

Why Care?

Jared Nielsen

Politics is not for everyone. In fact, politics really isn't for me. I would never want to run for a political office or manage a campaign. Then why am I so involved in politics? I love our country, and as a citizen of the United States I believe that it is both a right and a duty to have a certain amount of involvement in the policies of the nation. Why is this important? Our government, if not held accountable, can create policies that will control our lives. There are those in Washington, for example, who would like sign policies to take away parents' God-given rights to decide how to raise their own children. This is something that we can all agree would be detrimental to our country. Our leaders can also direct our country in a path that is destructive for future generations, while it benefiting those currently in office. The national debt displays this well. The Millennial Generation (our generation, people born from mid 1970s to early 2000s) is being saddled with a projected debt of nearly \$100,000 per

working individual. This is while all 435 US congressional representatives make a minimum of \$174,000 a year, get lifetime benefits after serving five years, and enjoy enormous budgets.

I hear a lot of talk about how bad our nation is getting, how we are losing morals, and how we are drifting from the values this country was founded upon. These ideas shouldn't surprise anyone, but instead serve as a testament that so few people have cared to keep their leaders accountable. As a result, the amount of corruption and fraud in America's political system has increased dramatically. So many Americans take the freedoms they have completely for granted. They spend hours complaining and discussing, but cannot take ten or twenty minutes to call their senator on an important issue. I guess politics just isn't for them.

My first priority in life should be to serve God's Kingdom. That's why I care about people and try my best to serve others. That said, I also believe that as an American

citizen I should serve my country, but my service to the country should be subordinate to serving Christ. Romans chapter 13 discusses a Christian's relationship to their governing authorities. It says that "If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (Romans 13:7). I believe the Bible gives a mandate to be part of our earthly kingdoms, but putting God first and serving Him should always take precedence. The reason our founding fathers gave us the 1st amendment was so that we could exercise the right of free speech and press in order to prevent the government from becoming too powerful. Ideally, they would be kept in check by the people who had power and duty to speak out about their beliefs. If we have any respect for our founding fathers and even for our current leaders, we would take action in keeping our leaders accountable.

So how can we practically keep our leaders accountable? Understand this not a democrat or

republican thing. It is not about being conservative or liberal; it's about caring for your country and doing whatever small part you can. I believe that educated people who truly care about their country can do a lot of good regardless of their particular beliefs. If you like, you can get involved with YCC or help start and be a part of a school club that better represents your beliefs. A main reason for YCC's existence is to help educate people about America's political system so they can be better citizens. If you are not sure what you believe, talk with others, especially those who are older and have more wisdom and experience; read the news (be sure to always use multiple sources to help counter media bias), and try to have a basic understanding of what is going on in our country; and finally, be sure to understand America's history. America has a rich history and there are many stories of amazing people that inspire us to be diligent servants to our country.

As you go about doing these things, when you

came across something in Washington you disagree with, take a second to share your beliefs with your congressional representatives and senators. It's really easy and you can write to them by visiting their official web site and clicking on the "contact" tab. I know that people feel overwhelmed with this process, but it is so quick that in the time you spend waiting in line at the cafeteria to get your card scanned, you could draft and send a short message to your representative.

I know that most of you will probably brush this off, but I ask you to consider the many blessings Americans have been given and the value of being able to live in a free nation. We will only be free so long as there are enough people involved in the accountability process. History reminds us that when politicians are left unchecked they are corrupted by power and lose the interests of the people they were elected to serve.

Divisiveness

Winston Rheinbolt

Politics divide people. They've divided our nation and they could certainly divide Montreat College. This divisiveness is why one person said Montreat hasn't had political committees on campus before. Dividing the campus is exactly what I don't want to do. I want to unite us. I want to UNITE the campus in a conservative movement with God at our head. It has been made clear by the Obama Administration that God does not exist when it comes to our nation. And it is impossible to believe and follow a socialist or communist government and believe in God at the same time. You can't give all unto the government and give all unto God.

God is the only person you are allowed to give all unto. That is, unless you don't believe in him. Nowhere in the Bible does it say to give everything to the government. It does say give what you must, but not ALL. That's what this administration is wanting, that's the direction this administration is taking our country. When the government writes checks to the poor, it doesn't make them richer, it only makes the whole country poorer, it encourages them to not find jobs, to not work, and to do nothing productive for our nation. But if the government doesn't give money to the poor, they have to go out and find jobs. This could aid in singling out those

who really need help as opposed to those who are too lazy to work. I don't have a definite method of figuring out who really needs help and who doesn't but I know giving less and less money to those on welfare will cause those who have gotten used to the money to work to continue to maintain all they have, leaving those who really need it on welfare.

Once again I say, I'm not trying to divide the campus. I want to UNITE the campus in a conservative movement, never forgetting that this nation was founded by Christians who believed in God, and led by people who believed in God, to demonstrate the world that we ARE a

Christian nation. President Obama is far out of line to say that we are not a Christian nation. The Nation's Declaration of Independence, along with the Constitutions of our United States mention: God/Almighty God/Supreme Ruler of the Universe/Providence of God/Creator/Grateful for Divine Guidance/Supreme Being/Sovereign Ruler/Great Legislator of the Universe/Author of Existence. And you remember the Pledge of Allegiance you learned in school: one nation under God, indivisible. Our government is rooted in Christian values. Christian values which the Obama Administration is devaluing, which he refuses to acknowledge.

Christian values which we the people are. I want to UNITE us to believe in the conservative movement with God as our ultimate leader and not restricting the private sector by a Big Government which believes they know better than us. They say the private sector is greedy just at the same time as they give themselves higher paychecks and pensions and desire more power over us. Stand up to the government and tell them DONT TREAD ON ME.