

Statement of Faith

Though the Texas Constitution prohibits any religious test for holding a civil office, it does require the acknowledgement of a Supreme Being.¹ Our forefathers believed in liberty of conscience and religious liberty in particular, but they also believed that humanity was subject to its Creator. In light of this constitutional requirement, and so that you may know what my basic convictions are, I have included this statement of faith below.

Natural Revelation

I believe that God has revealed himself in nature.² This natural revelation is the source of what is referred to as the “Laws of Nature” in the Declaration of Independence. It is also the basis for the concept of the “rule of law.”³ This is especially important for our nation and state where civil servants swear an oath, not to men, but to the Constitution, which acknowledges the preexisting principles of justice and individual rights of human beings given by God. In fact the Constitution was established to protect these principles against arbitrary decisions or actions of an officeholder or even a majority who would violate “the rule of law.”⁴

Redemptive Revelation

I also believe that God has revealed himself in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is his eternal Son of God and the Savior of all who come to him in faith.⁵ I trust him as my Lord and Savior.

Creation and Providence

I do not believe that the universe is an accident. I believe that God created all things for his glory and that history is the unfolding of God’s all wise and glorious purpose.

Human Dignity

I believe that humanity is the crown of God’s creation, being made in God’s image.⁶ Because of this amazing distinction from all other creatures, the life and liberty of each human being is sacred. Human dignity and sovereignty, under God, are rooted in individual human beings and not social groups or associations or races.⁷

Worship and Stewardship

Moreover, I believe God made us for himself — to know and enjoy him⁸ and to be stewards of his creation.⁹ Simply put, mankind was made to worship and to work. Because man is free and accountable ultimately only to

God, true worship cannot be coerced; it must be voluntarily offered in faith according to one’s conscience informed by God and reason. This is the ground for religious liberty. And because work is re-creation and utilization of the resources and creatures which God made, the creation should be used, enjoyed and conserved wisely for humanity and God’s glory. This is the ground for private property. The fruits of our labor are an extension of our lives.

Purpose and Limit of Civil Government

Humanity now is corrupted by sin.¹⁰ God’s image is still integral to humanity, but the likeness is distorted in varying degrees, and human dignity is mixed with depravity. Man’s actions which harm other men must be checked by force to preserve human life and liberty. I believe that this is the legitimate role of civil government — to do justice and to protect individual rights of life, liberty and property.¹¹ Civil government, otherwise, should leave us alone and free.

Civil government must be limited, lest it take away the rights of individuals that it was instituted to protect. Civil magistrates, if granted excessive authority and opportunity, may act merely in their own interests and at the expense of the people whom they are to protect.

Finally, I believe that local self-government is the best form of civil government.¹² Local self-government made our large and diverse country a great nation and it is essential that it be preserved or we will lose our freedom and the union.¹³

1. Article 1, Section 4 reads, “RELIGIOUS TESTS. No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office, or public trust, in this State; nor shall any one be excluded from holding office on account of his religious sentiments, provided he acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being.” 2. I believe that all men know, but may not acknowledge, that God exists and is almighty, eternal, and holy — the Creator, Ruler and Judge of all. Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:19-20. 3. Though the concept was popular with America’s founding fathers, it did not originate with them. It is not even an exclusively Christian idea. The Roman orator and statesman, Cicero, taught that “true law is right reason in agreement with nature” and that this “true law” was of “universal application, unchanging and everlasting.” De Re Publica, book 3, paragraph 22. trans. Clinton W. Keyes, p. 211. 4. For example, If the state or federal legislature should pass a law “legalizing” rape, it would be not be true law or constitutional, because it violates the “rule of law” which is recognized by most nations and in all ages. 5. John 3:16. 6. Genesis 1:28-30; 2:7; 2:15-17. 7. Acts 17:25-26. 8. The Westminster Shorter Catechism sums it up this way: “The chief end of man is to glorify and enjoy God forever.” 9. Genesis 1:26. 10. Genesis 3. 11. Romans 13 indicates that the active role of the civil magistrate is to restrain evil — or harm to one’s neighbor. The stated purpose of government according to The Declaration of Independence is “to secure these rights.” 12. This is essentially the view adopted by Moses long ago for the administration of justice and the resolving of disputes. See Exodus 18, especially verses 19–23. 13. This is underscored by Texans when they entered the union in 1845. Article 1, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution states that: “the maintenance of our free institutions and the perpetuity of the Union depend upon the preservation of the right of local self-government, unimpaired to all the States.”