might believe you)

49. **Consolidate Your Gains.** (Only good when truthfully vs. deceptively used).

50. **Contrast Your Message With a Similar But Inferior Product.** (Fine. That's what we do in business all the time)

The left has no logic. **–Mike Gallagher** (right radio host; 4/1/14)

51. **Control the Agenda.** (Not always, unless you're a 'control freak,' which is a bad thing to be)

Never let the other fellow set the agenda. **–James Baker**

52. **Create a Pundit School.** (Only if they're objective, and any conflicts of interest are revealed)

Example: The Heritage Foundation (right, though independent of the GOP) and MoveOn.org (left)

53. **Create Dissonance, Offer Resolution.** (Morally wrong to cause the problem, only to be seen as solving it)

54. **Create Granfalloon.** (Another tactic of using code or trade language to make others feel inferior or insecure in their knowledge. Better—Emphasize what you share in common).

55. **Create Investigative Organizations.** (Only if they're being objective, not deceptive. If you have dirt, and it's true, just spill it, if you have any backbone—at least when forced to. Don't hide behind others, or lie). Create your own investigative organization to expose and create the closeted skeletons of your opponents (e.g. Arkansas Project). (This is the common definition of “dirty tricks,” though what's revealed that's truthful is the truth.

56. **Create Irrelevant Associations to the Past.** (No. They're 'irrelevant,' and that word—as with all

words—means something)

57. **Create Rumors.** (No, that's immoral)
58. **Create the Perception That the Situation Has No Solution.** (Not unless true)
59. **Create Vivid Images.** (Yes, but don't dumb-down information and only appeal to emotions)
Poor George (W. Bush)—he was born with a silver boot stuck in his mouth.
—**Ann Richards** (Texas Governor)
60. **Define "Patriotism."** (Yes, but only where true American values are being advocated)
Define Patriotism. Dissent is patriotic. Pursuit of energy independence is patriotic. Creating offshore entities to avoid taxes is grossly unpatriotic. Do not let the opposition define this all-powerful symbol.
61. **Define the Situation.** (No problem if it's honest. Only spinning and denying negative truths is not honest)
If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: 'President Can't Swim.' —**Lyndon B. Johnson**
Bad Example: Douglas Kennedy allegedly hits 2 nurses, and tells the media: 'I know it's OK for a father to hold his infant son in his arms.' (i.e., a straw man argument)
62. **Deny the Facts.** "That's not true. The truth is..." (No—that's denying FACTS)
Democracy is a pathetic belief in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance."
—**HL Mencken**
A gaffe is when a politician tells the truth—
some obvious truth he isn't supposed to say. —**Michael Kinsley**
63. **Challenge the Definition of the Action.** (Only if the description and label are untrue) Example: "Yes, he did hit him, but it was not assault and battery"
64. **Challenge the Quality of the Action.** (Only if true) Example: "It was assault and battery, but done under extenuating circumstances and with good intent."
65. **Challenge the Right of the Court to Try the Case.** (Only if true)
66. **Define Yourself as a Friend.** (Only if true. Sounds like a televangelist. Must be sincere, and no stranger is actually yet your personally-known "friend")
67. **Dehumanize the Enemy.** (No. Human dignity for all)
When you engage in mud-slinging, don't be surprised if it ends up that your name is mud.
—**J. Meroney**
68. **Demand "Economic Patriotism."** (Fine, if balanced with good business sense)—**Liberal bias again?**
69. **Demand Sources and Reasoning.** (Fine)
70. **Deny, Deny, Deny.** (No. It eventually bit President Clinton in the behind, and is not moral; i.e., 'I did not have sex with that woman.')
71. **Destroy Your Opponent's Ability to Fight.** (No. It's not a war we're in, even if your opponent believes it is)
72. **Disallow Questioning of Your Message.** (No. You're no autocrat—this is America)
Bad Example: "God, being a conservative Himself." (half lie, half truth; Book: *365 Ways To Drive a Liberal Crazy*).

73. **Discount Your Opponent's Opinion.** (OK if his opinion lacks merit, or he has no authority to have an opinion on the subject)
74. **Discredit the Witness.** (Only where he lacks credibility)
 Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy, I knew Jack Kennedy.
 Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy. **–Lloyd Bentson**
75. **Distort the Intent and Effect of Your Opponent's Plan.** (No. Knowing distortion is a form of lying)
76. **Distort Your Opponent's Positions.** (Same as #75, immediately above)
77. **Distract the Audience.** (No. Magicians do this for entertainment. Politicians do this from weakness, insecurity or fear)
 The DC dip and swirl (i.e., avoid answering what you were asked).
–Marty Huggins, The Candidate (movie)
 Example (possibly): Bill Clinton bombing Serbia at the height of the Lewinski scandal.
 All politicians should have 3 hats—one to throw into the ring, one to talk through, and one to pull rabbits out of if elected. **–Carl Sandburg**
78. **Distract with Bigger News.** (Maybe, if it's truly bigger; Weak people seek distractions from facing the truth head on)
79. **Distract with Technicalities.** (No. Distraction means you're weak, and many people hate that technical talk anyway)
 Example: The GOP is the party of the rich? "Keep in mind that Obama and the Democrats have received more campaign contributions from Hollywood, from BP, from Goldman Sachs, from Wall Street, than Republicans." **– Sean Hannity email (7/19/10)**
80. **Do Everything in the Name of National Security.** (Not if it's not. Define the term)
81. **Don't Accept the Opposition's Argument.** (Only if you sincerely disagree with it)
82. **Don't Appear Radical.** (True, but don't be boring or lack conviction, either)
83. **Don't Attack Those Who Are Undecided.** (True. Respect them. They still have a vote that could come your way)
84. **Downplay Your Opponent's Counterattack.** (Yes, if it has moral or logical holes in it)
85. **Establish Source Credibility.** (Good. People respect experts on their subjects of expertise more so that just people with opinions)
 Example: Most 2012 GOP candidates flocked to get a photo op or lunch with Donald Trump.
86. **Execute a Multi-Pronged Attack.** (Yes, but not using 'rumor mills')
87. **Expose Your Opponent's Ulterior Motive.** (Fine, if you're right, and especially if it's devious)
88. **Express Outrage.** (Only if it's genuine/authentic/real/sincere—emotions we too often don't find in this profession)
89. **Feign Piousness.** (No. You're un-pious by feigning, which is both contradictory and hypocritical)
 A group of politicians deciding to dump a President because his morals are bad is like the Mafia getting together to bump off the Godfather for not going to church on Sunday. **–Russell Baker**
90. **Fluster Your Opponent.** (You can barrage your opponent with questions, but be civil and understand you are weak to resort to such tactic rather than espousing good ideas. At the same

time, politicians need to be tough, and able to think on their feet—Say: Rick Perry moment—Sorry, Rick)

91. **Focus on Few Points.** (Sometimes, but not always. Don't assume the audience is dumb, like when preachers always only have 3 points in their sermons)

Example: Repeating same word in a speech (Ex.: 'my opponent' vs. naming him, or having a thematic word inserted regularly throughout a speech).

92. **Frame the Debate.** (Yes, where possible. Choose issues favorable to your cause).

93. **Get Them Started Saying Yes.** (No. A salesman tactic I hate, as you're trying to trick them into a habit of agreeing so they'll accept your proposal)

94. **Get to the Point.** (Duh. Great Steve Martin quote from Planes, Trains & Automobiles—"Here's an idea, when you're talking to someone, have a point... It makes it so much more interesting to the listener; *paraphrased*)

95. **Get Your Foot in the Door.** (Possibly, for more complex matters)

96. **Groom Candidates Years in Advance.** (Not a bad idea. May have worked out better for Ms. Palin as a VP candidate).

Example: Ever heard of NJ Governor Christy for President talk (or Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio)?

Bad Example: Remember how Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal was supposed to be the next big thing for the GOP, till he muddled through a Republican response to Obama's speech?

97. **Have a Position on Every Issue.** (Maybe, but no need to appear omniscient)

98. **Have a Vision.** (Of course, or let someone else lead)

99. **Help Them Discover the Hypocrite Within.** (Hypocrisy is NOT being imperfect but not doing what you claim you believe in. Beware of accusing your opponent of hypocrisy, as you're imperfect and may be perceived as one who judges others)

In Washington... hypocrisy is a perennial crime in both parties;
If all the city's hypocrites were put in jail, there would be no one left
to run the government. **-Frank Rich**

Example 1: Our Twitter entry (@JamesMeroney)—Glenn Beck had sent a survivalist memo for rich conservatives to protect themselves. HYPOCRISY smells, as he enjoys his Southlake mansion!

Example 2: Rush Limbaugh criticizes Obama's alleged and divisive 'war on women' (contraception and stay-at-home mothers) when three years ago he recommended separating the United States into red and blue states free to determine their own policies on social programs (i.e., the hypocrisy of maximum divisiveness).

100. **I Scratched Your Back, Now You Scratch Mine.** (OK, where necessary, but IOU's and tit-for-tat can make one feel forced to compromise core convictions to make the victories 'even' or 'fair')

A Democratic thief is as bad as a Republican thief. **-Grover Cleveland** ("Ugly Honest")

101. **If it's Not Good, Call it Good Anyway.** (No. Would you teach your young children to lie like that?)

102. **Immunize Yourself Against Propaganda.** (Essentially teaching disciplined analysis. Good. Don't become a skeptic, however)

103. **Imply Falsehoods Without Actually Saying Them.** (No. Deception) This is Deception with

"Deniable Plausibility"

Example 1: <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/06/opinion/06krug.html>

Example 2: Obama's "phony theology" (i.e., an ambiguous term) claimed as referring to ecology vs. the Social Gospel of his ex-pastor, Rev. Wright, with no way to prove his original meaning, either way, said in context of a week of stirring up the religious right by Rick Santorum

104. **Instill Guilt, Offer Resolution.** (No. Don't condemn or make people feel guilty, unless they are guilty, and then, with grace)
105. **Institute "Plausible Deniability."** (No. That's inventing possibilities vs. dealing with what you know actually happened, and a lie)
106. **Invoke the Constitution and the Founding Fathers.** (Only if true)
107. **Keep the Message Simple.** (Usually, and as often as possible. Things are more easily recalled that way)

Example: Remember, "It's the economy, stupid?"

108. **Kiss the Audience's A—s [Butt].** (Sincere compliments only. Not schmoozing or brown-nosing them with insincere, back-slapping flattery for the sake of taking advantage/manipulation, like the preachers who always tell the crowd how good they look)

When you kiss up to people, don't be surprised if you end up smelling like crud. **–J. Meroney**

I get this political feeling from you that you're nice to us when the cameras are on (i.e., insincere). **–The Bachelor** (6/3/13)

109. **Know Your Audience.** (Yes, as much as possible)

Bad Example (written to conservatives): Tell them you don't give a damn about polar bears. Destroy the Amazon Forest. (Book: *365 Ways To Drive a Liberal Crazy*, pp. 11, 64).

110. **Label all Adverse Rumors as Baseless.** (No. Deal with substance. Never shy away from the truth)
 111. **Look Your Best Always.** (Often, but more importantly, always be real and be yourself, even in your 'off' times. Letting your hair down lets them know you're real, and that you 'put your pants on one leg at a time' too)
- Bad Example: Recall the flack Santorum took for a slightly over-weight and shirtless beach vacation, or Nixon's nerves on camera contrasted to JFK's peaceful confidence?
112. **Lure Them in Slowly.** (Seems quite contrived. Just be direct, honest and as nice as possible. No "lure" is ever good for the bait-taker)
 113. **Maintain a Consistent Message for Yourself.** (Yes; if you've thought it out and truly believe it. Only if one is lying or doesn't know what they believe would they cross up their message)
 114. **Make an Issue Out of It.** (Only if the issue has gravitas enough to grow legs and be important, as opposed to trivial)

Examples: Chic-Fil-A boycott (gay marriage) and Susan G. Komen boycott (abortion), though more grass roots-oriented.

115. **Make Elections a Popularity Contest.** (Issues/principles/values outlast personalities and are much more important. Be and stay humble)

Example: "Hope and change." "Yes we can." **–Barack Obama**

116. **Make Issues Appear Black and White.** (No. Only if they are. 'Ploys' are not needed, as the

truth is most powerful in itself)

Bad Example: Liberalism is a form of mental illness. (Book: *365 Ways To Drive a Liberal Crazy*, p. 11).

117. Make People Feel That They are Part of Something Important. (Only if they are. Help them to be, but don't exaggerate to make people feel good by deception)

Example: Doesn't it seem that every election cycle we're told 'this is the most important election for the future (or continued existence of) of America (as we have always known it)?

118. Make Them Miss the Point. (No. Your points should be worth understanding, or should not be made.

Example: Democrats authored the 'Never let a serious crisis go to waste' strategy, and Republicans seem to use it by seeking tax rebates during a down economy (as if too high taxes caused the downturn).

119. Make Yourself Look Good While Hurting Your Opponent. (Maybe. Depends on the specifics and whether you're using truth and being objective)

Example: Rush Limbaugh says to not compromise core principles, then makes almost every issue a core value.

120. Master the Sound Bite. (Unfortunately, it's required in our information-saturated society. However, it's not a good mechanism for educating or giving detail beyond more shallow platitudes)

Bad Example: Facts to a liberal are like garlic to a vampire. (Book: *365 Ways To Drive a Liberal Crazy*, p. vii)

121. Never Appear Anti-American. (Duh. Are you in the race to win it or lose it?)

Example: Obama's speech to an Arab assembly early in his Presidency, taken by the right as appeasement.

122. Never Appear to Take an Attack Seriously. (Don't let them bother you or make you nervous, but don't discount any significant and legitimate content raised). Never appear to take an attack seriously regardless of how seriously you may actually be taking it in confidence. (No for the word "never." Take serious attacks seriously, and faking it is doesn't make it go away, and is lying)

123. Never Discuss the Thing for Which You Were Called to Task. (No. Address all valid concerns and allay any legitimate fears)

Example: When you're leading, don't talk. –**Thomas Dewey**

124. Never Let Your Opponent Win. (You desire to always win, but winning at all costs makes for a moral loser. Fight, but do so fairly and with "good sportsmanship")

Breaking News! Obama wants something, but Republicans say "No!"
Read this once every day we're on vacation. –**The Daily Show**

125. Never Remind Them of Your Faults. (You needn't initiate telling your faults, but neither should you deny them. Transparency is powerful. Don't dwell on the negatives, admit your faults, and explain them or make a joke at your own expense. Everyone has closet skeletons and "youthful indiscretions")

Example: Rick Perry on Letterman's Top Ten list didn't help his candidacy (reminding us he could never come up with that third federal department he wanted to cut).

126. Offer a Reason for Your Requests. (If it's not obvious)

127. Personalize the Issues. (Only if it's truly personal to you. Don't fake sincerity)

Example: Joe the Plumber, and the numerous times an average citizen is spotlighted and seated next to the President's wife at the State of the Union address.

128. **Play to the Audience's Knowledge Level.** (Yes, but be consistent when addressing opposing audiences vs. flip flopping or having inconsistencies)

129. **Play to the Audience's Prejudices.** (No need to contribute to already existing biases of men)

130. **Position Your Opponent as Undesirable.** (Only if you truly believe that)

Example: He's an out-of-touch fat cat more concerned with Wall Street than Main Street.

