

Local Government Humor

Courtesy of Local Government Resources

Alcohol and a Mayoral Candidate

A candidate running for Mayor was asked to share his thoughts on alcohol. If you mean the demon that poisons our minds, pollutes our bodies, destroys marriages and ruins the careers of hard working men and women then I assure you I am against it. However if you are referring to that delicious elixir, our Holiday cheer, that shield against a cold winter chill and that taxable potion that generates needed funds to build new bridges, preserve our school curriculums and maintain our senior citizen centers then I'm 100% for it. That is my position, and I guarantee the good people of this fair City that I will not compromise.' This candidate was elected Mayor.

Do you have a Second.

A question by Gabe Gabrielsen, OEO

The following reflects an actual event that took place in a community. Read the issue then discuss the options with a friend.

Imagine you are a Local Public Official

Your unit of local government has historically held all of its public meetings during the evening. Your meetings are currently scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, with a start time of 6PM. These meetings generally last around 2 1/2 hours. With more attention on local taxes and the need for government to be more transparent one of your newly elected colleagues has made a motion to change the start time of your meetings to 1PM. He believes this change in time to an afternoon meeting will allow more media reporters to attend and make it easier for local residents to attend as well.

If you were a member of this public body how would you vote?

- A) Vote to second the motion to change the meeting time?
- B) Not second the motion and leave the meeting times as is?
- C) Propose an alternate time and day to hold your meetings?

To cast your vote visit website www.betterpublicofficials.com or call 800-274-7757 and just leave a voice message.

You can monitor the progress of this survey by visiting the "Reader Survey Poll" on www.betterpublicofficials.com. beginning Oct 1st, 2010

Last month's survey involved a Federal Aviation Authority violation. According to the FAA several tall trees were interfering with the runway approach path at a municipal airport. The issue was who should pay to cut the trees violating the FAA standard? A) The property owners where the trees were located, B) Pilots who use the airport, C) The local municipal government since this was a municipal airport. In real live the decision was 3 to 2 to have the municipal authority pay to cut the trees since this was in fact a municipal airport.

Have you left the Faith?

Earlier this month I had a conversation with a young lady I met at an event, who was singing with a band. After talking to her for a while she said that she had left the Faith. Curious as I am I asked her if she had turned her back completely on God and rejected what Jesus had done for her in dying for her on the cross. She said that she had not, which prompted me to ask what made her think she had left the faith.

She didn't answer the question, but told me of growing up in a very legalistic Christian church. It seemed from our conversation that the church was doctrinally in line with Scripture but they also had a long list of "laws" which covered everything from dancing, movies, card playing, how they dressed, how they wore their hair, and on and on and on. I got the idea that she had felt like her family and "church" were a prison. She eventually made some outside friends and became interested in singing and started singing with this band [and if I may say so she is a great singer].

Once again, I asked her what made her say that she had left the Faith. She then reassured me that she loved her father very much, but told me that her father was very critical about her leaving the "church". Every time he sees her, he will ask her, "Why did you leave the Faith?"

Galatians 5:1

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

I told her that in the short time I had talked to her it did not appear to me that she had left the faith. It appeared to me that she had left legalism—not the Faith. I directed her to Paul's words.

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide. So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

I have met quite a few people who are in the same position as this young lady. They don't fit into the square hole that all other pew-sitting Christians fit into so they have been told that they have left the Faith.

They still love and respect God the Father; they still understand and are thankful for what a sacrifice Jesus gave for them. They still pray regularly; they help others as directed in Matthew 25. But they live a life of guilt because some pew-sitting, façade wearing, holier-than-thou "believer" has told them that they are not doing the religion thing the right way.

Remember that Scripture does not talk anywhere about "church" police, whose duty it is to go around checking your life against their list of rules [most of which are not Biblical] and making judgments about you.

Ask God to show you each day how much He loves you and ask Him to show you how you should live. Don't let OP [other people] tell you how to live. If it wasn't for their façade, you would see how troubled they are. [God does!]

God bless and Godspeed.

† Preacher

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Taken from the October 2010 ROAD TO DAMASCUS Newsletter for Bikers

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