Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Midterm Election Reaction – Part 2
Guest(s): Gary Bauer
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Dr. James Dobson: You're listening to Family Talk, the radio broadcasting division of the James Dobson Family Institute. I am that James Dobson, and I'm so pleased that you've joined us today.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, joined for this segment once again by Gary Bauer, our senior vice president of public policy here at the Dobson Policy and Culture Center. He also blogs for us every week, and you can check out his "Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom" podcast every other week at drjamesdobson.org or wherever you get your podcasts. We're talking about the aftermath of election 2026. Gary, welcome back to Family Talk for this analysis as we continue, hopefully looking for some good news during the next half hour.

Gary Bauer: Roger, it's great to be back with you for another day, and there's a lot more to talk about, so let's get right into it.

Roger Marsh: Did you catch the interview during the campaign? Jesse Waters had El-Sayed on *Fox News*, and they were discussing the idea of the canon of law in the United States and how it's based on biblical principles and how that was not compatible with Sharia law. And El-Sayed basically just out of both sides of his mouth said, look, you are doing this because you're a Christian and you believe in the Christian canon of law. I'm a Muslim and I believe in the Muslim canon of law. So therefore, I have religious liberty to live by my canon of law. And I'm thinking to myself, well, no, you don't. But I wonder how many people heard that and said, huh, I guess that makes sense. Maybe we should have Sharia courts. And 20 years ago, when they tried to pass some of these bills in Tulsa, Oklahoma, of all places, and you're thinking, why would they even want that to happen? Now here we find ourselves knocking on the doorstep of 2027 and wondering what is the percentage of Americans who profess faith in Christ who would say, yeah, I guess we really need to have that because it wouldn't be fair not to. I mean, give us a legal analysis as to why that shouldn't ever happen, but is it possible that it might?

Gary Bauer: Yes, so Sharia law has a whole, I mean, gigantic list of ways that people are required to live if you identify as a Muslim and the idea that this set of regulations and requirements could be compatible with the Constitution of the United States, it isn't. It's just they are two completely different things. Now, when Islamists and their apologists cite religious liberty and say, well, America is

built on religious liberty, and so you've got to allow us to have the same religious liberty as you Christians do. Well, as part of religious liberty, Christians have not tried, nor do we want, to establish an official faith of Christianity. In other words, Christians do understand that we can't pass laws forcing people to worship in our Christian churches. That would clearly be a violation of the Constitution. So, that's where the phrase separation of church and state comes from. Now, over time, it's been changed to mean that we're not allowed to try to elect people that are pro-life, for example, or that believe that marriage is between a man and a woman. Well, that's ridiculous. You know, those are big things and Christians believe them and there's nothing in the Constitution to stop us from doing that. There is no such thing in Islam as separation of state and mosque. That is non-existent. The Muslim faith at its core is political in nature. It says that they are required to establish governments that will enforce Islamic law on all subjects whether you're a Muslim or not. And that's being done in some places in Europe right now where people that are not Muslim are hesitant to go into certain neighborhoods because you will be berated or harassed if your wife or your girlfriend is not dressed the way Islamic law is interpreted by many to say that a woman must be dressed like.

You know, there's this guy that's down in Guantanamo Bay prison, Sheikh Khalid Mohammed. He was one of the masterminds behind 9/11 and the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. And he was interviewed by the FBI and the CIA early in his imprisonment. And we still haven't been able to bring him to trial for reasons that I won't bore our audience with. But he said in those interviews that he had the complete confidence that his side would win. And he literally said, Roger, that you people are so foolish that we will use your whole support for religious liberty against you by using it as a cudgel, a club, to stop you from resisting what we're going to do. And that's exactly what we're facing right now. And people have not thought it through, so they don't know how to address it. Let me give you another quick example. There were elections in Gaza under George W. Bush. And because we believe in fair elections, all political parties in Gaza were allowed to participate, including the Hamas party. And Hamas won the election. And what did they do as soon as they won? They haven't had another election since.

Roger Marsh: Of course.