131. **Praise the Audience While Belittling Your Opponent.** (Only if sincere, regarding the audience. A weak person demonizes the opponent when he should be reinforcing his arguments)

132. **Present Personal Examples.** (Yes, at times, but not too personal or revealing. Knowing whether a Presidential candidate wears boxers or briefs is irrelevant, and TMI)

133. **Present Testimony from Irrelevant Sources.** (No. If they are irrelevant, they are not pertinent to the discussion)

134. **Print Accusation on Page 1, Retraction on Page D47.** (No. Deceptions is a form of lying)

Washington, DC is to lying what Wisconsin is to cheese. **-Dennis Miller**

Bad Example: GOP presidential candidate [Santorum] takes back comment that Republicans might do better picking Obama than Romney
GOP presidential candidate takes back comment that Republicans might do better picking Obama than Romney. **-Fox News (3/23/12)** [Can't they learn flip flopping reduces credibility?]

135. **Promote Rumor as Fact.** (No. Lying is lying. People take offense at being publicly called a 'liar'—even when they lie—because lying is evil)

136. **Quote Them Out of Context.** (No. 'Do unto others...'/obey the 'Golden Rule')

Example: *I'm not concerned about the poor* [because they have a safety net and if it has holes in it he'll fix them]. **-Mitt Romney**

137. **Recruit Wannabes From the Opposition.** (Quit advocating manipulating the public, if you truly believe voters aren't stupid. Be true to your convictions. No citizen is well served being tricked into you leading them)

138. **Refer to Well-Placed Sources.** (Only if you have them. Delusion by implication are deceptive, and a form of lying)

Example: "Sources tell us that...," or "speaking on condition of anonymity he said that..."

139. **Relentlessly Repeat Your Message.** (Yes, but don't over-do it. Repeating a lie many times does NOT make it true, but voters need to hear something 7 times before it sticks)

Example: Can anyone ever forget 9-9-9, even after the many sex scandals of Herman Cain?

140. **Rephrase Your Opponent's Position in the Most Unflattering Light.** (or just be objective). Suggesting exaggerations like this is how we have 'evolved' to such bitter politics as we have today)

Example 1: Colleges are liberal, and Obama wants all students to go there to make them into his image. **-Rick Santorum** (a straw man negative motive attribution, rather than he wants an educated workforce to globally compete in the 21st century).

Example 2: Limbaugh calls it "an attack on average, ordinary Americans" and on "motherhood" for the *factual* comment that Romney's wife has never been

employed. Conservatives love the truth and facts?

141. Say it Works Even if it Doesn't. (No. Another example of advocating lying)

Example: This stimulus bill will create hundreds of thousands of 'shovel-ready jobs.'

142. Selectively Ignore Data. (Maybe, if it's minor and negative, or you have a solution to its negative aspects)

Example 1: How many months did it take till the general public heard of the (more minor) "Fast and Furious scandal?"

Example 2: Somewhat similarly, many politicians refuse to use their opponent's name, as that gives them attention, and refer to them as 'my opponent.' The more left-leaning mainstream media did the same when Ted Koppel referred to the left-leaning Media Matters many more times than the right-leaning "Brent Bozell's organization/ establishment." –**Media Research Center** (Rock Center, 8/14/12)

143. Set the Bar Low. (Wimps do this. Strive for the stars and set high expectations. Every good parent does that for their children, so why expect anything less of our political 'authorities?')

144. Sidetrack the Debate with Irrelevant Facts. (No. Strength it with truth, facts and values—not gimmicks)

145. Cite Support from the Opposition. (Yes. This shows a strong argument for your views)

Example: Romney's Massachusetts health care program was the model for Obamacare.

146. Speak on Behalf of Respected Entities. (Yes, but only if you have garnered their un-paid-for support)

147. Spin Poll Data. (Only if you don't lie in the process. Handle the truth—if you're strong—even negative truth)

We must begin by recognizing the reason for the politics of deceit and distortion.

Political consultants use negative campaigns to suppress voter turnout, especially among people who don't follow politics closely and who want little from government.

–**Jim DeMint**

Example: The economic slump could have been much worse were it not for our stimulus intervention [a claim impossible to prove].

148. Stay on Message No Matter What. (Only if the message is good, solid and relevant to pressing issues, but don't become a robot, parroting the same lines with no creative variation)

Literal Example: What I'm saying is this: We are getting back on message.

–**Herman Cain**

149. Steal Their Thunder. (If they are gaining momentum, take a 'time out,' as in sports. It is also wise to reveal damaging information about yourself before your opponent does)

Example 1: I want you to know that also I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience. –**Ronald Reagan** (Wikipedia)

Example 2: Sean Hannity tried to use statistics to prove the GOP is not the party of the wealthy, when conservative philosophy/ideology contradicts his premise.

Example 3: In 2012, Democrats tried to add God, Jerusalem and a strong military to their party platform, while the Republicans (especially Romney and Gingrich) mentioned they wanted the poor, blacks and women to be Successful; Plus, 'hope and change' used for 'Change from day one.'

150. Suffocate Undesirable Projects. (Better, give better reasons for rejecting undesirable proposals)

151. Sum it Up for the Audience. (A good idea, with busy people and a lot of data to take in)

152. **Tag Opponent's Actions with Catchy Names.** (I would hope Americans aren't so gullible that derogatory labels stick merely because they're catchy, or rhyme)
Example 1: "Obamacare." –**Rush Limbaugh**
Example 2: Tax and spend, bleeding heart liberal.
153. **Take a Middle-of-the-Road Stance.** (Rarely. Have convictions, and be open to learning more, but rarely be neutral or undecided. That's for the more uninformed or insecure)
154. **Take the High Ground.** (Depends on how people define it. Telling the truth about an opponent, when it's negative is NOT taking the low road. Doing it in an insulting way is)
155. **Tell a Story.** (If that's your personality. It's certainly not mine, and it's often a way to engender emotion from the less thinking)
156. **Treat Hearsay and Conjecture as Fact.** (No. Again, lying)
157. **Trumpet Trivial Differences.** (Why do you need to exaggerate if you have good, distinguishable ideas?)
158. **Undermine Unwanted Policy.** (Only if you truly believe it is bad or unsound)
Example: "Too Big To Fail" [untrue fear tactic].
159. **Use "Perhaps-Therefore."** (Do not make conclusions based on faulty premises, as suggested here).
160. **Use "Terms of Confidence."** (Of course, use strong terms, but also *be* confident because of your good ideas)
161. **Use Glittering Generalities.** (No problem being sincerely emotional, but don't over-exaggerate your claims)
Example 1: We are for freedom and patriotism.
Example 2: Believe in America again. –**Mitt Romney** (bumper sticker)
162. **Use Semantics to Draw Sympathy.** (Be careful using emotionally-charged words, and don't try to choose words to mislead your audience)
163. **Use Sweeping Generalities.** (Not always. You can miss facts in the process)
164. **Use Vibrant Images, Slogans and Symbols.** (Yes. Don't be mealy-mouthed mamby pamby milk toast)
Example: Al Gore's Social Security "lock box."
165. **Wag the Dog.** (Likely not, as the dog wags his tail, naturally, so don't confuse cause and effect)
166. **Walk the Walk.** (Amen, even though everyone's imperfect. Try to live out honest integrity so many of these tactics are not used)
167. **Watch Out for the "Big Lie."** (No. No need to attempt to make lies believable)
168. **Wrap Yourself in the Flag.** (Can be too much and too mushy. Be sincerely patriotic, and you're your country, but don't be over-the-top)
Example: Have you ever seen many political signs or politicians wearing suits on TV without red, white and blue, or some combination thereof?

And I would add (among others)...

1. **Let the Private Sector Do Our Dirty Work** (so we seem above the fray).

Examples:

Dems: Smart phone records private strategy session of Mitch McConnell.
Jane ('Hanoi Jane') Fonda cast in Nancy Reagan role in *The Butler* (movie).
Nixon's stupid "is there another camera if the lights go out?" comment accentuated on *All The Presidents' Men Revisited* ad.

GOP: NRA sponsors NRA 500 NASCAR race at Texas Motor Speedway.
Who's Really Behind the Occupy Wall Street Movement? (movie)
The Amateur: Barack Obama in the White House, by Howard Klein
2016: *Obama's America* (movie)
~ *Last Ounce of Courage* (movie)

Non-ethical basis (and thinking behind offering red meat for loyalist or extremist dupes): No one else is going to act ethically, so why should I?—I might lose a political advantage.

Summary:

These aren't Boy Scouts that suddenly turned into bad guys overnight.
—**District of Corruption** (Judicial Watch movie)

These 'tricks' sound like immoral-type used car salesmen trying to trick someone into buying something they wouldn't buy if they knew the truth. Compare the following moral summary of techniques recommended by this web site with *common standards of right and wrong* behavior, and is it any wonder Congress is in such bad shape (and so disliked)? As Ross Perot asked, would you want your daughter dating someone who acted like this?...

Appearances (over substance)—image is everything (#10-13, ~111, 122); Arrogance (#72); Avoiding accountability (#123, 142); Avoiding specifics, when you know them (#161); Confusing people (#90); Deceiving (#116, 134); Denying the truth (#62, 70, ~147); Disrespect? (#73); Distorting (#136); Distracting (#56, 77-79, 118, 133, 144); Dominating or bullying (#51, 92); Evoking prejudices (#129); Exaggerating and distorting (#23, 76, 114, 157); Fear-mongering (#9); Guilt by association (#16-17); Implying and innuendos (#103); Insults (#131); Labeling and name-calling (#18, 152); Lying (if it's not true—#37-47, 58, 66, 80, 88, 110); Making excuses (#105); Manufacturing a conflict or crisis (#53, 104); No compromise (#81); No moral rules/limits (#27); Outright lying (#39, 89, 101, 134, 141); Painting your opponent in a negative light (#130, 140); Personal attacks and demonizing (#19, 67); Political favors (#100); Propagandizing? (#34); Remaining calm, cool and collected supposedly proves peace of conscience from right positions? (#7); Dumbing-down the discussion (#8, ~120); Scapegoating and the blame game as one's default (#29-30); Setting low standards (#143); Speculating when you know the truth (~#159); Starting rumors (#36, 57, ~135); Tricking people (#93); Unsubstantiated allegations and accusations (no evidence—1-3, 33); Unsubstantiated claims (#37, ~138, ~156); Using hearsay (#156); Win-at-all-costs (#124).

CONCLUSION

The immoral tactics being suggested above typically involve lying (probably number one), deceiving, starting and spreading rumors, demonizing, seeking to destroy, distracting or spinning the truth (which is often subjective). They also suggest attacking more so than having substantive ideas, balancing vice with virtue, never conceding or admitting fault, winning-at-all-costs (with virtually no moral rules except not turning off voters). They imply that Ivy League elitists know better than the rest (but never let the 'little guy' know you feel this way), and they teach to be moral *only* when it can clearly help your cause and help you win—otherwise, just "do what works."

Assumptions.

Both political sides use these tactics to some extent, as there is corruption in both, including party-line compliance enforced behind the scenes by some party bosses. Most of these tricks assume the voting public is dumb, and will vote for immoral men if they are more clever than they. Or they believe the public's internal moral compass won't discern these tricks. Think again, master manipulators!

Statistics show that 85% of Americans call themselves "Christian," so for at least the majority of voters, the following Bible references should hold some influence on their attitude toward certain tricks' themes.



1. **Lying** (I Tim. 1:10; Rev. 21:8)
2. **Deceiving** (Eph. 5:6)
3. **Spreading rumors** (II Cor. 12:20; II Tim. 3:3)
4. **Tearing people down** (II Tim. 13:10)
5. **Failing to admit faults** (I Jn. 1:9; Jas. 5:16)
6. **Hatred** (Tit.3:3; Mt. 24:10)
7. **Pride and arrogance** (I Jn. 2:12; Mt. 7:21-22)
8. **Brutal and mean** (II Tim. 3:3)
9. **Practicing evil** (I Pet. 3:12; Mt. 7:23)
10. **Offering only lip service, flattering people and being men-pleasers** (Rom. 16:8; Eph. 6:6)

B. Right-Winged Sources...

Then there's the *right*-leaning folk, doing the **exact same things**—and *some* wonder why we don't get along and there's so much gridlock?

Source 1: *365 Ways To Drive a Liberal Crazy*

80. Play Along with the Increasingly Common Liberal Habit of Equating Israel with Nazi Germany.

Say: "You know what? I think Israel's WAY worse!" Proceed to compare Gaza unfavorably with the Warsaw ghetto; liken the West Bank barrier to the Siegfried Line; accuse the Israeli Defense Force of being even worse than Hitler's Das Reich Panzer Division; claim that Sabra and Chatila were worse than Auschwitz and Treblinka combined. Work yourself up into a lather of rage and indignation. Then say: "I'm sorry. Forgive me for saying this, but you and I both know this in our hearts to be true: there will never be peace and harmony on this planet of ours till the world is *JUDENFREI!*"

Comment: Everyone gets some things right. No one seems to be wrong all the time, so we must discern between the two results.

269 & 281. Start a Rumor...

Comment: No, don't, even if it's sarcastically attacking Harry Reid (or Jane Fonda). You're stooping to lower levels and not advancing *civil* dialogue or debate—just trying to sell a book (and feed off extremists).

282. Pick a Fight with a Liberal on Race.

Rail against the Great White Liberal Death Wish. What exactly is so hateful and wrong about the **white Judeo-Christian culture** which created: the Sistine Chapel; the complete works of Shakespeare; the theory of relativity; the computer; the automobile; the Goldberg variations; the American Constitution? Right. So isn't it about time those **self-hating white** liberals out there, who

think we should feel guilty about our achievements [I don't], drop our cultural standards [No], and celebrate "the other," either kept quiet [because it exposes YOU] or put their money where their mouth is and moved to one of those places whose vibrancy they so admire. The Congo, maybe; or Somalia; or Turkmenistan [are we no longer free to try to influence improving OUR country?].

Comment: You REALLY ought to back off on this one, as the GOP is not the party supporting helping poor blacks, no matter how well their ancient heroes made decisions on the matter of race! When you tout the white race's successes and contributions to our world, don't forget to be objective and balance it with our failures, lest you become deluded by only focusing on the positives.

283. Quote the Wisdom of Al Gore:

"Democrats understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child." Capitalize on your opponent's mistake trick (unintended slip of the tongue—as if you've never done that).

290. Reclaim Rock for Conservatism: Serenade them with Metallica's "Don't Tread on Me":

Liberty or death, what we so proudly hail
once you provoke her, rattling of her tail
never begins it, never, but once engaged...
never surrenders, showing the fangs of rage...
Yay! Suck on that, socialist oppressor scum!

Comment: Be intelligent. People know most rock stars are more liberal—you can't fool them. And so much for setting the moral example by your last phrases. Stooping to the low road justifiably causes you to lose some credibility and moral authority.

291. Tell a Joke.

Q: What is the difference between liberalism and communism?

A: The Communist admits it.

Comment: Lies, distortion and exaggeration are not dealing in integrity. Communists believe in government-owned businesses. Few liberals support this in America. Humor does not lessen or lighten up the seriousness of your false allegation, here.

