

Those Moral Values

Exit polling and post-election analyses of President George W. Bush's victory all point to one conclusion: Voters across the country said moral values was the most important issue.

One of them, Juanita Burke, who lives in the Highway 58 area of Southeast Tennessee, was quoted in the Chattanooga Times Free Press as saying she wanted to give the president a second four-year term because of his "proven track record." For her, the war in Iraq, terrorism and the economy didn't get top billing when she cast her ballot.

"For me, morals and ethics," she said. Her point was reiterated over and over again around the country as voters spoke their minds both in the booth and in conversation.

Political commentators and observers – particularly those in the national media – appear shocked or, at the very least, puzzled by such a response.

Well, duh ...

But the voters, many of them anyhow, understand what the pundits apparently do not: Without moral values, just and appropriate solutions to the other issues – the economy, the war against terrorism, education, defense, health care and you-name-it – are not possible. Without moral values, we have no compass. Without moral values, our country, or any society, flounders in confusion and lack of direction, headed for chaos and anarchy. Why is that so hard to figure out?

Morality, which can be defined as teaching or exhibiting goodness or correctness of character and behavior, is in direct alignment with the teachings of the Holy Bible. Its greatest manifestation is an individual's – or a group's -- obedience to God and a loving relationship with one another.

Our Founding Fathers clearly understood that moral values, including our dependence upon the wisdom and guidance of God, was the bedrock of this nation. They would not be surprised, as the political analysts are, that moral values determined the outcome of the election. Nay, they would contend that it should be ever so.

Perhaps the voters on Tuesday gave our country a needed wakeup call.

--Beecher Hunter