Gary Bauer: So, obviously, wisdom would have said, yes, we... believe in free elections, but we also understand that you can't have a party compete in a free election if one of their planks is, once we gain power, there will be no more elections. Likewise, we can't give religious liberty to a group of Islamists who have told us and have shown us that if they get power, we will not have religious liberty. Religious liberty will no longer be practiced in America. And the reason I can say that without fear of contradiction is that there are approximately 50 nations in the world that have majority Islamist populations, and not one of them is a nation that has religious liberty. And in most of these countries, there's still Christians in some of them. There are no churches in Saudi Arabia or Qatar or any of those places. In the Muslim countries where there are churches, Christians worship in

fear because they're regularly blown up or killed when they go to worship. So we've got to wake up about what's happening within our country, within our populations, and we need to understand that there's a new alliance between Marxists and Islamists who differ on a lot of things, but they agree on one big thing. They hate Judeo-Christian civilization and they mean to destroy it.

Roger Marsh: Wow, what a fascinating conversation we're having today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. Gary Bauer, of course, is sitting in the co-host seat. And as we've been looking through the blue tsunami wreckage from November 3rd of this earlier this month and the midterm elections, Gary, there were a couple of bright spots and we would be remiss if we didn't bring up the fact that it was kind of a sort of a little political schizophrenia, if you will. There were so many people who were saying, OK, I'm sick of the Republican leadership. They haven't done anything. They haven't brought prices down. The war is still going on, yada, yada, yada. So we're going to vote for the other guys because we would much rather have runaway abortions and transgender advocacy. I mean, I don't think they realized, they literally just thought these guys are bad. The other guys can't be that bad. But it was very interesting to see, especially in states like Washington State and Colorado, there were a lot of pro-LGBTQ bills on the ballot. There were some measures that were designed to protect kids from being forced into these types of surgeries. Sorry, they call it gender affirming care to mutilate their bodies. And it was amazing to see that the bans, if you will, on the transgenderism of kids literally ran the table. I mean, it was almost unanimous across the board. Places where they were voting in Democratic congresspeople, they were also voting for protections for kids so they wouldn't have to go through this. Talk about what that says to you about the electorate, if you will. I mean, the people who are voting and they're saying, okay, we want this, but we also want this, which seems to go in the complete opposite direction.

Gary Bauer: Yes, you know. Consistency didn't seem to be a big factor on Election Day. You know, and of course, right in the James Dobson Family Institute's home state of Colorado, liberal politicians did very well in the election, won a number of seats and so forth. But there was a referendum on the ballot in Colorado that would regulate these surgeries on little boys and girls that involves cutting off their body parts in the name of transgenderism. And people said, no, no, absolutely not. So on the one hand, I am encouraged about that, but I don't understand. why you didn't turn around and vote for a governor that has made it clear that governor is all in on the trans ideology. It does seem to be a big contradiction. But we did win a lot of those votes. We defeated a pro-abortion vote in one state. We tried to reverse some pro-abortion votes in some other states from previous years and unfortunately, we lost those ballot measures but this is one that that I was encouraged by, although it's not like it's in the Bible, but I think it is in the Bible that we shouldn't steal elections. That's fraud. That's cheating. And a number of states on the ballot this year voted requirements for voter ID in their states. And that's fantastic because why wouldn't we want – I still can't understand, Roger, why the Democrat Party says that showing a requirement

that you show an ID when you vote is discriminatory and unacceptable. I mean all that says to me is people know that it will make cheating harder.

Roger Marsh: Yeah. It's really remarkable. This was our second election cycle for Lisa and me here in Texas. And we applaud the fact that when you get there, you can either have a registration card or you show any of 10 different acceptable proofs of identification. You can even register to vote and use a gun license as your approval because they figure you're already in the database, right? And then they do a background check there. They scan the license; make sure you are who you say you are. But I learned something new during this process too and there may be other states with different rules. In Texas, you do not have to prove your citizenship or eligibility to register to vote. You have to prove it when you get to the polls to say that you really are who you say you are and you are in in fact, a citizen of the United States. And I thought, well, okay, why is that so difficult? I mean, how many times, Gary, have you and I had shown proof of identification to make a purchase of something medical or something that has some kind of restriction on it? That's not a problem. And yet you find the Left they always just punching out, you know, as hard as they can. No, no, no, we can't have this. It's discriminatory. It makes it impossible for people to vote. Look at the voter turnouts in the areas where they have put tighter restrictions on the voting laws and they actually get more qualified people. to turn out at the polls. I mean, I still don't understand why the Left is just obsessed with this idea of voter restrictions and ID requirements somehow are discriminatory and make it tougher for people to vote. It doesn't make any sense to me.