Example: Before I refuse to take your questions, I have an opening statement.
—Ronald Reagan

294. Pick a Fight with a Liberal on IQ.

Comment: It fuels the incivility fires to teach picking fights in the first place. Then this guy makes a joke over conservative teens' IQ's registering lower than liberal ones, saying they lie to pick up chicks, posing as sensitive guys. You can't spin good research, even though its conclusions hurt your cause.

297. Celebrate the 1995 Repeal of the 55 mph Federal Speed Limit.

...though of course there really should be no limits at all. In fact, as Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute demonstrated, the average fatality rate dropped—even in states that raised speed limits. In 1997, there were 66,000 fewer road injuries than in 1995. So in fact it's not speed that kills; it's ignorant safety Nazis like Nader.

Comment: There should be no speed limit? Foolishness! Calling an opponent a slanderous name makes conservatives morally superior and promotes civility and compromise? (i.e., ignorant, Nazi).

300. Pick a Fight with a Liberal on Over-Population.

...liberals forget that human beings can't be measured solely by consumption, but by their ingenuity and creativity, which help us to develop new resources, find new ways to deal with

challenges, discover new ways to protect the environment, and, who knows, maybe in centuries to come even colonize space.

Comment: What an ingenious solution (sarcasm). Rather than being responsible stewards, pursue your wants endlessly, then we can all just move to another planet [NOT]. Educating people to only have children they can afford is NOT a **crazy “liberal” idea**—it’s called “responsibility,” and having reasonable *moral* boundaries to our “freedoms” is only a threat to rebellious, callous lovers of self.

302. Tell a Joke.

Q: What do Vanilla Ice, Eminem, and Barack Obama have in common?

A: They've all made careers pretending to be black men.

Comment: Half true, but why the need to insult our president? Obama likely could not have been elected if he had acted ‘ghetto.’ Herman Cain’s (temporary) success shows it’s not the color that whites oppose.

303. Agree That JFK was One of Our Greatest Presidents.

Suggest this was because he spent less than one term in office, so he never had time to meddle and “improve” things, as liberals are wont to do.

Comment: This is cruelty, disrespect of the dead, somewhat condoning an assassination and proof that in your heart you don’t want society improved, because your life is financially successful, and that’s what you really care about. I guess his “ask not what your country can do for you” speech should have been cut short too? Liberals may be “wont to do” social improvements, but conservatives are “**won’t do**” social improvements.

305. Pick a Fight With a Liberal on Liberal Double Standards.

As Ann Coulter says, funny, isn't it, how liberals want everything they dis-approve of banned (smoking, guns, practicing Christianity, ROTC, the Pledge of Allegiance) and whatever they approve of (abortion-on-demand, gay marriage, pornography, condom distribution in public schools, screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth*) made mandatory.

Comment: Here’s proof that everyone interjects some truth and morality amidst their many evil tactics, trying to keep them publicly palatable. It is NOT a “double standard” to want what you want and not what you don’t. It’s a double standard when you’re a hypocrite—you want something for others, but not yourself (and vice versa).

320. Reclaim Rock for Conservatism.

Speculate that the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want" was almost certainly an attempt by London School of Economics-educated Mick Jagger to convey to his youthful audience two of the bedrock concepts of conservatism: life is unfair; don't expect the state to bail you out.

Comment: Here’s proof conservatives ACCEPT unfairness—except regarding *their* taxes—and want the government to help no one who is struggling in life (i.e., because they ‘have it made’).

322. Find a Feminist and See if She Has a Sense of Humor:

Q: How many men does it take to fix a woman's watch?

A: What does she need a watch for? There's a clock on the oven!

Comment: The old, ‘a woman’s place is in the home’—go bake cookies, Ms. Clinton routine?

326. Pick a Fight with a Liberal on Peak Oil.

"Peak oil"—the idea that we've reached the peak of oil production and that it's about to run out—is an S & M fantasy scenario designed by liberals to justify their fetish for higher taxation, greater government control, more regulation, and the mass switchover to expensive, pointless energy sources that don't work, such as wind and solar power. As Dennis Miller says: "Relax. We'll

replace oil when we need to. American ingenuity will kick in and the next great fortune will be made. It's not pretty but it is historically accurate. We need to run out of oil first. That's why I drive an SUV—so we run out of it more quickly. I consider myself to be at the vanguard of the environmental movement and I think individuals who insist on driving hybrids are just prolonging our dilemma and I think that's just selfish..."

Comment: Brilliant thinker. Don't plan—just deal with calamities when they occur—even exacerbate their pace (and environmental damage). Always attribute evil motives to your opponent, and care nothing about the environment. Glad this moron is not in charge of government policy.

331. When Talking about "Kwanzaa," Put on a Silly, Fake-African Voice, Make Inverted-Commas Signs with your Fingers, and, if Feeling Energetic, Perform a Comedy,

Witchdoctor

Dance.

Explain that you are simply being true to the festival's long, rich, imaginative cultural heritage... invented in 1967 by a black activist Maulana Karenga (née Ronald McKinley Everett), who was subsequently imprisoned for felony assault and false imprisonment.

Comment: It's always good to mock and make fun of another culture's differences, when seeking to get along (sarcasm). Even criminals can come up with good ideas to celebrate their non-criminal culture group's heritage. Ever wonder why the GOP is so often depicted as being anti-black (as with Limbaugh's continual, more veiled innuendos)?

332. Make a Point of Dressing Well and Going to Church on Sunday.

Wave to your sleepy-eyed, flip-flop-wearing slob of an atheistic neighbor and shout out, "We'll pray for you!"

Comment: What an absolute idiot, who has no idea how Christians are to treat the lost, or about Christ's attitude toward their lostness as victims of Satan—not villains or sinners because they don't attend church (i.e., a spiritual place not expected to be naturally attended by spiritually dead people). No wonder liberal atheists have such bad opinions of many religious people. And, god is less impressed with your dress as the appearance of your heart (Jas. 2). Man looks on the outside, but God looks on the heart.

337. Remind a Liberal that California Used to be a Reliable Republican State.

It voted Republican in every presidential election from 1952 to 1992 with only one exception (1964). Remind a liberal further that in those days, California was renowned for having some of the most right-wing voting districts in the country (in Southern California's Orange County); and remind the liberal even further that in those days California was equally renowned for its prosperity. Since 1992, the state has been overwhelmingly Democrat, and — while flooded with illegal immigrants — native Californians have been fleeing to other states, and the economy has gone down the toilet. Is that all just a coincidence?

Comments: Completely true. Don't get mad when someone tells you the truth, as he is here, and don't shut down against me because I attack this guy when he's in error and praise him when he's right (to whatever percent). You're just not used to objectivity (vs. biased dishonesty).

342. Take up hunting (if you don't hunt already) and leave your kill in the back of your pickup truck.

Invite your liberal friend over and ask him if he'd like a cut of truly organic protein.

Comment: Nothing is so effective in convincing others, or as ethical, as brashly mocking and taunting them. (NOT—sarcasm).

Source 2: *50 Things Liberals Love to Hate*, by Mike Gallagher

Sample chapter titles (liberals' *true* targets in parentheses)—McDonald's (obesity epidemic), profits (over-profits), freeways (polluting our ecology), football, Christians (hypocrisy), female conservatives, rich blacks, the military, America, the founding fathers (conservatives' small government philosophy), doctors (out-of-control healthcare costs), teachers, science, cars, NASCAR ("Gun-toting, clinging to their religion" 'red necks'), the Bible (anti-abortion and anti-gay marriage), Wal-Mart, the first and second Amendments (bullying and hate speech), etc.

Comments: Distortions, exaggerations and outright lies may evoke comedy, but they are still **LIES** (which the '*good book*' still considers **sin**). Why do robotic, un-thinking listeners—often Christian—fall for this form of brain-washing? Seemingly the only thing conservatives find problematic in America is liberals. Life's great when it's great for you—right?

Of course liberals will oppose (not necessarily 'hate') white women who aren't bra burning feminists, rich blacks who prove not all blacks are poor and needing government's help. They also consider football machismo violence, the military violently intruding in other countries' affairs, teachers as sometimes independent of the NEA's more liberal policies, Wal-Mart as providing inadequate healthcare with some glass ceiling (and "exploiting" cheap labor). Science (i.e., Evolution) as liberal's enemy?

In all these allegations, so long as their criticisms are true and point out flaws in conservative voting blocks and beliefs, there is **no moral problem** occurring. Simply playing politics in support of their *agenda*: Pro ecology, workers and the poor, abortion, gay marriage, gun control, neutral on religion (at best), pro veganism, government solving social problems (Ex.: obesity epidemic), peace, anti-bullying and hate speech, etc. (vs. rich WASPS, big business, carnivores, religion and Christianity, family values, the Bible, right to bear arms, free speech, private sector charities alone, small government, American global dominance and superpower status, etc.).

C. More Independent Source...

Having watched the 2012 election closely, I have found a few apparent rules myself...

POLITICAL PLAYBOOK RULES

1. Policy/ideology is one thing; execution/implementation is quite another.
2. You can rarely be certain who's going to win an election, as one side always has time to do well or make big mistakes, and events outside their control can always occur.
3. A politician who has performed moderately and gets re-elected *has* to make major changes for the better, as the public will *require* it!
4. There's a BIG difference between a gaffe (we love to jump on) and a BAD or quirky belief (like Obama's 'business didn't build their products' comment, or Romney's '47% of Americans are moochers').
5. Not all publicity is good publicity, just as not every endorsement is a good endorsement (Ex.: Putin, Chavez and Castro publicly supported Obama in 2012, turning off some independents).

6. Ignore one wing of your party and you risk them not voting (vs. voting for the other side).
7. Choosing an extremist to be on the ticket will also fire up the extremists of the other side.
8. When a more extreme candidate is offered by the other party, you can pretty much count on your base to vote, no matter which party wing is represented by the presidential candidate.
9. Two losses in a row for either wing of a political party, and the other wing is sure to claim that only someone from their group can win the next go round (Ex.: moderate Republican Presidential candidate and conservative VP in 2012).
10. Two boring personalities on a party ticket is a sure way to lose votes, as opposed to a choice of one (or even two) exciting personalities.
11. Give credit where credit is due to your opponent, but not too much credit (Ex.: Governor Christi and President Obama ‘love fests’ or ‘bro-mance’ after Hurricane Sandy vs. Romney congratulating President Obama on getting Bin Laden)
12. If your positions mirror your opponents’ too often, you’ve given the public no reason to vote for you, and have only confirmed your opponents’ credentials (Ex.: we need the best education system and to re-train workers as 2 of 5 parts to Mitt Romney’s economic plan)
13. One bad debate can hand the lead to your opponent. Never assume your lead is so secure you don’t have to be on your game at all times.
14. A Vice Presidential candidate can run interference and damage control, but voters ultimately vote for the top slot—not a great second hand man.
15. Voters do not turn onto your candidacy with statistics and numerical details, factual as they may be.
16. Over-detailed debate responses lose you to your audience. Facts can be stated more entertainingly and generally, and still convey the same truth. Only accountants and the Treasury need that specificity when actually hammering out budgets and sending out benefit checks.
17. Do not delegate important details to Congress when you haven’t thought through your own plans, and call it ‘being bi-partisan.’ (Ex.: Romney on which tax deductions to eliminate).
18. Any politician excusing women being raped should, by that very assertion, no longer have a career in public service. (Ex.: Rep. Todd Akin)
19. If you need the female vote to put you over the top, tout contraception paid for by government, or fear of abortions no longer? Funny how some males still see women’s issues as only related to sex.
20. Evaluate a candidate’s claimed business credentials, because it’s not always how much they earned, but how they earned it (Ex.: Turning around the Olympics is an economic credential, while outsourcing many American jobs is *not*).
21. How is a business man experienced at *firing* people to make companies more profitable a qualification to take over the American economy, when it suffers from 23 million unemployed?
22. If your opponent is lying on a significant matter—call his bluff. Don’t let lies go unchecked and unaccounted for, or many will believe it’s true.

23. The good cop/bad cop technique in a political campaign is a subtle form of lying. (Ex.: Romney asked what type of country we want, and Ryan said we just need to re-apply traditional principles).
24. Point out your opponent's important hypocrisies, because busy, hard-working Americans may not catch it if you don't.
25. People don't like hypocrisy in their leaders. (Ex.: Paul Ryan complained of intelligence failures in the Lybian Ambassador's killing, but NOT in weapons of mass destruction not being found with Saddam Hussein).
26. It's the height of arrogance to criticize your opponent for doing something you have done yourself. (Ex.: Obama blamed for lost jobs to china, when Romney consulted companies to reduce headcount and outsource)
27. 'Walking a statement back' is a polite way of saying you're flip flopping, or you lied. You don't have to back-track when you always assume cameras are on & always speak the truth!
28. Remember and record your opponent's gaffes, because not all of them are mere verbal slip-ups. Some actually reveal hidden opinions. (Ex.: 47% of Americans are moochers vs. the smart poor should borrow from their (poor) parents—evidence of a *subjectivism* problem).
29. You often say what's *really* from the heart when among close friends, drunk, off the record or joking.
30. When you're leading, do and say nothing, *unless* your opponent starts to make a last minute surge.
31. When in disfavor, put out a popular surrogate to speak on your behalf (Ex.: Bill Clinton or Michelle Obama in 2012).
32. When in trouble, patently pander to your base. (Ex.: Obama trial balloons work-less welfare, and government-paid-for student loans and contraception)
33. When the media's darling is losing ground, they may use fear tactics that the opponent's extreme wing is the future of that party. (Ex.: NBC said the Tea Party of the future of the GOP)
34. If you can't win off your record or big policies, distract with highly-controversial and minor ones.
35. In the last quarter of an election, if the race is tight and your opponent makes a mistake, rub his nose in it *every day*. (Ex.: GOP on Lybian Ambassador killing, Sept.-Nov., 2012; Even the USS Kohl and other tragedies didn't play out as long, nor was justice sought as avidly, but they were not as close to the end of a close election)
36. More molehill-sized mess ups during a campaign are sure to be made mountains by your opposition. (Ex.: Las Vegas GAO conference over-runs and moral excesses; perhaps also the Fast and furious debacle)
37. An educated voter will not be gullible enough to fall prey to the good cop/bad cop trick of a Presidential candidate saying one thing, while his running mate says something quite different. (Ex.: Mitt Romney asks 'What type of country do you want,' and Paul Ryan says 'We need to re-apply traditional principles')
38. An educated voter will not accept politician lies or exaggerations, and can identify when they

use 'dirty tricks.' (Ex.: Biden: 'GOP wants blacks back on plantations,' or GOP doesn't want blacks to vote fear tactic).

Political Tricks in Action

(4/18/18)

As a sample of the topics and manner in which we typically write on Twitter, the following message/speech/sermon is offered, related to the topic of political trickery (though the use thereof goes both ways; and if you ever wondered how low politics has gone/fallen, see some of the exact comments from regular people who posted under the hashtag game, which then follows):

I monitor talk radio, on occasion. Today one host said we're open for business, UN-like Starbucks, AS IF morally superior, or training employees on racial sensitivity is a lesser choice. Talk radio OFTEN uses innuendo to mock any racial concerns, yet says they're NOT white-dominated.

