

# **Vote Your Faith, Vote Your Values...**

*.....vote your constitution.....*



It's time to check your constitution - your personal constitution. No, I'm not expecting you to draft a formal document to set forth your governing foundation. You don't have to, it is already ingrained in you. It is the framework that governs everything about you.

Your personal constitution dictates how you handle yourself: financially, spiritually, socially, etc., even down to the choices you make in how you present yourself to the world each day with your wardrobe. You have constructed a perimeter in which you operate and you seldom contemplate pushing beyond your preset boundaries. You feel safe living inside the lines.

That's the beauty of a constitution. It gives you the framework in which you operate. It holds true to itself whether you are actively thinking of it or not.

Others must respect your constitution. Far be it for anyone to try to change you. That would require a fight - lots of persuasion - and ultimately a change of heart. It's not something someone else can force on you. While you might hide your "constitution" for a season to protect yourself or for survival, it is still there. It is a heart thing!

If you are one who votes your faith, then what do your votes say about your faith? That shouldn't be confusing. The person you voted for is a reflection of what you believe. You also made a judgment based on what you have heard them say and on their character that you've witnessed. Did their personal mannerism and lifestyle reflect the faith presence you expect of someone who follows your beliefs? Is it challenging to vote for someone of a different faith, or if they do not seem to be a person of faith? There's lots to consider if we really do have a desire to vote our faith.

If you are a value voter, you make your choice on their stance on certain social or political issues that are important to you. Your values reside inside your personal constitution and they drive your decision making. A value voter though must look beyond their "pet" issue and weigh their stance on other issues. It could be more detrimental to vote for your "pet" issue and lose in countless other areas.

This list is endless when you're talking driving forces that affect the populous when they are deciding to whom to give their vote. Don't vote irresponsibly!

Oh the personal constitutions of so many people - all wired differently - all demanding something different. The religious argue with the value driven. The financially driven debate with the military-minded. With all these divisions, and more, it is impossible to be truly of one mind. Therefore it demands that we hold fast to one common thread.

That one common thread is simply one of the most incredible gifts that our forefathers ever left us. They crafted the Constitution of the United States. It is not a living document, but one that encompasses the breadth and height needed to protect, preserve, and maintain our country with freedom woven through every fiber. It preserves our personal rights, keeps the majority of rules at the state level, and frames the fabric of what has always made our nation one that people from all other nations have sought to move. We are unique. We are the bright and shiny city that sits on a hill as a beacon for others.

Our Constitution has been under fire intensely lately. People who do not truly understand the strength that this instrument conveys to our country are suggesting, even demanding, changes to its fiber. To change the framework, to soften its strength, to remove its enduring power, will inevitably begin the full unraveling of it all. Like a beautiful fabric with a pulled snag in it, it is better to slowly work that thread back into place than to cut. To cut it unravels the whole.

As I am writing this, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is being announced as having passed. He was a defender of the Constitution. His loss puts this very document at risk. This is truly a time for us to pray for God to intervene and our government, Republican strong, to truly vet whomever the President appoints to the bench. What little balance we currently have on the court could be stripped away by the wrong appointment.

This issue of Kat Notes / Christian Reporter News is focused on the local election in San Angelo, Texas on March 1st. We have vetted all the candidates in contested races from the position of District Judge to Republican County Chair. You can find these interviews on the cover of the Christian Reporter News. We videoed them as they responded to the questions put forth by our panelists. One of the panelist had to step in and out a bit at one point in the day.

Our panelist were:

Lyleann McClellan-Thee - one of the founders of the San Angelo TEA Party

Chris Younts - local insurance agent  
Ginger McGregor - CVRW member and paralegal  
Rusty Swanson - restaurateur

I do hope you will take the time to hear what the candidates had to share when answering some very thought-provoking questions geared to the position they are seeking. The judge position, district attorney, constables and county chair are all very important positions.

Until next time....

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Vote