Gary Bauer: You're right. It doesn't make any sense. And by the way, they're the same folks that in Alaska recruited a candidate with the same name as the Republican incumbent senator, right?

Roger Marsh: Heard about that, yeah.

Gary Bauer: Yeah, and they put that name on the back. ballot and when people said how's a voter supposed to figure out which one is the Dan Sullivan that's the senator that they want to vote for and the reaction was oh, they'll be able to figure it out if they'll cut that okay that's not going to be a problem. So two virtually identical names, that's not going to confuse the voters. But asking a voter to show an ID, oh, that is too hard to do. How in the world would that voter be able to get an ID? So there's a lot of hypocrisy in all this, as we can readily see. You know, Roger, I live in Virginia and originally from Kentucky. Carol and I have lived in Virginia for my goodness, 50 plus years. And it was a relatively conservative state when we first began to live in Virginia. And Virginia is, of course, a state that produced some of the greatest founding fathers. George Washington was a Virginian, and he was the father of our country and the first president. People like Thomas Jefferson that helped write the Declaration of Independence and founded the University of Virginia. And so I was heartbroken this election cycle to see the voters in Virginia. take abortion and insert it into our state constitution so that no matter if some future Supreme Court said abortion is outlawed, Virginia will say, sorry, it's in our constitution. And they

also put in our constitution a clear provision that says in Virginia, no matter what anybody else does, we will always have marriage to be not just a man and a woman, but two men, two women, whatever other arrangements you want to come up with. And I predict, Roger, we're not far away from having open polygamy in America.

Roger Marsh: Well, Gary, I'm glad you brought that up. I mean, because it's very interesting. That was actually on the ballot in my former home state of California. I don't know if you heard this story or not, but California had just a bit of schizophrenia when it came to the election. First and foremost, there was the proposed billionaire tax. California's been doing everything they possibly can to shoot their economy in the foot, first by charging a multimillion-dollar mansion tax on people who try to sell their multimillion-dollar homes, and then trying to tax billionaires. Now, somehow, common sense prevailed in the Golden State, and they didn't pass the billionaire tax. It went down to a stinging defeat. But there actually is a city in the Los Angeles County area, the city of West Hollywood, which has a notorious reputation for being a hangout for the LGBTQ community. And they passed a city ordinance that now recognized polyamory as a family unit. And you can register your, what do they call it? When you have three people or four people or whatever together as a family. And I just, I thought to myself, they want the family but they want to have it with three adults or four adults or whatever, and you have to notify the city. And I thought, what in the world are we coming to? But as you talked about the door being open, we do have a city in the Golden State that has now actually passed an ordinance where that is legal. And we were told 15, well, 10, 11 years ago after the Obergefell decision, oh, this is where it stops. It's just for two loving, two guys or two women who want to get married and be a couple and be a family. It's not going to go any further than that. Well, here we are 11 years later, and we have one city now that has made it legal. And let's see how many cities wind up doing this, and maybe a state.

Gary Bauer: Yeah, no, look, I'm glad you came up with that. I had forgotten about it, and it is a big deal. It may not sound like a big deal, but it is. You know, when same-sex marriage was made legal across America by the Supreme Court, Dr. Dobson, I remember this as if it were yesterday, he said, I'm telling you, you will not believe the slippery slope this has put us on. There will be ramifications from this that nobody talked about. And you'll recall, Roger, a lot of young Christians bought into same-sex marriage. Not that they would do it themselves, but they said, look, I mean, if two men or two women love each other, I'm certainly not going to stop them from getting married. I mean, that's up to them, and it doesn't affect me at all. Well, yes, it does. One of the things that has already happened is that if you look at states, New York's an example, where the LGBTQ voting bloc has a lot of influence, and it's not just New York. I mean, there's probably a half dozen states that have done this already. They've gone through the state code, the legal code, and every time the word mother or father appears, they've taken those words out and have replaced them with parent one and parent two.

Roger Marsh: Incredible.

Gary Bauer: Because that language of mother and father, don't you know, is discriminatory because we now have households where there are two men and households where there are two women. So when you say, The mother must do this or the father must do that. You're leaving out these other permutations now of what a marriage is. It brings me to another voting bloc here, which are parents with children under 18. They made up the 27% of the electorate two years ago. This year. Only 22% of the electorate was made up of parents with children under 18.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Gary Bauer: And they voted for the Marxist, Islamist, pro-trans candidates by an 11-point margin.