Then another host used an abhorrent Cali professor insulting the Bush family, and said "Democrats," AS IF she was representative of all Dems. He said Democrats have skewed liberal/left, and 'we conservatives don't stoop that low.' This from a TRUMP supporter, speaking of moral superiority. HILARIOUSLY non self-aware!

He also slammed the media (standard fare, there)! BOTH sides are morally imperfect, and NEITHER side has a moral monopoly on political issues. Because Fox and talk radio CLAIM to represent Christians, you better know if you DON'T hear BOTH sides of an issue, you are lazy, and disobedient to God... period!

For the uneducated, under-educated, educated, but rusty, or lazy, or even educated, attentive, but blinded by party idolatry, let's address a few TYPICAL tricks political pundits use to DUPE lazy audience members who won't change the channel/station to hear anything else, because it's easier not to:

Using the California whack job as representative is exaggeration, and guilt-by-association (I'm NOT going to list for you the technical rhetorical fallacy terms).

Talk radio OFTEN demonizes Democrats. They like to lump them all as evil/bad, and conservatives as virtuous, and GOP RINO's as bad, too. This is EXTREME error—inaccurate.

I already said, when your arms are wrapped around THIS, the mud is all over your self-righteous Sunday best!: <https://bit.ly/2fIESxj> So claiming a religion, or to 'not stoop' is a pure lie, which is a sin; NOT a virtue!

How about another talk radio favorite trick: Perspective skewing. That is, I find a needle in a haystack example of a horrible Democrat, then hone in and drill down on that small percent as if it's a mountain, when it's a mole hill. I'd venture there's a handful of Dems who are rejoicing that Barbara Bush is deceased, as that worthless Cali professor insinuated. But NEVER let the facts get in the way of goo/big fish story!

So these "mind-numb robots," all-day, hear the same talking points, and believe the world is as Hannity, Rush and Levin paint it to be, and LITERALLY do NOT think for themselves; just regurgitate what their "experts" spout for BIG MONEY!

Somehow, those avid listeners (of which I was one, from 1985-2007/8) believe they're smart, and moral! And with CHUMP, they're trying to push their brand of extremism on everyone else. It TRULY is brain-washing, and a cult, and belief system idolatry, as they NEVER think any policy they support needs improving! Propaganda.

And I don't terribly mind if less-educated whites buy into it, and give the white population a black eye as if we all hold such trashy views, or even educated white males, who are just in it for the money, but when

you use the name of Jesus, fellow, I've got a bone and beef to pick with you, and I'll do it every time, because political conservatism does NOT represent God any more or less than its weakest link, and it has some morally atrocious weak links; just as do centrists and leftists, as with many good things.

The high and mighty arrogance in stupidity is one thing I won't tolerate among claiming believers in Jesus. God and Jesus are NEITHER Republican, nor Democrat, nor Independent! They are ONLY for morally good policies that can get passed, by enough good citizens voting in enough good politicians to vote for good policies from any and all sources!... PERIOD! @pledgers2020, "Christians"

The ONE issue I battle alt-right GOP's over is taxes used to solve problems, especially helping strugglers. NO American can debate the following argument, unless you are just selfishly evil: IF a poor person is maxxed out in their job skills, working full-time, know-how and do budget, and buy smart, yet they still need a small percent of aid, it is MORE stable and enough to meet the need to come from taxes than arbitrary and random charitable feelings that possess a few to give a little to the street corner beggar!

And IF no one is EVER able to live off Welfare, except if mentally or physically incapable of work, and there is NO fraud or abuse, and they are required to perform token payback in the form of 30-40 hours of civic service (per year), WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND can slander an ethical safety net in such cases as some "EVIL" wealth redistribution? Only die-hard and die with a harder heart type conservatives!

I've challenged far right conservatives on SEVERAL occasions, and their "leaders" will NEVER take me up on it—a sure sign of weakness—GO to the hood or barrios with me, and see if everyone's sitting on a couch eating bon bons off your dime! You deserve to know the TRUTH, vs. political spin that reinforces idiocy!

It is a DIS-honor to God, and DIS-respectful of God, and DIS-obedience to God, for any claiming Christian to say they're political conservatives 100 percent! There are people who claim to be Christians who are not, and there's the majority who live half-heartedly (i.e., in rebellion) who probably are Christians. THAT'S THE PROBLEM, HERE!

One more trick conservatives LOVE to use... 100 percent ignore and act like they're non-existent... any who are not polar opposite political extremists from yourself (like the vast majority of the American public). You can't keep people ignorant and angry if you don't use lies and tricks to make them full-time riled up, for then they would be reasonable!

Here's one more political trick: Accuse people who care about lessening political tensions of 'extremism,' like "flower power Moonies who want love, peace and drugs" (i.e., Hippies and tree-huggers accusation), just because some people insist on integrity, like people using this hashtag, trending today: #InsteadOfSpreadingHate

Relatedly, one detail I left out... local talk show boy said Barbara Bush represents an end of an era of civility in politics, then blamed the left. Yet, this boy fiercely advocated for TRUMP—the epitome of NO civility. Have you forgotten this, already Mr. Salcedo?: <https://bit.ly/2fIESxj> Convenient amnesia!

And I recall one other trick of political far righters... SPIN everything positive concerning Trump, and NEVER admit his many faults. He could literally kill someone on New York streets, and these types would say he's a good Second Amendment shot, or it was a merciful kill, as the victim didn't linger long. #AmazingBIAS!

I'll bore you with one more tweet, for now. Writing more than seven years on politics, I've concluded it all boils down to one thing only... money! Everyone wants Uncle Sam to do their bidding, but no one wants to pay their taxes today, Apr 15th (stretched three days, for various reasons). The money and the math DOESN'T ADD UP—period!

#WashingtonDCSlogans

Abuse

- ◆ Screwing over the common man since 1776.
- ◆ Politics the only job where you PAY US to SCREW YOU.

Achievement

- ◆ The D.C. fits because these politicians are pretty comical.
- ◆ Mission UN-accomplished.
- ◆ The damage we do we do for you!
- ◆ If it ain't broke it's probably someone else's government.
- ◆ You are entering another dimension. Welcome to The Twilight Zone.

Disrespected

- ◆ More clowns than the Ringling Bros. Circus.

Double-Speak

- ◆ Traffic circles aren't the only thing that will give you the runaround.

Egoes

- ◆ Chock full of egos.
- ◆ Where the streets have no shame.

Ethics

- ◆ Leave your morals at the city limits.
- ◆ Even the hookers have higher morals & standards.

Flip-Flops

- ◆ No stance so strong that it can't be changed!

Gridlock

- ◆ The Donkey & the Elephant: Because we're stubborn & slow-moving!
- ◆ Gridlock: Not just for traffic anymore.
- ◆ The "D" stands for dysfunctional.

Hypocrites

- ◆ Do as we say, not as we do.
- ◆ More hypocrites per square mile than Hollywood.

Idolatry

- ◆ Now entering Washington DC. Leave your soul at the door.

Ignorance

- ◆ When you can't agree on anything just ask a 16 year old.

Ignorance Manipulators

- ◆ Make America gullible.

- ◆ There's a sucker born every minute... use them as your voter base.

Inciters

- ◆ Making America Hate Again.

Lobbyists

- ◆ Everything is for sale.
- ◆ Bribes 'R Us.
- ◆ The pay ain't great, but the tips are good.
- ◆ We accept all kickbacks.
- ◆ Bought and paid for.
- ◆ D.C. means District of Corruption.
- ◆ Come for the politics, stay for the lobbying.

Lying

- ◆ Say anything to get elected then forget it.
- ◆ Liar! Liar! Pants on fire.
- ◆ Lie, lie, lie. When caught, lie more.
- ◆ Washington DC. Where Truth goes to die.

Money

- ◆ Come for the people, stay for the money.
- ◆ Money Talks.
- ◆ Listen to the money talk.
- ◆ The best votes money can buy!
- ◆ Get elected. Get rich quick.

Problems/Solutions

- ◆ Come for the Politics. Leave for the same reason.
- ◆ Watch out for the Elephant in the room. Someone has to clean up after it.
- ◆ Shovel not included.
- ◆ Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.
- ◆ What we need is adult supervision.

Rich

- ◆ Owned & operated by the 1% since forever.
- ◆ Of the 1%, by the 1%, for the 1%.
- ◆ Don't worry, the rich will stay rich.
- ◆ D.C.: Where the rich get richer... and we're done.
- ◆ Give to the rich, take from the poor.

Self-Advancement

- ◆ Re-election is the only mantra!

- ◆ If you're not one of us, you're one of them.
- ◆ We really care about us! Err... you!
- ◆ We're here, we're career, get used to us.
- ◆ Do Unto others then split!

Sex

- ◆ Washington D.C.: Where there is no difference between hookers & politicians.
- ◆ Reach out and grope someone.

Sins

- ◆ D.C... Where lie, cheat & steal is not just a song by Tool.
- ◆ Dirty deeds, done dirt cheap.
- ◆ Come swim in our cesspool.
- ◆ DC where crime in the streets in only half the battle.
- ◆ Come clean, leave dirty.

Sloganizers

- ◆ Caring more about slogans than citizens since 1790.

Trump

- ◆ Elect a clown, expect a circus.
- ◆ Where old men throw tantrums.

Waste

- ◆ Wasting taxpayer's money one billion at a time.
- ◆ Representation without representation.
- ◆ A temporary government program is forever.
- ◆ Where it gets cold enough that occasionally politicians put their hands in their own pockets!
- ◆ Where your money goes to work against you.
- ◆ Bankrupting America, one bad law at a time.

Gridlock Alternatives

You don't have to be a political junkie to know not much gets done in Washington D.C., and you don't have to be a Poly Sci major to recall from your civics class that Congress functions as a checks and balance on the Executive branch. Things like house rules, agenda-setting, vetoes, veto over-rides, filibusters, de-funding and other techniques, unless one side has a large majority, the opposite side can often be stifled, and we all know the two national parties hardly ever work together with open-mindedness to anything good offered by the other side. It has not always been this way, nor need it stay this way!

Problems

What are some alternatives to the following methods used to pull a full-time salary for doing part-time work in Washington?

1. **Gridlock.** Getting little-to-nothing done, even though the average Congressional salary is four to five times that of the average American employee. Could you keep your job with *their* productivity?
2. **Bad Compromise.** Giving up core principles, or even all sides getting something in HUGE bills few ever read, where the public often becomes the only loser (paying for it all, or obeying it) is not successful negotiating!
3. **Meet in the Middle.** There is no intrinsic value to meeting in the middle between extremes. It ALL depends on what the end result is. Splitting the difference can end up good, and it can end up otherwise.
4. **Dominate Opponent.** Seek to decimate and bring the opponent to an end, and pass policies 100% contrary to anything they would agree to and establish it as law for the long-term.
5. **Ping Pong Politics.** Voters switching parties in power every cycle or two, hoping for better results. Hint: You rarely get good results from either party!

Solutions

At least five alternatives to gridlock are available, if the political will is:

1. **Win One, Lose One.** Agree to pass a policy that's not harmful to America that more benefits your opponent in exchange for a policy that more benefits your constituents.
2. **Give In On Non-Essentials.** Determine what issues are essential, and which are not, and give the other side some tertiary concessions in exchange for the same from them.
3. **Common Sense Policies.** Passing common sense policies, no matter which political party benefits or benefits most.
4. **Brokering Pledgers.** Enough good people serving as the people's representatives to break the log jam for common sense policies in the best interests of the country.
5. **Win-Win.** Innovative solutions that account for the interests and common ground found between the two parties.

Negotiating Tactics to Win-Win

In negotiating, you don't have to out-smart the other person.

The best way to get the price you want is being polite. **-101.7 FM** (Air-One radio, 9/28/14)

Legend:

OK-to-Yes: Moral, or at worst, neutral.

Maybe: Depends on motive, execution, or other factors.

Maybe-to-No: Likely not the most moral way to negotiate.

No: Morally wrong way to negotiate.

As Congress learns to actively engage the other side of the aisle, negotiating methods can often come into play (often behind closed doors), and it would behoove the wise politician (to rightly represent his constituents) to know the various methods used in negotiating. Following is a moral assessment of such tactics, taken from a book by Peter Stark:

1. OK-to-Yes.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 52, 55, 58, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 75, 84, 87, 93, 95, 101,

2. Maybe.

8 (often manipulation), 9 (only if sincere), 11 (not if used car sales manager-like trick), 12, 13, 16 (usually selfish), 24, 27 (can be deceptive by distraction), 33, 50, 53, 54, 56, 57, 60, 63 (can be deceptive), 69, 71, 76 (do it if a great offer, though it could possibly get sweeter), 79, 80 (only if

you mean to fulfill that promise), 82, 83, 91 (not a substantive reason), 92, 94 (sometimes needed), 96.

3. Maybe-to-No.

10 (only if sincere vs. manipulative/fake), 39 (usually not, as can be selfish), 44 (if you need to), 47 (Ok if not manipulative), 48 (often manipulative), 72, 81, 85 (not if a threat), 88 (Ok, but not a god basis for a business decision), 90 (can be manipulative).

4. No.

31 (inflexible), 32 (deception by distraction), 34 (apathy), 42 (feigning), 46 (avoidance), 59 (threats), 70 (feigning), 73 (deception), 74 (staged/fraud), 77 (deceptive), 78 (deception), 86 , flattery/manipulation/ dishonesty), 97, no (manipulative), 98 (mean/evil), 99 (lying), 100 (uncaring).

Summary: Honesty, wisdom and factuality vs. deception, dishonesty/fraud, manipulation, lying, insincere flattery, mean, uncaring/selfish or unfair.

Reference: The Only Negotiating Guide You'll Ever Need, by Peter B. Stark and Jane Flaherty (Broadway Books: NY, NY), 2003

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

We welcome you to inform yourself on some of the most important subjects of life—Religion, Politics, Business & Innovation. With that aim in mind, feel free to check out any of these helpful reads:

- **Wit & Wisdom: Don't Speak About Politics or Religion (A Voter's Manifesto)**

Our blockbuster live-tweeted book, that significantly changed American politics and Christianity from 2014 to 2018 (and which many of the world's VIP's have already seen written, and warmly received).

- **Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant: Common Ground Through Common Sense for the Common Good**

Over 2,000 unique, new products ideas inside—**FREE!**

Our landmark book on how “We the people” can change Washington for the good (and to do good, both in policies and practice), using common sense to secure unifying solutions, efficiently and within budget.

- **The Way Things Ought To Be: A Global Vision for a Better World**

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Business and economy improvement primer, as well as aiding consumers and employees in maximizing their dollars earned and spent.

- **Design Your Future: Innovation Strategies for the 21st Century**

The ‘magic’ behind our over 4,700+ new product ideas (strewn throughout four books) is explained, including the *best speech* **EVER** to inspire and teach anyone (and any business) to become profitably innovative.

- **Practical Prophecy for an Unsuspecting World**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—**FREE!**

Anyone interested in knowing the basics of coming/future world events will get simple explanations, as well as relevant predictions and trend analyses concerning prophecy timing.

- **Advanced Prophecy Handbook**

A more scholarly summary of most prophecy questions, including an encyclopedic covering of issues from A to Z, timetable and event detail explanations, etc.

