

Lake Eustis Report

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Lake Eustis Institute

Enlighten your view of the world...



All seminars are at 135 N. Grove St., Eustis unless noted otherwise. Register by calling: 352.357.3995 or online: www.lakeeustisinstitute.org

Does Faith Have a Place in American Politics?



Religions and politics have been intertwined since the beginning of written history. The Institute's Great Ideas seminar's topic this year is faith (as opposed to a specific religion) and politics. The seminar has read and discussed how past civilizations have grappled with this issue.

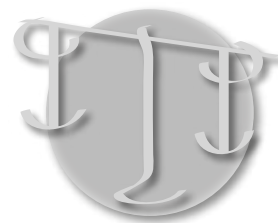
The seminar started exploring the topic with Dante's *Inferno* written after Dante was expelled from Venice because of his opinion that the pope should not control the government.

The seminar discussions have progressed through Plato's *Euthyphro*, Socrates' *Antigone*, the biblical Book of Esther, Martin Luther's *Secular Authority*, and Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*. Next week the seminar will discuss Thomas More's *Utopia*. More was profoundly religious and believed in an authoritarian code of morals. His *Utopia* describes a place where faith and politics are one and the same.

The topic of faith and politics is both timeless and timely. A 2009 American Religious Identification Survey found, "the number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation has nearly doubled since 1990". And, according to an article in the April 13th edition of *Newsweek* by Jon Meacham, "[the Christian God] ... is less of a force in American politics and culture.... to the surprise of liberals who fear the advent of an evangelical theocracy and to the dismay of religious conservatives who long to see their faith more fully expressed in public life...". Does faith have a place in politics? Attend the Great Ideas seminar on Tuesday, April 21 at 4:00 PM, 135 N. Grove St., Eustis.

Institute Discussion Forum Online Now

Do you have an opinion on the recent moral dilemma about "fairness"? Read the dilemma online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.lakeeustisinstitute.org"](http://www.lakeeustisinstitute.org) www.lakeeustisinstitute.org. On the Home page, click Seminars & Classes, on that page, click "or more information" and on that page, click "Dilemmas" and join the Moral Dilemma forum discussion.



Do you have an opinion about faith and politics or about any current issue that you want to air? Join the general discussion online in the same forum.

Friends of the Institute News

The Friends Group is seeking members. Already under discussion is a 2010 Designer Show House fundraiser. Does this sound like an interesting and fun project? Email John Roberts at johnroberts47@yahoo.com.

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