

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

July 29, 2012



- 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. The context of the Lutheran Church and the necessity of the Voter's Assembly.
  
- III. In this land of freedom individual responsibility is magnified. What does this mean to the church. In the article we will examine for the next few weeks, Walther will make attending voters' assembly a matter of conscience.
  - A. Isn't voter's assembly an adiaphoron? Is Walther wrong in calling forsaking one's duty to attend the voters' assembly a "mortal sin"?
  
  - B. Is what the voter's assembly does commanded by God of the Congregation? Is it, then, truly an adiaphoron?
  
- IV. We will study the 9 reasons why 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