- **Idioms for Innovators & Immigrants**

Anyone desiring to understand (or appeal to) America's pop culture, advertising and values, thousands of common expressions we use in everyday expression are defined in common usage.

- **The Gospel According to God**

The most thorough, Bible-based treatise on what it takes for a person to go to Heaven. Documenting and critiquing the two major views of the historic Lordship Salvation vs. Saviorhood Salvation controversy.

- **New Testament Color Charts**

These charts graphically explain the meaning and layout of God's latest Testament, using pictures, colors and text. It allows an easy understanding of context and perspective when studying the Bible.

- **Architecture Aficionado: How Anyone Can be Inspired to Admire (and Create) Architecture**

For an excellent summary of the most important topics of the Bible (which recently turned around a leading U.S. mega church), see our FREE web site, www.WillYouLiveForever.org

For a broad treatment of common sense, common ground solutions to politics-as-usual, see our FREE website, www.AmericanAnswers.org

Examples of Political Tricks in 2016

Trump meets with Mitt Romney to discuss Secretary of State job (AFTER vs. before his win, seeking to appease #NeverTrump GOPs, as that benefits HIS presidency).

Nikki Haley selected as U.N. Ambassador (we expect SO little of our politicians, that removing one Confederate flag ‘qualifies’ a person, like a 12-hour speech made Ted Cruz presidential material, among other things, or same type filibuster made Texas’ Wendy Davis qualified to run for Governor?).

Trump prays on Thanksgiving (to a God who his campaign denied by its deeds all his campaign) that America can heal and unite, when HE is the MAIN reason people are so incensed, fully from all his free-willed (unforced) bad words and bad behavior! HOW convenient!

Trump proposes a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill to appease workers and get Democrats to warm up to him, when America already has a \$20 trillion debt (also ticking off fiscal conservatives)!

Trump denounces the alt-right AFTER they propel him into the White House! Flip-flops and schizophrenic abandoning of his adoring fans, if it benefits SELF.

Who said Trump was an amateur politician outsider?

Excerpts from the final 2012 presidential debate, morally analyzed...

(Warning: we tell the TRUTH, and complement or criticize either side)

NOTE: If we, the voters, would learn to evaluate proposals by their moral and economic merit, and look less at which party is advocating them, we would have a much greater country (or, as the Constitution calls it—‘a more perfect union’).

Romney:

I want everyone rich (**PIPE DREAM**).

Grow the economy so more jobs and ever-expanding pie (**GOOD, IF POSSIBLE**).

Cut back Big Bird (**RIDICULOUS EXTREME**).

We need regulations—we wouldn’t want a bank out of one’s garage (**GOOD**).

Simplify the tax code (**ONLY IF MIDDLE CLASS AND POOR PAY NO MORE**).

Trickle down government (**NOT GOVERNMENT’S ONLY JOB TO HELP BUSINESSES SUCCEED**).

Increase Latin American trade (**GOOD**).

Obama:

Economic crisis from lack of Wall Street regulations under Bush, and only four years to change it. (**BUSH—TRUE, BUT YOU’VE HAD FOUR YEARS**).

Roads and bridges change the economy (**ONLY IF DAMAGED & DETRACTING TRAFFIC FLOW**).

Companies paid to outsource (through tax breaks; **BAD, IF TRUE**).

Oil company subsidies are NOT needed (**GOOD**).

Pay your fair share and play by the same rules (**GOOD**).

General Concepts:

Crack down on China if she cheats (**GOOD**).

Best skilled and educated (**GOOD**).

Take ideas from anywhere (**GOOD**).

Increase the results in math and science vs. teacher numbers, necessarily (**GOOD**).

Money for the poor to go to college vs. borrow from mom (**GOOD, IF FED CAN AFFORD IT**).

Green energy? (**GOOD, IF ECONOMICAL, TOO**).

Against tax cuts that would increase the deficit (**GOOD**).

47 training programs in 8 agencies (**BAD**).

Rich won't pay less under Romney (**BUT WON'T PAY MORE, EITHER?**).

Increase government effectiveness (**GOOD**).

\$2.8-4B a year oil subsidies (**BAD**).

\$90B spent on green energy (**PRIMARILY WASTED**).

Bring foreign money back to U.S. (**GOOD, IF POSSIBLE**).

Insurance insures only healthy vs. pre-existing conditioned (**BAD**).

\$716B Medicare down in Obamacare? (**TRICK: THE GOP IS CRITICIZING DEBT REDUCTION?**).

Don't designate banks as too big to fail (**GOOD**).

Increase penalties for banks who lend to the unqualified (**GOOD**).

Half of college graduates can't find work (**BAD**).

Lower debt and balance budget? (**GOOD ON DEBT; GOOD, IF POSSIBLE, ON BALANCED BUDGET**).

Best education system in the world (**GOOD**).

1/6th of Americans live in poverty (**BAD**).

It's OK for the low wage, low paying jobs to remain outsourced (**IS IT OK WITH LESS-SKILLED UNEMPLOYED?**).

Make the U.S. the most attractive country for business (**GOOD, WITHIN REASON**).

China is stealing our intellectual property (**BAD**).

China must play by the same rules if trades with USA (**GOOD**).

Currency manipulation makes Chinese products cheaper than American (**BAD**).

Syria: 30,000 citizens killed by their military (**BAD**).

Employers shouldn't be determining who is a citizen (**TRUE/GOOD**).

(Predominantly black) Churches help reduce crime (**BAD**).

Green card for math and science (**ONLY IF ECONOMY NEEDS THEM**).

4 million want into the U.S. (**ONLY IF WE NEED THEM**).

12% growth in Latin America (**GOOD, FOR THEM; MAYBE US**).

Government education loans cut out the middle man (**GOOD FOR STUDENTS, IF FED CAN AFFORD IT**).

\$4,300 less earnings for middle class (**BAD**).

Make it illegal to invest in a company, bankrupt it, loot its resources, strip pensions, lay employees off and still make money (**GOOD**).

China and Germany have the future green energy jobs (**BAD FOR US**) vs. oil companies control our domestic policy (**BAD**).

Federal land drilling down 14% (**BAD. CAUSES MORE MIDDLE EAST DEPENDENCE**)

23M unemployed (**BAD**).

Romney's plan for the long-term unemployed? Hope the economy turns (**BAD**).

Excerpts from the 2012 vice presidential debate, morally analyzed...

General Concepts:

GOP started 2 wars, now complain the debt's too high (**BAD**).

Dems over-spend, then try to force the rich to bail us out (**BAD**).

Ryan:

Iran: The Ayatollahs need their minds changed—not be emboldened by our weakness to pursuer nuclear weapons (**GOOD**).

30% are takers (**GO MEET WITH THEM & LIVE A DAY IN THEIR LIFE, & GIVE THEM HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE YOU'LL HELP THEM CREATE FOR THEMSELVES**).

Biden:

I won't force my Catholic beliefs on anyone (**GOOD**).

\$500 billion for 120,000 families (**RE-CASTS THE 1%ERS—OK**).

People appreciate the solace your leaders have gone through what you're experiencing (**GOOD**).

If Social Security funds had been privatized in the stock market today, they'd have (insecurely) tanked (**TRUE**).

Excerpt from a 2012 governor's act, morally analyzed...

Gov. Perry addressing unaccountable college administrations—working few hours, writing papers few ever read (**GOOD**).

Advanced Examples.

A. Generous Rich

This [immigration reform] is something that we believe is really important for the future of our country—and for us to do what's right. **—Mark Zuckerberg**

Trick used: An immoral deed can be spun/touted as moral, and/or a moral deed can be accused of being immoral (the goal always being to get busy and less thinking voters to consider your opponents *evil*).

Right Radio: Zuckerberg wants immigration reform to get cheaper labor [ironic allegation when the right usually supports anything for big business profits]. He also personally benefits from seeking to spread the internet to all peoples of the world. [usually conservatives would extol a business mogul finding any way to increase profits—here, by reducing expenses, though not if done by a pseudo-Democrat, I guess].

Left: Zuckerberg cares about the welfare of people, including anchor babies going to college in America.

Analysis: Absent a lie detector (that can't be tricked) or truth serum, perhaps only God knows Marks' true motive(s). Observing his words, and especially actions (which could be lies and deceptive, respectively), his commitment to the Giving Pledge and large philanthropic gifts (in size, if not as much in percent of net worth) evidence sincerity. At the same time, getting qualified labor from non-first world countries does allow a downward push to American wages if a large enough amount enter the workforce. But he could also hire those people in their home country at that standard of wage and avoid any involvement in the political debate.

It can be a balancing of which motive is greater (more personal wealth from lower labor costs or helping vulnerable people as his priority one), and you must ask if Zuck getting wealthier is innately evil (or

personally profiting by helping the world's poor, vs. doing it all for free). In fact, he would have had to evaluated how many illegals he would hire (if qualified for his industry, sneaking in often from Mexico), how many American nationals he could lay off as a result, how much lower all his employees could be paid as a result—especially if other companies hired the approximately 12 million ‘undocumented workers’ already in America. And you would need to assess his Giving Pledge amount and other charity gifts against what savings Facebook could incur by hiring that number of ‘illegal aliens.’

In other words, taking political pundits at their word when they spew their filth is easier, and often the only option most busy people have to assess who is lying and who is telling the truth, and, more importantly, whose agenda to support. I conclude very clearly (given his giving track-record) that Mr. Zuckerberg truly cares about humanity more so than just getting richer, while, at the same time, though I understand that desperate times call for desperate measures (i.e., bad economic options often in Mexico), I completely oppose law breaking as a means to achieve your ends—especially providing law-breakers free citizenship, social services and an unfair increase to Democrats’ constituency.

B. Abusive Poor.

You can make over \$60,000 in most states on welfare. **–Chuck Woolery**

A Congressman recently suggested that the average Welfare recipient costs the tax payer \$60,000 a year. And according to the Cato Institute, in 35 states Welfare pays more than minimum wage:



However, if the left is right (i.e., correct), those depictions are merely Enron-like Anderson Consulting accounting tricks, as the following Washington Post article claims.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/a-misleading-chart-on-welfare-spending/2013/02/20/1b40bcde-7ba4-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d_blog.html

If the average citizen is able to sift through lies, distortions, delusion, and skewed statistics (which are so often thrown around in politics), they have the ability to make correct conclusions. If not, they often rely on those who they more instinctively (or habitually) trust—which is exactly how the politicians like it.

C. Selfish Rich?

I will get in my gas guzzler, mount a gun rack in the back, and leave [New York]!

–Sean Hannity (1/22/14)

VS.

...nothing says “Great American” like a multimillionaire looking to pack up and relocate (some day) in order to avoid giving back to the country he professes to love so much...

–NewsHounds.US

Comment: If taxes are too high, they’re too high, and taxes are NOT freely ‘giving back.’ At the same time, the comment gives indication he is unlikely to freely give back a large amount to charity, either.

Common Sense Idioms Quiz

Note: Match the idiom to the most relevant (or related) example to its application.

Idioms:

1. A man is known by the company he keeps. ____
2. A penny saved is a penny earned. ____
3. Bang for the buck. ____
4. Better the Devil you know than the Devil you do not. ____
5. Blood is thicker than water. ____
6. Called in the big guns. ____
7. Can't see past their nose. ____
8. Children and fools speak the truth; God lawyer must be a good liar. ____
9. Dance with the one which brung ya; carried his water. ____
10. Don't bite the hand that feeds you. ____
11. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. ____
12. Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; give him a fishing pole and he eats for a lifetime. ____
13. Glad-handler. ____
14. Money talks/makes the world go 'round. ____
15. Poured money down the drain/a rat hole; Waste not, want not. ____
16. Riding the fence; walking the tightrope. ____
17. Silver-tongued devil. ____
18. That dog don't hunt. ____
19. The devil's in the details. ____
20. The foxes are in charge of the hen house. ____

Examples:

- a) Access and influence.
- b) All-or-nothing voting choices.
- c) Barack Obama's Reverend Wright and William Ayers.
- d) Bloated tax code/legislation.
- e) Campaign over-finance.
- f) Cronyism and nepotism.
- g) Eloquent speeches ("The great communicator").
- h) Failed trial balloons.
- i) Famous politician endorsements.
- j) Fiscal restraint.
- k) Foreign aid.
- l) Government streamlining.
- m) Indecisive/unwilling to take a stand.
- n) Lying politicians.
- o) Party loyalty.
- p) Pay go.
- q) Pressing the flesh (on the campaign trail).
- r) Short-sighted policies.
- s) Voting on name recognition.
- t) Wasted tax dollars.

Answers: 1c, 2j, 3l, 4s, 5f, 6i, 7r, 8n, 9o, 10a, 11p, 12k, 13q, 14e, 15t, 16m, 17g, 18h, 19d, 20b

Do Your RELIGIOUS Values Match Your POLITICAL Values? Are You Sure?

Which passages of Scripture should guide our public policy? Should we go with Leviticus, which suggests that slavery is all right and eating shellfish is an abomination?

How about Deuteronomy, which suggests stoning your child if he strays from the faith?

Or should we stick to the Sermon on the Mount—a passage so radical that it's doubtful that our defense department would survive its application? Surely, secularists are wrong when they ask believers to **leave their religion at the door** before entering the public square.

...indeed the majority of great reformers in American history—not only were motivated by faith but repeatedly used religious language to argue their causes.

(*Audacity of Hope*, p. 342, by Barack Obama)

The danger for these conservatives who insist on throwing the Bible at everyone is that **people might actually pick it up and read the New Testament.**

(*40 More Years*, p. 64, by James Carville; *emphasis mine*)

The Bible is not a political treatise, and America is NOT a theocracy, but for those who claim their political party is more moral than the other, the following biblical principles should serve as a guide to evaluating those claims, as we seek to make a more perfect union.

POLITICIANS

Righteous Leaders (yeah right?).

Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain, and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. (**Exodus 18:21**)

Less Lying Politicians (i.e., ethics reform).

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (**Revelation 21:8**)

Deeds Trump Speeches.

Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead. (**Ecclesiastes 5:7**)

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, who delude themselves. (**James 1:22**)

Negotiation & Compromise (yeah right?).

Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment? (**Amos 3:3**)

POLICIES

Man's Dominion Over the Planet.

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. (**Genesis 1:22**)

Anti Animal Abuse.

A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal, but even the compassion of the wicked is cruel. (**Proverbs 12:10**)

Reasonable Ecological Measures.

So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; for blood pollutes the land and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the Lord am dwelling in the midst of the sons of Israel. (Num. 35:33)

Private Property Rights.

While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God. (Acts 5:4)

Privacy Laws (here, of giving to the poor).

Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. (Matthew 6:1-4)

Estate Tax Cannot Punish Inheritances.

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. (Proverbs 13:22)

Fiscal Restraint.

But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away. (I Corinthians 7:29-31)

Balanced Budget.

A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. (Proverbs 11:1)

Not Wasting Tax Payer's Money.

And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. (Luke 15:13)

And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces. (Mark 8:8)

Paying Your Fair Share of Taxes.

They said[^] to Him, Caesar's. Then He said[^] to them, Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's. (Matthew 22:21)

Anti-Abortion (at least as a contraceptive, morally if not legally).

