- T Predictions
 - A. Past predictions have been shortsighted
 - 1. After Scopes trial
 - 2. After failure of Moral Majority
 - 3. After Robertson presidential nomination defeat
 - 4. After 1998 congressional elections
 - B. Current predictions are mixed
- II. Can the Christian Right expand its base?
 - A. Empirical evidence % favorability rating among
 - 1. White evangelicals
 - Moral Majority in 1980s 25% separatists a.
 - b. Christian Coalition in 1990s 56% ecumentalists
 - 2. Mainline Protestants small minorities
 - 3. Black Protestants small minorities
 - 4. Catholics small minorities
 - B. Casual factor = control by pragmatists or ideologues
 - 1. Moderate issue package, with no single litmus test, attracts support from non-evangelicals
 - a.
 - b. Support for some restrictions on abortions
 - Support for a moment of silence in public schools c.
 - 2. Extreme issue package, that requires agreement to all three issue positions, does not
 - a. Strong opposition to gays in military
 - b. Opposition to all abortions
 - Support for state sponsored spoken prayer in public school c.
 - C. Potential constituency
 - 1. Most likely non-evangelical allies
 - a. Consistent conservatives both social and economic conservatives
 - b. Social conservatives
 - 2. Size of potential constituency evangelical and non-evangelical combined
 - a. Absolute size nearly 25 % of electorate
 - b. Size relative to other recent movements substantially larger than civil rights or feminists

Table 5.3, p. 138

- c. Size relative to Republican electorate
- D. Dilemmas facing leadership to the Christian Right
 - 1. Pragmatic or ideological strategy
 - a. NAACP model
 - (1) Advantages
 - (a) Broaden base
 - (b) Avoid triggering counter-mobilization
 - (2) Disadvantages
 - (a) Forced to abandon ideologues' core objectives
 - i) Ban all abortions vs. only ban only late term
 - ii) Legalize state-sponsored religious exercises in public schools vs. gain only moment of silence
 - iii) Criminalize homosexuality vs. sodomy laws not enforced; some limits on adoption
 - iv) Ban all pornography
 - (b) Alienation of ideologues who dominate activists & financial supporters

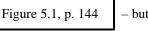
- Table 5.1, p. 135
- Table 5.2, p. 136
- Opposition to gays in military

- b. Solution: specialization across groups to broaden base but retain ideologues
- 2. Republican, bipartisan, or third-party strategy
 - a. Uneasy relations between parties and social movements are inevitable feminists, anti-war protestors, African-Americans, white southerners, labor unions
 - (1) Different goals narrow v. broad
 - (2) Different resources activists, money, communications channels v. access to ballot & campaign & governing experience
 - b. Most likely remain in Republican party

III. Can the Christian Right come to power? pp.



- A. As a tyrannical theocracy highly unlikely but not impossible
 - 1. By violence base too small, but so were Nazis in 1930s; Christian reconstructionists could succeed in a truly great depression
 - 2. By capture of Republican party still face checks and balances
- B. As a major player in pluralistic politics much more likely; c.f., labor, African-Americans, feminists
- C. Major barriers to achieving goals of ideological core
 - 1. Moderate attitudes of non-evangelicals



- but more success at state and

local levels

- a. Abortion procedural restrictions on access in some states
- b. Homosexuality still not a *protected* class like gender, race, disability, age; but more integrated into society military; corp benefits; media portrayals; anti-sodomy laws rarely enforced
- c. Public education private not state-sponsored prayer & Bible reading, abstinence ed but contraception & condom use for STDs; only limited experiments in charter schools, vouchers
- d. Pornography voluntary ratings; library & school textbook censorship
- 2. US Supreme Court if can't change membership, then will need to amend Constitution e.g., Religious Freedom Amendment
- 3. Demographic trends tolerance for differing beliefs & lifestyles; support for individual freedoms
 - a. Generational replacement
 - b. Access to college education
- D. Most likely successes will be only marginal to core agenda
 - 1. Examples
 - a. Helping economic conservatives achieve some of their agenda
 - b. Achieving greater accommodation in church-state issues
 - c. Making religious ridicule as socially unacceptable as sexist & racist jokes Christian anti-defamation league
 - 2. Explanation
 - a. Christian Right not subjected to same level of discrimination as women and blacks vote, education, jobs, housing; exception UVA ban on religious group funding
 - b. Christian Right seeks to significantly expand government regulation of private behavior
- IV. Premillennialists in the new millennium
 - A. Leadership
 - 1. Moderates young, talented, patient, & pragmatic most likely to dominate
 - 2. Ideologues will be socialized to moderation or will be disenchanted & drop out
 - B. Grassroots potential growth among conservative Catholics, mainstream Protestants & blacks
 - C. Continue evolution from movement to interest group/party faction