

What is the Voter's Assembly in the American Context?

August 5, 2012



Review: Why is conscience important?

- I. Introduction: Review of the doctrine of Christian Freedom...
 - I. The Christian is Lord of all and Subject to none.
 - II. The Christian is the Servant of all and Subject to all.

- II. Review the functions served by the Voter's Assembly in reason 1; Are those things *adiaphora*? For whom must they then be a matter of conscience? How does the last sentence underlined on the first page keep this 'matter of conscience' an *adiaphoron*?

- III. Reason 2: Is allowing others to do what you are equally responsible to do a matter of conscience?

- IV. Reason 3: Is acknowledging you have gifts to be employed for the common good a matter of conscience?

- V. Reason 4: Is causing harm/depriving progress a matter of conscience?

- VI. Reason 5: Is agreeing to something you don't understand (pros/cons) a matter of conscience?

- VII Reason 6: Is it a matter of conscience that governance not fall into the hands of a very few.

- VII. We are studying the 9 reasons Walther asserts it is the duty of every eligible voter to attend the congregational meeting. Does this have any parallel to our duty to vote as Americans in our general elections?

Walther's Nine Reasons Why Attendance at Voters' Assembly is a Sacred Duty:

1. If everyone would neglect it, the congregation would thereby be preparing for its demise.
2. It is unjust to let others work for you if you are just as obligated to do it as they are.
3. Every Christian has received his gifts from God and, indeed, they are to be used for the common good.
4. Through missing the congregational assembly on the part of individual members the congregation is always held back a bit when she wants to take steps towards improvement.
5. It is a violation of conscience to agree so something others have proposed without your doing your necessary evaluation of it.
6. Through that lack of participation the freedom of the congregation would necessarily be at risk of her governance falling into the hands of a very few.
7. We have no right, without need, to forego a right that God has extended to us.
8. In God's Word we are warned numerous times against any separation from our brothers.
9. Your brother is offended (caused to stumble) by such drawing back