And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength), (Isaiah 49:5)

Anti-Sodomy—NOT Anti-Homosexuals.

You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. (Leviticus 18:22)

The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:31)

Civil Disobedience.

But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; (Acts 4:19)

Self Defense (Ex.: Second Amendment),

Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. (Matthew 12:29)

Conscientious Objectors.

You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. (Matthew 5:38-39)

Necessary Wars (i.e., vs. opposing every one).

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8)

FOREIGN & DOMESTIC POLICY

Caring for One Another (vs. only every man for himself; Ex.: unemployment insurance).

Then the LORD said to Cain, Where is Abel your brother? And he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper? (Galatians 4:9)

to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. (Titus 3:2)

Caring for Other Countries (Ex.: foreign aid).

But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands? And he said, 'The one who showed mercy toward him.' And Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same.' (Luke 10:33-37)

Not Dictatorships, & Not Paying Off Politicians (i.e., with tougher campaign finance laws).

For oppression makes a wise man mad, and a bribe corrupts the heart. (Ecclesiastes 7:7)

Anti-Oppression.

And Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (Exodus 10:3)

You shall not rule over him ruthlessly but shall fear your God. (Leviticus 25:43)

Anti-Slavery (Old Testament & historical examples notwithstanding).

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)

If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave. (Leviticus 25:39)

Anti-Genocide

Thou shalt not commit murder. (Deuteronomy 5:17)

PRINCIPLES

Good of the Whole vs. the Few/Elites.

Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches. (II Corinthians 11:28)

But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me. (**Galatians 2:6**)

Belief in ‘The People’. (**See: Acts 5-35-40, 18:9-10**)

Majority Rule.

Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, (**II Corinthians 2:6**)

Contributing According to Their Ability.

And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. (**Acts 11:29**)

Paying In Based on What One Has (vs. doesn’t have).

For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have. (**II Corinthians 8:12**)

PARTIES

Not Favoring the Rich or Poor.

You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly. (**Leviticus 19:15**)

Who shows no partiality to princes nor regards the rich above the poor, for they are all the work of His hands? (**Job 34:19**)

Personal Responsibility & Caring for Others (i.e., balance).

Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. For each one shall bear his own load. (**Galatians 6:2, 5**)

Protestant Work Ethic.

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. (**I Timothy 5:8**)

Not Empowering Any Lazy Poor.

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat. (**II Thessalonians 3:10**)

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat. (**Proverbs 13:4**)

Compassion for the Lowly.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' (**Matthew 25:34-40**)

Helping the Poor.

They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do. (**Galatians 2:10**)

In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. (**Acts 20:35**)

However, there will be no poor among you, since the LORD will surely bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, (**Deuteronomy 15:4**)

And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God. (**Leviticus 19:10**)

Deeds vs. Just Words to Help the Poor.

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, You sit here in a good place, and you say to the poor man, You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool, have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (**James 2:1-9**)

Note: Church context.

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and be filled, and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? (**James 2:15-16**)

Fairness (or Compassion) Enough that None Suffer Severely.

For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality—at this present time your abundance being a supply for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want, that there may be equality; as it is written, HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK. (**II Corinthians 8:13-15**)

Encouraging Give Back.

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (**I Timothy 6:17-19**)

Note: If free willed giving is unstable or insufficient to meet desired ends, especially ending severe suffering, the majority of the people can insist that gap be made up through tax dollars.

Giving Pledge.

And Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much. (**Leviticus 19:8**)

Supporting Free-Willed Giving. (i.e., charities).

but without your consent I did not want to do anything, that your goodness should not be as it were by compulsion, but of your own free will. (**Philemon 1:14**)

Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. (**II Corinthians 9:7**)

Note: II Cor. 9:7 pertains to church gifts—not government-coerced taxes.

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

Pro Business

By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (**Genesis 3:19**)

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it. (**Proverbs 13:11**)

It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it. (**Proverbs 10:22**)
Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.
(**Colossians 4:1**)

Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.' (**James 4:13-15**)

Alright for Businesses (Ex.: banks) to Earn Interest.

Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. (**Matthew 25:27**)

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. (**Psalms 112:5**)

Pro Freedom.

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' (**John 8:31-32**)

Employees Earn According to Their Efforts.

Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (**I Corinthians 3:8**)

Enjoying the Fruit of One's Labors (Ex.: 'life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness').

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. (**I Timothy 6:17**)

Opportunity to Achieve One's God-Given Potential.

For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves, and entrusted his possessions to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. But he who received the one talent went away and dug in the ground, and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those slaves came[^] and settled[^] accounts with them. And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.' The one also who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted to me two talents; see, I have gained two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.' But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no seed. 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' For to everyone who has shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (**Matthew 25:14-30**)

Note: One's God-given *moral* potential is at least as important as one's economic potential.

Anti-Idols (Ex.: fortune, fame & fun, including sex)

Little children, guard yourselves from idols. **(I John 5:21)**

Anti-Greed.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. **(I Timothy 6:10)**

VOTERS & GOVERNING

Seeking 'Blind Justice'.

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? **(Micah 6:8)**

Rule of Law/Morality-Based Citizenry (and laws),

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people. **(Proverbs 14:34)**

Submission to Government (i.e., law-abiding citizens) & Death Penalty.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. **(I Peter 2:13-14)**

Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. **(Romans 13:1-7)**

Political Correctness as Law's Secular Moral Basis?

holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. **(II Timothy 3:5)**

CONCLUSION & SOLUTIONS

Selfishness May Ultimately Destroy Our Nation.

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power ; Avoid such men as these. **(II Timothy 3:1-5)**

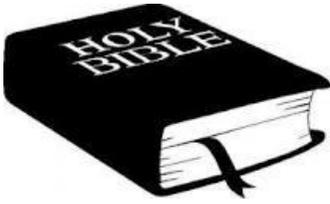
Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **(Philippians 2:3-5)**

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. **(Judges 21:25)**

Revival Among the Citizenry?

If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and

seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. **(II Chronicles 7:13-14)**



AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM



People often say America is a ‘Christian country,’ and though many of our Founding Fathers were Christians seeking a place to practice their faith, unhindered, and though our Constitution references God as the (ultimate) source of our rights and freedoms, we are *not* a theocracy. However, we *were* principally founded upon Judeo-Christian principles, as expressed in in our laws and Constitution. Mirroring, also, much of the Roman judicial system, please see (below) how many features of the U.S court system conform to biblical principles:

Attorney/Advocate (**Ac. 24:1; I Jn. 2:1**)

Burden of proof (**Ac. 24:13, 25:7**)

Charges (**Ac. 25:7, 18, 27**; specific vs. general—**Ac. 25:26**)

Civil law (vs. religious) (**Ac. 25:19**)

Corroboration of facts (**II Cor. 13:1; Ac. 26:24-26**)

Court Hearings (**Ac. 22:25**)

Cross-Examination (**Pv. 18:17; ~Ac. 24:8, 28:18**)

Custody, arrest (**Ac. 23:27, 24:23, 27:1**)

Defense (**Ac. 26:1, 2**)

Eye witness testimony (**Ac. 3:15**)

Facts applied to the law (**Ac. 26:3**)

Higher Courts of Appeal (**Ac. 25:21**)

Investigation of facts and claims (**Ac. 25:7, 20, 26**)

Jurisdiction and Change of Venue (**Ac. 25:10**)

Mediator (**I Tim. 2:5**)

No conviction without evidence (**Ac. 24:13**)

No hearsay (**Ac. 24:20**)

Orderliness, process (vs. self-help)—(**Ac. 19:39, 24:19**)

Personal testimony (**Ac. 26:4-23**)

Presumption of innocence (vs. **Roman way—Ac. 22:24**)

Possibility of politics (Ex.: bribery, partiality and injustice) as NOT part of the system (**Ac. 24:26-27, 26:24**)

Probable cause needed vs. undue search or seizure (~**Ac. 22:24**)

Proof (valued)—(**Ac. 17:31, 25:26**)

Proper jurisdiction (**Ac. 25:10**)

Prosecution (**Ac. 25:5**)

Punishment fits the crime (justice)—(**Ac. 25:25, 26:31**)

Right to a speedy trial (**Ac. 25:9, 17**)

Right to an Appeal (**Ac. 25:11**)

Right to face your accuser (**Ac. 24:19-20, 25:16, 26**)

Right to one's day in court and a fair trial (**Ac. 25:7?**)

Right to represent yourself (**Ac. 26:1**)

Sentencing & judgment (**Ac. 24:22, 27, 25:21, 18:12-17**)

Summons (**Ac. 24:25**)

Supreme Court (**Mt. 5:22**)

Trial (**Ac. 25:20**)

Unbiased proceedings & impartial arbiter/trier-of-fact (**Eph. 6:9; I Pet. 1:7**)

See also: Due process, equal protection, jury of your peers, etc.

THE VALUE OF LOGIC

Facts are stubborn things. –**Ronald Reagan**

Too often we... enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.
–**John F. Kennedy**

You're neither right nor wrong because people agree with you.
You're right because your facts and your reasoning are right. –**Warren Buffett**

True genius resides in the capacity for evaluation of
uncertain, hazardous, and conflicting information. –**Winston Churchill**

Truth is often lost when we fail to distinguish between opinion and fact,
and that is the danger we now face as a society.
–**John Whitehead** (Rutherford Institute president)

INFORMAL FALLACIES

(**From:** Introduction to Logic, by Irving M. Copi, With Good Reason, by S. Morris Engel & Ultimate Proof of Creation: Resolving the Origins Debate, by Jason Lisle

A. Fallacies of Ambiguity.

1. **Amphiboly**—Poor sentence structure (i.e., from improper punctuation, pronouns with ambiguous antecedents, too few words, or dangling modifiers).

Example: Decent dancing Mon-Fri, except Saturdays.

Amphiboly—Arguing from premises whose formulations are ambiguous because of their grammatical structure. An amphibolous statement may be true on one interpretation and false on another.

2. **Accent**—Confusion as to emphasis, stress or inflection.

Example: Did you go to the store today?

Accent—this fallacy is committed in an argument whose deceptive but invalid nature depends upon a change or Shift in meaning. The way in which the meaning shifts depends upon what parts of it may be emphasized or accented.

Example: We should not speak evil of our friends.

3. **Hypostatization**—Abstract word treated as concrete.

Example 1: Actions speak louder than words (metaphor). Cf.: Personification—To ascribe to things or animals properties only humans can possess.

Example 2: The cruel sea.

4. **Equivocation**—Key word in an argument shifts meaning. When we confuse different meanings a single word or phrase may have, using it in different senses in the same context, we're using it equivocally.

Example: Only man is rational. No woman is a man, therefore, no woman is rationale.

(4b.) **Composition**—Reasoning fallaciously from the properties of the parts of a whole to the properties of the whole itself.

Example 1: To argue that since every part of a machine is light in weight, the machine “as a whole” is light in weight.

Example 2: Although college students may enroll in no more than 6 different classes per semester, it is also true that college students enroll in hundreds of different classes each semester. Don't confuse the “distributive” use with the “collective” use of general terms. In the Fallacy of Composition, one argues that

since all of the members of a class have a specified property therefore the class itself (collectively) has that property.

(4c.) Division—Types: a) Arguing fallaciously that what is true of the whole must be true of its parts.

Example: Since a certain corporation is very important, Mr. Doe (who works there) is very important.

b) Arguing from the properties of a collection of elements to the properties of the elements themselves.

Example:

Dogs are common

Japanese Spaniels are dogs.

Therefore, Japanese Spaniels are common.

In the **Fallacy of Division** one argues that since a class itself (collectively) has a specified property therefore any member or subclass of members of the class must have that property also.

5. Reification—“...when a person attributes a concrete and often personal characteristic to a conceptual abstraction.

Example: A classic example is, “It’s not nice to fool Mother Nature.” Nature is a concept, a name we give to the sum total of the sequence of events in the universe. Nature cannot be ‘fooled,’ as if it had a mind.”¹

B. Fallacies of Presumption.

1. Sweeping Generalization—General rule applied to inapplicable specific case/exception.

Example: Golden Rule used to justify helping someone cheat on an exam, as you’d want to have such help.

Accident (considered relevance fallacy by Logic book.)—Applying a general rule to a particular case whose “accidental” circumstances render the rule inapplicable.

Example: What you bought yesterday, you eat today. You bought raw meat yesterday, therefore eat raw meat today.

2. Hasty Generalization—Isolated/exceptional case used for a general conclusion.

Example: I had a bad experience with my former husband, and learned there from that all men are evil.

Converse Accident (considered a relevance fallacy by Logic book)—Considering only exceptional cases and hastily generalizing to a rule that fits them alone.

Example: Considering the effect of alcohol only on those who indulge in it to excess, one may conclude that all liquor is harmful.

3. Bifurcation—Argument presumes a distinction/classification is exclusive and exhaustive, when other alternatives exist.

Example: If you know of BMW’s, you either want one or own one. (“either/or”).

4. Begging the Question (Evading the Facts)—Instead of offering proof for its conclusion, an argument reasserts the conclusion in another form.

Petitio Principii (begging the question; considered a relevance fallacy by Logic book)—

Assuming as a premise for one’s argument the very conclusion he intends to prove. The premise is not logically irrelevant to the truth of the conclusion, but is logically irrelevant to the purpose of proving or establishing the conclusion.

Example: The belief in God is universal because everybody believes in God.

5. Question-Begging Epithets (Evading the Facts)—Use of slanted language that reaffirms what we want to but have not proved.

Example: The belief in God is universal because everybody believes in God.

This vicious criminal is charged with the most vicious crime known to man. (mudslinging, loaded words, mudslinging, controversial phrases, verbal suggestions, emotive language).

6. Complex Question (Evading the Facts)—Begs the question by assuming the conclusion.

Example: The belief in God is universal because everybody believes in God.
Have you stopped beating your wife?

Complex Question (considered a relevance fallacy by Logic book)—

Some questions presuppose that a definite answer has already been given to a prior question that was not even asked. (i.e., several questions rolled into one).

Example: The belief in God is universal because everybody believes in God.

Why is private development of resources so much more efficient than any public control? Break it down into sub-questions (“divide the question”).

7. Special Pleading (Evading the Facts)—Applies a double standard—One for ourselves (because we are special), and another (a stricter one) to others.

Example: The belief in God is universal because everybody believes in God.
I am firm, you are stubborn; he is pig-headed.

8. False Analogy (Distorting the Facts)—An erroneous comparison which distorts the facts (vs. identifying similarities being valuable when two things are alike in important respects and differ only in trifling ways).

Example: The belief in God is universal because everybody believes in God.

OK to force others to religiously believe in the after-life for their own good, like keeping a delirious person from jumping off a cliff.

9. False Cause (Distorting the Facts)—Suggests events are causally connected when such connection has not been established.

Example: Every war occurred under Democrat president, so think twice before voting for one.

Types of False Cause (considered a relevance fallacy by Logic book)—

a) To mistake what is not the cause of a given effect for its real cause.

b) The inference that one event is the cause of another from the mere fact that the first occurs earlier than the second. The mere fact of coincidence or temporal succession does not establish any causal connection.

10. Irrelevant Thesis—Argument in which an attempt is made to prove a conclusion that is not the one at issue. (thesis is a position one advances by means of an argument).

