

Columns

Don't Talk About Politics or Religion – Right?



Shirley Gangstad
Synod
Vice President

Greetings!

We've all heard the old adage: If you want to keep your friends, there are two things you shouldn't talk about: politics and religion. This suggests that discussions on these topics could result in disagreements that would be sufficiently volatile to destroy a friendship. While there may be a grain of truth in this adage, we don't believe it

enough to act on it.

In the weeks and months between now and the November elections, we will be talking about politics a lot. We will discuss politics with family members, with friends, even with passing acquaintances. Most of the time we will make our point of view very clear and either blatantly invite others

to share our point of view or at least extend an implicit invitation to vote as we intend to. While some political decisions have far-

reaching influence, most of the time, any political decision can be reversed at the next election.

How much time will we spend discussing religion in those same weeks and months? Will we give equal time and lip service to our faith? Will we mention the name of Jesus at least as often as we will mention the names of Bush and Kerry? Will we invite others to share our faith – or at least extend an invitation to worship with us? Such invitations could have far-reaching and long-lasting positive influence on the one invited. These invitations could even have life-changing significance.

I challenge you: when you find yourself discussing politics, let yourself think of Jesus, and when you think of Jesus, challenge yourself to share your faith. Imagine the changes in our society – indeed in the world! – that could and would occur if we talked about our faith as much as we talk about politics!

Blessings in Christ,

Shirley

**How much time will
we spend discussing
religion in the
coming months?**
