

Jim Wallis is an American evangelistic Christian. To most people this immediately labels him as anti-abortion, anti-gay, pro-Bush and pro-war. *God’s Politics* is his attempt to wrest the image of American Christianity back from the religious right and bring it in line with the proper concerns of Christians, based on biblical teachings.

This is a big book and it covers a bewildering range of subjects, from domestic concerns like poverty, personal morality and racism to matters of foreign policy like the Iraq war, Israel and Palestine, AIDS in Africa and foreign aid. He brings everything back to a ‘consistent ethic of life’: he is against abortion (without being punitive), but he is also against imperialist wars, the death penalty, and tax cuts for the rich while children live in poverty. In many ways he seems to be on the liberal side of politics, but he opposes the Democrats’ ‘secular fundamentalism’, which turns religious voters back to the Republicans.

Despite his bible-bashing style, which is a bit tiresome for an atheist like me, Wallis has a sensible and compelling message: Christians should not allow their faith to be hijacked by right-wing extremists who use it for political gain.