Example: Conservatives say we are better off adopting their principles, but they are mistaken, because it is easy to show that conservation will not produce Eden on earth.

Ignoratio Elenchi (irrelevant conclusion; considered a relevance fallacy by Logic book)—An argument purporting to establish a particular conclusion is directed to proving a different conclusion.

Example: Emotional testimony/argument in court.

11. Slippery Slope—“...the argument that a particular course of action will set off a chain reaction, inevitably leading to an undesirable result. ‘If we allow them to increase the speed limit on this road to 45, then eventually that won’t seem fast enough and they’ll increase it again and again until it is absolutely unsafe to drive on it.’”²

C. Fallacies of Relevance

(premises don’t bear upon the conclusions drawn from the argument)

1. Personal Attack—Diverts attention away from the question being argued, by focusing instead on those arguing it.

Example: Theory on cancel elimination has been raised by a man with Marxist leanings, undeserving of our courteous attention/consideration.

Argumentum ad Hominem (abusive/"directed to the man")—Instead of trying to disprove the truth of what is asserted, one attacks the man who made the assertion. The way in which this irrelevant argument may persuade is through the psychological process of transference. Where an attitude of disapproval toward a person can be evoked, it may possibly tend to overflow the strictly emotional field and become disagreement with what that person says.

Example: To say that proposals are bad because they are made by Communists. "Kill the messenger(?)"

2. Mob Appeal—Appeal is made to emotions, especially to powerful feelings which can sway people in large crowds.

Example: Churchill trying to promote Anglo-ism world-wide, and it is his words but Hitler's plan.

Argumentum ad Populum—This argument directs an emotional appeal "to the people" or "to the gallery" to win their assent to a conclusion unsupported by good evidence. Here, every attempt is made to set up associations between the product being advertised and objects of which we can be expected to approve strongly.

Example 1: Where a proposal is for a change one is against, he will express suspicion of "newfangled innovations." If he is for it, he will be for "progress."

Example 2: Advertisers' band-wagon and snob appeal techniques.

3. Appeal to Pity—Argument designed to win people over to our side by playing on their emotions. It exploits a single emotion—Sympathy.

Example: City folks don't trust country folks (and vice versa) in a horse trading sale, but if someone is in trouble, the city person would rather have a country person help than a city person.

Argumentum ad Misericordiam (appeal to pity)—Pity is appealed to for the sake of getting a conclusion accepted.

Example: Lawsuit appeal for all the blue collar workers, downtrodden, immigrants (not addressing whether the defendant is guilty).

4. Appeal to Authority—Justifying an idea by citing some source of expertise as a reason for holding that idea. It tries to overawe an opponent into accepting a conclusion by playing on his reluctance to challenge famous people.

Example: Supporting dolphin research is ridiculous, though it's our lunch discussion topic, and the president and treasurer both agree it's a waste of time.

Argumentum ad Verecundiam—Appeal to the feeling of respect people have for the famous, to win assent to a conclusion. This fallacy occurs when the authority is appealed to for testimony in matters outside the province of his special field.

Example: Advertising commercials.

(4b.) Argumentum ad Baculum (appeal to force)—One appeals to force or the threat of force to cause acceptance of a conclusion.

Example: Lobbyist reminds a representative that he represents so many thousands of his constituency. "Might makes right."

5. Appeal to Ignorance—Argument uses opponent's inability to disprove a conclusion as proof of the conclusion's correctness.

Example: There is intelligent life in outer space, because no one has been able to prove there is not.

Argumentum ad Ignorantium (argument from ignorance)—This argument argues that a proposition is true simply because it has not been proved false, or that it is false because it has not been proved true.

Example: There must be ghosts because no one has ever been able to prove that there aren't any.

(5b.) Argumentum ad Hominem (circumstantial)—This pertains to the relationship between a person's beliefs and his circumstances.

Example: If one's opponent is Republican, one may argue not that a certain proposition is true, but that he ought to assent to it because it is implied by the tenets of his party.³

6. Appeal to Fear—Argument uses the threat of harm to advance one's conclusion.

Example: Jury, if you do not convict this murderer, one of you may be his next victim.

7. Genetic Fallacy—"...where an idea is argued to be false based on its origin rather than for logical reasons. 'The claim comes from the *National Inquirer*, so it really can't be true.'"⁴

8. Appeal to the One—"...saying that something must be true simply because an expert says it is. As with many fallacies, this one is a question of degree. Clearly, the opinion of an expert on a topic should not be dismissed arbitrarily. However, even experts are occasionally mistaken, so their opinions should not be taken as unquestionable."⁵

9. Appeal to the Many—"...is the other subclass of the faulty appeal to authority. It is also called an appeal to the **majority**. This fallacy is committed when someone argues that a position must be true because a majority of people believe it."⁶

10. Straw Man Fallacy—"...could be considered a sub-class of irrelevant thesis. In a straw-man argument, a person misrepresents the position of his opponent, and then argues against this counterfeit ("straw man") position."⁷

Other

11. Non Sequiter. A conclusion is reached that does not follow from the evidence presented.

Example: Johnson owns two homes, a boat, and a sports car. Therefore I trust his investment advice.

12. Faulty Syllogism. A flawed pattern of logic leads to an unjustifiable conclusion.

Example: All managers have moustaches. I have a moustache. Therefore I am a manager.

13. Stacking the Argument. Evidence is presented on one side of an issue while ignoring evidence on the other side.

Example: Undersea mining operations are expensive and time-consuming. We should not consider undersea mining in deciding how and where to mine for gold.

14. False Elimination. From an array of possible alternatives, one by one is eliminated until only one alternative remains. The illusion is thereby created that the final alternative is the best.

Example: In reviewing cities for our company move, we've seen why Toledo, Miami, Dallas, Chicago, and Milwaukee won't meet our needs. That leaves Phoenix as the logical choice for our new company headquarters.⁸

The key to wisdom is this—constant and frequent questioning ...
for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth. —**Peter Abelard**

Reference:

¹ *Ultimate Proof of Creation*, p. 110, by Jason Lisle (Master Books: Green Forest, AR), 2009

² Lisle, *Ultimate Proof of Creation*, p. 118

³ *Introduction to Logic*, p. 76, by Irving M. Copi (Pearson Education: New York, N.Y.), 1995

⁴ Lisle, *Ultimate Proof of Creation*, p. 119

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 122, by Jason Lisle (Master Books: Green Forest, AR), 2009

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 122

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 125

⁸ Writing Effective Letters, Memos & Email, pp. 145-146, by Arthur H. Bell (Barron's Educational Series: New York), 2004

ON MAKING DISTINCTIONS

(Make them to avoid being deluded or deceived)

Don't pee on my leg and tell me it's raining. —**Judge Judy**

Morally Correct

Moral lost person (Phil. 3:4-11)
Deeds prove salvation? (I Cor. 6:9-10 vs. 1:10-5:2)
Righteously indignant anger (Eph. 4:26)
Imperfect ministers (I Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9)

Reprover of church leadership 'corruption'
(Tit. 1:13; II Tim. 3:16-17; Pv. 15:32, 29:15)
Old men dream dreams, young men see visions (Ac. 2:17-18)
Morally-imperfect Bible teachers (Jas. 3:1-12)
Mis-speaking in error, ignorance or by accident

Morally Incorrect

Sinful Christians (I Cor. 1:10-5:2)
Lost, false prophets (Mt. 7:13-29)
Sinfully angry (Jas. 1:19-20)
'Corrupt' hireling ministers/false prophets
(II Pet. 2:1-22; Jude 1:5-23; II Jn. 1:7-11)
Accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10 vs.
Rom. 8:1-2)
Vain imaginations (Jer. 23:16; Col. 2:18-19)
Hypocrites (Mt. 6:2-7, etc.)
Deceiver or liar (Jas. 1:16; Eph. 5:6;
I Jn. 3:7-8; Jn. 8:44)

ITERATIONS

In making valid distinctions, often there are in-between stages (or iterations) between polar opposites. For example, consider the following:

Morals: Jesus—Committed moralists (Christian & otherwise)—Normal people—Criminals—Hitler—Satan

Clothes (formality): Tuxedo—Suit—Slacks—Khakis—Blue jeans—Shorts—Swimsuit—
Thong/sandals

Emotions (affection): In love with/adore—Love—Have love for—Like—Tolerate—Dislike—
—Hate.

Cars (quality): Kia/Hyundai—Chevy/Ford—Honda—Buick—Infiniti—Acura/Lexus—
Benz/Bemer/Cadi—Rolls/Lambo

We like the drama of pitting opposites (Ex.: formal vs. informal dress), but a more sophisticated and nuanced understanding sees these iterative distinctions.

Illustration: Pull on your ceiling fan string and the fan changes pace. Pull too hard and it falls on your head.

PUNDIT COMMENT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Many politicians and (cause advocates) pride themselves in double talk, confusion, slanted statistics and outright lies that sound 'plausible.' So beyond the inferior method of accepting people's claims based on their being part of your party, how is the average layman to quickly decide who's accurate and honest? With practice, the speed will improve, but the following is my stab at a process to achieve such end:

Ask yourself...

1. Who said it?
2. What party (or philosophy) are they associated with?
3. Does their statement (or at least parts of it) have the ring of truth?
4. What biases (or financial interests) do they have?
5. Does anyone say the opposite, and who are they and what are their biases?

6. What motives might either of them have in saying what they've said, and
7. Do we have all the relevant facts, or should we withhold judgment till later?

More often than not, party loyalists are toting the party line rather than thinking for themselves or offering objective material to the public.

WHY THE TRUTH IS SO IMPORTANT

Our society is often run more by emotion than fact, in part from so much information being thrown at us, as well as Political Correctness and a general dumbing down of our public education system (Ex.: failing to teach kids how to think and analyze). A few examples might help to demonstrate how important having the right information is:

Details: If you take a wrong turn coming out of Yellowstone National Park, you'll see the Grand Tetons, and not see Mount Rushmore (though you'll save yourself an extra 12 hours of driving in the process).

General: If you believe that Democrat beliefs are bad, you would believe that unemployment insurance, over-time pay and holidays are bad, too.

Values: If you believe that it is true that murder is not wrong, you would be more inclined to allow it without objection.

It is not that you are arrogantly trying to prove yourself smarter or superior, but that being correct has significant importance in life.

HOW DETAILS CAN NEGATE THE BIG PICTURE

The Devil's in the details.

Common sense solutions seem pretty easy. So how does Washington always seem to find ways to screw it up? After agreeing to general, common ground objectives, the following barriers ('demons') can still arise: Bad intentions, over-kill words, ambiguity and mis-definitions, hifalutin terminology, gamesmanship with numbers and deadlines, over-broad or over-narrow language, irrelevant, intentional misconstruing of original intention, and unrelated add-ons. In a word—sin (i.e., lawyer tricks).

#FACTSMATTER

The TRUTH may hurt, but it's the prick of the needle inoculating you from further harm. **-JEM**

There is NO such thing as 'alternative facts!' There can be conflicting evidence, but facts are facts, and untruths are untruths. We are dumbing-down America with such STUPID terms!

Words MEAN things, and distinctions and definitions MATTER! There's a difference between being critical and being constructively criticism. One is negative, and the other, helpful.

If I drive to a general destination, but don't know exactly where to meet a certain person, I've wasted time and money if we never meet up. Man would never have landed on the moon without precise specificity!

I've never tried to be controversial. The truth is controversial enough. **-Keith Green**

ON LOGIC, DISTINCTIONS & ACCURACY (Knowledge is power)

Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason so few engage in it. **–Henry Ford**

Only truth is beautiful. **–French proverb**

Truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

If the truth hurts it's just the prick of the vaccination that protects against worse disease.

Facts are stubborn things.

Accuracy is the twin brother of honesty; inaccuracy, of dishonesty. **–Nathaniel Hawthorne**

Not speech, but facts, convince. **–Greek Proverb**

‘You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.’ Can you “handle the truth?”

Tell me grey seal how does it feel to be so wise?

To see through eyes that only see what's real? Tell me grey seal. **–Elton John**

We live in an emotionalized, dumbed-down society, with short attention spans and not much reading or reasoning going on after school days. ♦ Logic and objectivity are still far superior to choosing by what you feel, though certainly less popular.

Logic, Reason & Rationality.

No one wants a Dr. Spock nerd ruling us. At the same time, stupid, illogical, ‘crazy’ decisions by our leaders benefit few to none (Ex.: Its illogical to believe a country can keep spending more than it takes in, and remain vibrant or solvent).

Accuracy.

No one likes a know-it-all or an encyclopedic bookworm. However, if one misstates something, all decisions based on that error have faults, just like a seamstress who fashioned a custom suit and whose materials cutting gets off track—no one would wear or buy it. NASA didn't accomplish such a monumental achievement as putting a man on the moon without scientific, mathematical precision. Imagine someone asking you to visit them in another state, when all you had was a wrong address. You don't have to be a straight ‘A’ student to have enough common sense to know how to rightly behave within society. **See:** Introduction to Logic, by Irving M. Copi, and With Good Reason, by S. Morris Engel; Also summarized at our Blog.

Objectivity.

[Definition]: Determined by the realities of the thing dealt with rather than the thoughts of the writer or speaker. Existing as an object or fact, independent of the mind: real.

–Webster's New World Dictionary.

You can focus on (“accentuate”) the positive, but you should not be unaware of or deny the negatives. Balance—evaluate the positives and negatives in everything. Your opinion and heart-felt thoughts, if in conflict with the WOG, are no comparison of value. One can strongly believe they are right on a matter and be completely wrong. It is not the intensity of the feeling but the accuracy of the belief held.

Distinctions.

Precise, specific and accurate distinctions often make significant impact in the world of politics, and are often how political tricks and spinning gets pulled off right before our eyes. Politicians and lawyers certainly know how to make distinctions. Do you remember the statement, “it all depends on what the meaning of ‘is’ is,” or John Kerry speaking of nuanced positions?

We the public need clearer thinking in distinguishing fact from fiction and truth from lies, as the following pop quiz illustrates. From what you know, which of the following phrases does the Bible teach? (Mark the one you believe to be correct)

1. ___ Money is the root of all evil.
2. ___ Money is the root of all sorts of evil.
3. ___ The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil.
4. ___ The love of money is the root of all evil.

Do you see the difference between these four alternatives? The Bible warns against word wrangling (II Tim. 2:14), but also encourages content precision and its accurate expression (II Tim. 2:15; I Cor. 5:9-11). Also, always seek first to understand what one meant, before attacking the exact words they said, or to quote an adage, ‘seek more to understand than to be understood.’

Answer(s): 1. Not every evil occurs over money. 2. Money is neutral. 3. Correct. 4. Loving money does not cause every evil.

Reference.

For more formal methods of convincing through logic (and assessing “tricks” of politicians, such as Argument from extreme, Painting with a broad brush, Guilt by association, Exaggeration, False dichotomy, Personal attack, and others), **See:** Introduction to Logic, by Irving M. Copi, and With Good Reason, by S. Morris Engel.

Logic

- ◆ A person afraid of objectivity is a person who chooses to remain addicted to delusion. See both the good and bad sides, if they exist.
- ◆ Don’t live in the past, but don’t fail to learn the lessons of the past.

Random Philosophy Fun.