Roger Marsh: Wow. It's mind-boggling to think because we remember rejoicing. I remember you and Dr. Dobson back in November of 2024 having the conversation about young men who were standing up for biblical values and for traditional families, and they turned out at the polls in record numbers. And I would imagine that a lot of those same guys showed up and did vote in that direction. But the overarching numbers, they really do tell a different story. It's kind of like, I mean, I hate to say this, but I'll say it anyway, because of the number of people that we work with in the pro-life community. One of the things that is just a mind-boggling statistic to me is the number of people in the Catholic tradition who are passionately pro-life when they're in front of the abortion clinic, but when they go to the polls, they vote Democrat. I don't understand the so-called logic of that, Gary. It just doesn't make any sense. How do we help the church internally not only get motivated to go to vote, but kind of get our collective act together in terms of seeing what these issues are from a biblical perspective and then vote biblically, even if it's not personality-wise, what you would “want to vote for?” I don't like him. I don't like her.

Gary Bauer: When things went better in an election two years ago. The other side, the pro-abortion side, the pro-alphabet soup people, all the rest of that, they did not slink away. They doubled down. They redoubled their efforts. They invested more money. They made more efforts in the schools to indoctrinate kids. And then we see what happened in the elections this year. And Roger, I think we have to double down. I think that's what Dr. Dobson would have done. Dr. Dobson's legacy still has a lot of influence around America in the Christian world. And I know that JDFI is not going to walk away from the battle. And I think our voice still matters in the churches of America. So I think we literally have to produce more material, get it into the churches, and help educate pastors about how number one, they're blessed to be a pastor in America and not in some country where if you're a pastor, you could get killed for that. But being blessed by God to be a pastor in America, as a pastor here, you have an obligation to not allow this shining city on a hill, this one nation under God, be lost. So I think that's what we're called to do. And I've got a bunch of ideas

about how we can do that more effectively, and hopefully we'll be introducing those ideas on Family Talk and on our online presence and showing the way to lead the body of Christ to be more effective in these really challenging days.

Roger Marsh: Well, we appreciate, Gary, your passion and all the hard work and heavy lifting that you do in our Policy and Culture Center all throughout the year, but especially during times leading up to an election, and as the result came back November 3rd, 2026, not so favorably. We are looking forward to, okay, rolling up our sleeves, getting on our knees before God, and then saying, what are we called to do as believers here in this culture? And one of the reasons the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute exists, as Gary mentioned, is for that purpose. And your prayers and faithful financial support make that all possible. We encourage you to check out our website at drjamesdobson.org. It's brand new. newly updated, a lot more interactive and easier to use, especially if there are younger people in your world who may not have heard of Dr. Dobson's voice or principles or teachings, but are looking for sound, sage wisdom. You're going to find it at drjamesdobson.org. It's also jdfi.org as well.

Well, Gary, the time always goes by much too quickly, and there's always a lot more for us to talk about, so we'll have to tee this up again soon and start working through some of those policy recommendations that you have to see how we can equip the church to have a better outcome in 2028, but just make our nation better throughout the days and weeks ahead, especially as we prepare for the Lord's return. Gary Bauer, the senior vice president of public policy here at the Dr. James Dobson Policy and Culture Center, and check out Gary's podcast, “Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom,” wherever you get your podcasts as well. Gary, thank you so much for being with us today here on Family Talk.

Gary Bauer: Great to be with you, Roger.

Roger Marsh: Well, after two days of discussing the midterm elections here with Gary Bauer here on Family Talk, we've heard about some of the challenges facing our country, but also some reasons to remain encouraged. And perhaps that's an important reminder for all of us. Regardless of what happens in Washington, D.C., our responsibility to our families, our communities, and our faith never changes. There is still important work to be done, and each of us has an opportunity to make a difference. If you'd like to hear either part one or part two of this conversation, both programs are available at drjamesdobson.org. Feel free to share them with friends and family who need this encouragement. Again, go to drjamesdobson.org or just type in those initials JDFI.org, whichever is easier.

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Well, I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for joining us today. Be sure to tune in again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

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