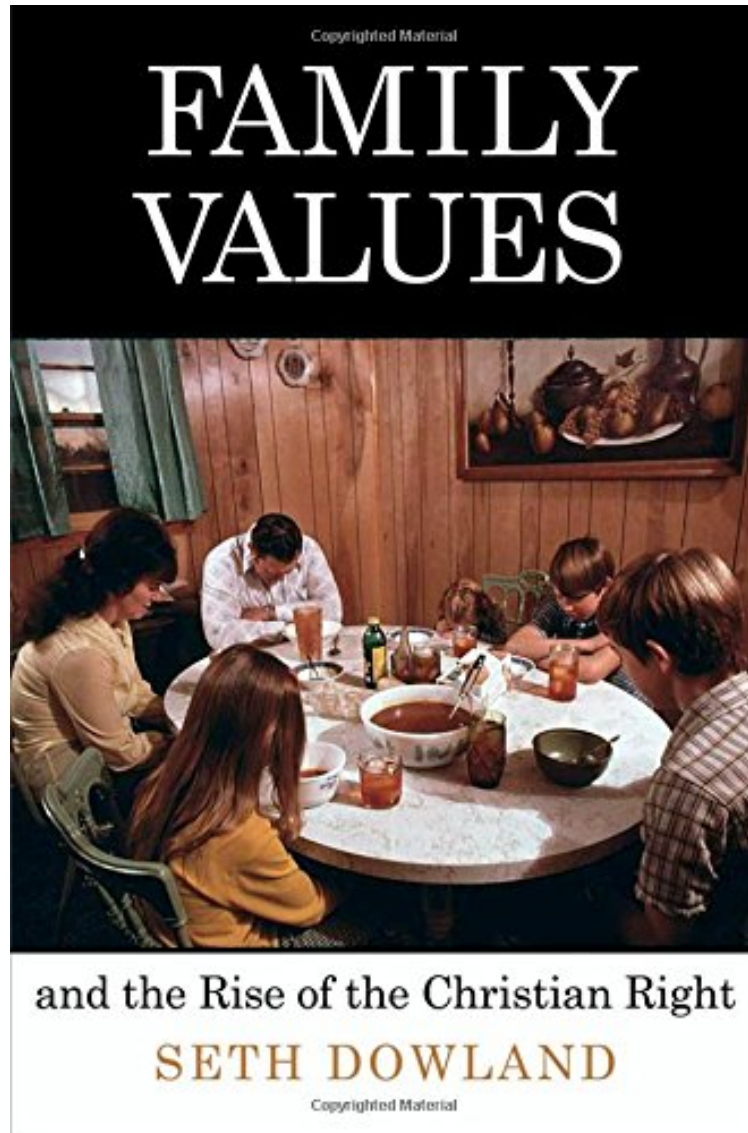


(Free) Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right (Politics and Culture in Modern America)

## Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right (Politics and Culture in Modern America)

*Seth Dowland*

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**Seth Dowland : Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right (Politics and Culture in Modern America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right (Politics and Culture in Modern America):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Insightful read on the faith communities' impact on politics and

surprisingly vice versa  
By Auburn Red  
This is a "read" that stays with you long after the book is finished. Is it the faith community that has manipulated the political community or is it the other way around? Seth reveals how great social issues of our day and days gone by have been largely decided by the ability to mobilize masses of believers around catch phrases. Definitely a foundational read for anyone that truly cares about the issues that are affecting our society and is concerned about the boundary of faith and religion, much less the one between religion and government.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An important read - definitely recommend this book- especially in this election year  
By Obi-Wan Chuck  
Finally, a clear breakdown and thorough understanding of the elusive concept of 'family values.' Dr. Dowland's writing is clear and sequential for anyone, academic or not, to understand how America's GOP ended up bedfellows with the conservative evangelicals. An important read - definitely recommend this book- especially in this election year.

During the last three decades of the twentieth century, evangelical leaders and conservative politicians developed a political agenda that thrust "family values" onto the nation's consciousness. Ministers, legislators, and laypeople came together to fight abortion, gay rights, and major feminist objectives. They supported private Christian schools, home schooling, and a strong military. Family values leaders like Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, Anita Bryant, and James Dobson became increasingly supportive of the Republican Party, which accommodated the language of family values in its platforms and campaigns. The family values agenda created a bond between evangelicalism and political conservatism. *Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right* chronicles how the family values agenda became so powerful in American political life and why it appealed to conservative evangelical Christians. Conservative evangelicals saw traditional gender norms as crucial in cultivating morality. They thought these gender norms would reaffirm the importance of clear lines of authority that the social revolutions of the 1960s had undermined. In the 1970s and 1980s, then, evangelicals founded Christian academies and developed homeschooling curricula that put conservative ideas about gender and authority front and center. Campaigns against abortion and feminism coalesced around a belief that God created women as wives and mothers a belief that conservative evangelicals thought feminists and pro-choice advocates threatened. Likewise, Christian right leaders championed a particular vision of masculinity in their campaigns against gay rights and nuclear disarmament. Movements like the Promise Keepers called men to take responsibility for leading their families. Christian right political campaigns and pro-family organizations drew on conservative evangelical beliefs about men, women, children, and authority. These beliefs known collectively as family values became the most important religious agenda in late twentieth-century American politics.

"'Family values' has become ubiquitous in our culture and yet it has not received serious, thorough, and substantive analysis until now. Seth Dowland has produced a smart, lively, and engaging book that makes important contributions to political, religious, and cultural history. This book should garner serious attention from a wide readership." Matthew Avery Sutton, author of *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism*  
"Family Values' politics is omnipresent in the history and rhetoric (and study) of the Christian Right, yet what exactly does it mean, and how, why, and when did it gain such remarkable traction? Weaving a boldly and beautifully written story through the many stages of evangelical family life, grassroots activism, advocacy, and public policy, Seth Dowland tells us. His is the definitive study of a movement a phenomenon that has shaped modern American politics in its image." Darren Dochuk, author of *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt*  
About the Author  
Seth Dowland teaches religion at Pacific Lutheran University.