Americans use idioms to justify our daily decisions, perhaps not even consciously. The following is a sampling of the author’s opinions on commonly-accepted ‘truths:’

There are some dumb questions in life, whoever said it’s the journey—not the destination has never been to Europe or Hawaii (or doesn’t remember the long flights there, though the journey needs to be enjoyed, as well), proof that karma is not fully accurate is the millions of Jews killed in the holocaust (what horrible things had they done against anyone?), if a tree falls in the forest, and no one is there, it still makes noise, the glass is half full, because it’s design purpose was to hold water, which it’s half performing (though always be an optimistic realist), the chicken came before the egg, as the story of Adam and Eve tells us, who wants to have their cake and never be able to eat it? Never say never? I will never be a woman; and a friend in need is just a needy friend, and no one wants clingy, dependent friends.

If you enjoy this sort of thought provocation, see our book, Idioms for Immigrants, which exhaustively lists over a thousand idioms, with their moral implications.

ARGUING WITH AMATEURS

Lawyers argue for a living. We're trained in it, and know what works and what doesn't. Having addressed corruption in an institution even more important than government for 30 years—the church (See our other website), I have learned how people less trained in convincing people often use more instinctive techniques to try to make their case. Along with our Archives on politician tricks morally assessed, below, consider whether you have ever met someone trying to defend their political positions using the following fallacy failures:

- ▶ Insincerely complementing your opponent.
- ▶ Feigning humility, or self-deprecation as a distraction to dealing with major problems.
- ▶ Disagreeing with methods just because you wouldn't use them (even if they're moral).
- ▶ Spinning humor as intended as an insult.
- ▶ Attacking their motive as evil.
- ▶ Attacking their character using evil adjectives.
- ▶ Saying you don't like their "tone" (i.e., say nothing negative, even if factual).
- ▶ Decry "allegations" raised as evil (just because they were addressed), never addressing their truthfulness.
- ▶ Exaggerating what your opponent has done or said (and make it look evil).
- ▶ Never pointing the finger of criticism your way. Never admitting faults. Trying to keep your opponent in the guilty position.
- ▶ If a friend or contact is being critiqued, defending everything about them—they're friends, after all. How could they be imperfect?
- ▶ Arguing from extreme, and misinterpreting the opponent to understand their words in weird ways.
- ▶ Believing that image is everything, and nothing else is as important.
- ▶ Accusing the opponent of old-fashioned thinking or expectations.
- ▶ Denying the reality of allegations which you know no facts or details about (i.e., assuming your side is always right).
- ▶ Using all these tactics to not address core issues or agreeing to help solve them.
- ▶ Using the terms "niceness" and "luv" as excuses to never hear any constructive criticism.
- ▶ Accusing any complaints as the opponent demanding perfection, because it's impossible and unreasonable to set that standard, and it may give you the chance to dodge addressing the allegation (if this trick goes unnoticed).
- ▶ NEVER acknowledging the moral validity of righteous indignation at sin, but labeling it an "anger problem." Some people never get angry at anything, which is why status quo continues!
- ▶ Defensiveness when one's idol is constructively criticized.
- ▶ Blaming the person seeking moral change, excusing it by "no one's perfect."
- ▶ Having an opinion based on emotion, and enjoying moralizing others with it (even absent any facts or Bible justification).
- ▶ Claiming to be "above politics," and labeling any attempted moral change as just that.

Less- experienced people can fall to these ploys, but now you have been edu-ma-cated, and will be better able to spot them, when used.

Remember, when **Jesus** faced conflict, He used SEVERAL methods for reply: Prioritizing vs. nit-picking, no hypocrisy, not having it both ways, warning, reproof, answering a question with a question, temporarily ignoring, denying errors and lies, refuting with evidence and logic, praying for and doing good to your critics, agreeing where opponent is right, admitting and changing when you are wrong (humility), standing firm when you are right and offering better solutions than those you may criticize. Don't *pigeon hole* what is moral by any unbiblical *pre-conceived* ideas! Following His methodology (in His power and leading) can't be prideful, evil, disrespectful or unloving.

ON BAD DEBATERS

Bad Debaters...

- ▶ Accuse accuracy of being arrogance.
- ▶ Are convinced they're right, even if they're wrong.
- ▶ Are not open-minded.
- ▶ Call error humility.
- ▶ Can't see the forest for the trees.
- ▶ Circularly argue.
- ▶ Claim victory when they lose.
- ▶ Exaggerate.
- ▶ Generalize and swipe with a broad brush.
- ▶ Glory in their shame.
- ▶ Have half the truth, or less.
- ▶ Hide their agendas.
- ▶ Impugn motives.
- ▶ Major on minors.
- ▶ Make assumptions, and stereotype.
- ▶ Make mountains out of mole hills.
- ▶ Make up statistics.
- ▶ Mis-define terms.
- ▶ Mis-use the Bible.
- ▶ Mock or devalue facts and knowledge.
- ▶ Name-call (i.e., insultingly vs. descriptively).
- ▶ Never admit mistakes.
- ▶ Never learn (or do so very slowly).
- ▶ Project their own experiences.
- ▶ Put words in your mouth.
- ▶ Quit when losing.
- ▶ See demons behind every bush.
- ▶ Switch subjects and use red herrings (~like Attention Deficit Disorder).
- ▶ Take forever to concede any facts.
- ▶ Take things personally.

- ▶ Throw the baby out with the bath water.
- ▶ Try to trap you into their view.
- ▶ Use allies to derive confidence (i.e., tag team).
- ▶ Use emotional appeals.
- ▶ Use extremes.
- ▶ Value confusion.

In summary, bad debaters are irritating, and deserve to lose!

ON ARGUING & DEBATING

CORRECTION

Correction Is NOT THE same as angry slander (II Tim. 2:15; Tit. 1:13 vs. Pv. 15:1; Col. 4:6; Mt. 12:37)

DEBATING

Some critics you ignore, some you debate, some only for awhile, some are nice to, if there is any evidence of a partially open mind.

Biblical Argumentation Methodology Bases: Mt 7:6, 10:14, 12:34, 13:19-23, 27:14; Lk. 20:3; Jn. 8:6-7; Ac. 17:3, 11; Rom. 12:18 II Tim. 2:25; I Pet. 3:15, etc.

INITIATING

In political argumentation, there's a moral difference between starting a fight, and defending against it/self-defense.

NAME-CALLING

In debating (as in life), name-calling, per se, is NOT a sin (Mt. 23:7, 33-34).
If you cuss, or if intend judgment, then it IS!

(Mt. 23:7, 33-34) Jesus called opponents white-washed sepulchers, brood of vipers, and hypocrites. Political Correctness types think you lose an argument with such terms. Wrong!

SILENCING

Wisdom often silences arguments. (Ac. 6:10; Mk 11:29-31) If people don't recognize truth, even it won't stop their ramblings. #DoctrineOfSilencing

BIBLICAL evidence for silencing opponents with WISDOM: Mt. 22:12, 34, 46; Lk. 14:6, 20:26, 21:15; Ac. 6:10; Tit. 1:11, 2:8; I Pet. 2:15, etc.

RELATED TWEETS

#ArguingFacts Some people can be convinced, some can't. Some people try to convince you, others don't. Learn the categories or waste your time. Opinions are NOT facts or evidence. There's a difference between arguments and being argumentative and personal. They ONLY sound similar! After a time, it's meaningless to debate the closed-minded. Agreeably agree to disagree (if that's possible), and move on. (Rom. 12:18) Personal assaults are the weakest form of trying to win an argument. Relationships can be harmed if you win the battle, but lose the person. Twisting your opponent's words or concepts to your spin end, or putting words in their mouth is NOT arguing, and has NO power for a win! If you're closed-minded, your argument may buttress your confidence you're right, but self-delusion can easily ensue thereafter. Personal insults show WEAKNESS in your cause. He who gets the last word is NOT always the winner. Learn to think better! Not all arguments are created equal, and not all arguers are of the same quality, no matter their educational background. Spin is not a win guarantee! Spin is weakness, and a cover for a bad argument, and refusing to face facts head-on! Powers is in rightness. If you haven't studied/researched the issue you're debating, EXPECT TO LOSE! Only deal with your expertise(s) vs. trying to be a jack of all trades. If you can't anticipate your opponent's future sub-arguments, you're already at a disadvantage. Experience and familiarity help! Use evidence and explain concepts. Properly define terms. Use logic and common experience, knowledge and analogies. It's your job to make your own case. Use commonalities (Ac. 21:39 & 22:2), history (Ac. 7), use facts (and explain their application, Ac. 13:33-37), especially undeniable facts (Ac. 19:36). Offer your best three points first, and largest first. Find and point out weaknesses and errors in your opponent's case. Your audience is often swayed more by emotion and stories than facts or statistics. Personal attacks evidence a WEAK argument. Explain evil motives or intentions of your opponents (including circumstantial evidence). Cause doubt in the opponent's case or show it to be non-credible. Refute false allegations and give reasons (Ac. 2:15 & 26:5). Explain and give evidence (Ac. 17:3). Complement then criticize (Rev. 2:1-4; Ac. 17:22-24 & 26:2). Anticipate and refute complaints before they arise. You can use mockery and sarcasm if done respectfully (Jn. 9:30). Use personal testimonies from experience. Humor lightens the experience (i.e., entertainment), and word picture paint mental pictures (i.e., the audience uses their imagination), ETC.

ON PSYCHOLOGY

We bend and break, so fragile—it's true. **–Bruce Hornsby** (China Doll)

Everyone has an invisible sign hanging from their neck saying, 'Make me feel important.'
Never forget this message when working with people. **–Mary Kay Ash**

We like commonality as it validates our life decisions as being valuable or worthwhile to someone else. In dealing with people, be it sales, politics, business or evangelism, it helps greatly to have 'people skills,' and to know a little about human nature, from experience. The science of psychology (and sociology) can also impact your people-reading skills (including facial expressions and body language), so the following overview is offered (addressing terms many of which you probably hear—or use—in every day conversation).

Abnormal: A term sometimes used to judge or insult unique people.

Absentee father: A dad who is a failure at his job, even if he makes a lot of money (as a so-called 'breadwinner').

Abuse: Often in the eye of the beholder (as in kids being corrected, in a Politically Correct culture)

Aggressive vs. assertive: Often the difference is a matter of interpretation. Passive (and weak) people see assertiveness as aggressiveness.

Anxiety: Same effect as doubt.

Behavior modification: Not necessarily a heart change—only external. Good, but not spiritually rewarded.

Delusion: Belief something that is untrue is true.

Doubt: Same effect as Worry.

Emotional reasoning: Illogical decisions you feel good about.

Fantasy: Reality escapes for weak people.

Guilt: Work slow-down feeling from over-accusation. Legitimate guilt comes, then goes, after one asks for forgiveness.

Harsh: In a PC culture, a claim often lodged at any expression of self-discipline.

Hoarding: Idolatry or insecurity (i.e., lack of faith in God).

Intuition: Knowledge derived from experience and life insight, not picked up from a book.

Mean. Often a term for a parent with discipline (vs. lax moral standards).

Mid-life crisis: Excuse for misbehavior otherwise more expected among teenagers and young people.

Perfectionism (vs. do your best vs. do the Spirit's leading?) Do your best in the Spirit's power and leading.

Victim mentality: A weak excuse for your own achievement inadequacies.

Obsessive compulsive: Sometimes, a person who keeps their house cleaner than your pig sty.

Passive-aggressive: Someone too weak to express their emotions until their pent-up anger gets too strong.

Remorse: Can be from God, can be just from within yourself. Good sorrow for what you have done.

Selective memory: Choosing only to recall what puts you in the best light (i.e., self-centeredness).

Stress: Regular life pressure from trials some use to excuse misbehavior.

Worry: Failure to trust God in a particular circumstance.

The fastest way to change yourself is to hang out with people who are already the way you want to be. **–Reid Hoffman**

- ▶ Encourage open doors of communication.
- ▶ Be open to hearing criticism and consider anytime you need to change.
- ▶ Admit when you're wrong.
- ▶ Always be yourself (though also morally-growing).
- ▶ Be fair and unbiased.
- ▶ Seek common ground.
- ▶ Be an open book, yet be wise with what you say.
- ▶ Never intend to offend.
- ▶ Judge by what is meant and intended—not necessarily what's said.
- ▶ Don't push your own, selfish agenda.
- ▶ Do your best and let the resulting chips fall where they may.
- ▶ Trust God and pray.

On Opponents and Enemies:

- ▶ You cannot stop gossip (or people thinking about you as they honestly feel—good or bad).
- ▶ Love and be nice to them. Kill 'em with kindness (and heap coals on their head if not winning them over in the process). Some people choose to be obstinate, as it seems to give them a buzz.
- ▶ Reprove when you need to—Jesus sure did (and He loved everyone).
- ▶ Don't hold grudges or seek revenge.
- ▶ Don't burn bridges if you don't need or have to.
- ▶ There are, biblically, times to separate, but do all within your power to be at peace with all men.

In summary, true leaders humbly serve others, and the more their policies and behavior emulate God, the more successful they are as leaders. (Mk. 9:35)

Good leadership consists of showing average people how to do the work of superior people.

-John D. Rockefeller

ON INVESTING
(Warren's Wisdom for Buying Like Buffett)

I am no sophisticated investor—yet—but if I were I'd seek to learn from the best investors in the world (like the number one investor, the 'Oracle of Omaha'—Warren Buffett). With zero experience to verify the claims—only years of sound judgment from other fields, the following seem like at least a good start toward rightly investing (some of his tips, from various other sources, I disagreed with, instinctively):

Rule 1. Never lose money. Rule No. 2: Never forget Rule No. 1.

1. Buy Quality

- I try to buy stock in businesses that are so wonderful that an idiot can run them, because sooner or later, one will.
- It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently. [Lesson: Don't make immoral business decisions that can hurt your company, executives]

2. Buy Low

- Whether we're talking about socks or stocks, I like buying quality merchandise when it is marked down.
- It's far better to buy a wonderful company at a fair price than a fair company at a wonderful price.

3. Buy for the Long Haul

- Only buy something that you'd be perfectly happy to hold if the market shut down for 10 years.
- In the short term, the market is a popularity contest. In the long term, the market is a weighing machine.

4. Study & Learn (Research)

- Never invest in a business you can't understand.
- Look at market fluctuations as your friend rather than your enemy; profit from folly rather than participate in it.
- If you don't feel comfortable owning something for 10 years, then don't own it for 10 minutes.
- The critical investment factor is determining the intrinsic value of a business and paying a fair or bargain price.
- Great investment opportunities come around when excellent companies are surrounded by unusual circumstances that cause the stock to be mis-appraised.

The best thing that happens to us is when a great company gets into temporary trouble...
We want to buy them when they're on the operating table."

5. Reduce Your Risk

- Buy companies with strong histories of profitability and with a dominant business franchise.
- Risk can be greatly reduced by concentrating on only a few holdings.

6. Learn From Your Mistakes.

- You only have to do a very few things right in your life so long as you don't do too many things wrong.

7. Be Willing to Lose Your Shirt

- Unless you can watch your stock holding decline by 50% without becoming panic-stricken, you should not be in the stock market.

Source: Adapted from Forbes.com (9/25/13)