

## Silk on Linker on Religious Tests

Michael Sean Winters | Nov. 17, 2010 Distinctly Catholic

One of my favorite commentators on religion, Mark Silk, has [an interesting post](#) [1] about Damon Linker's thesis that we should -- the Constitution notwithstanding -- have a religious test for office. Not, of course, the kind administered by the government, but the kind administered by the press and public.

Linker is correct that politicians like to trade on their religiosity, but bristle when you press them to explain how their faith informs their public policy positions, resulting in a double standard. "Religious values matter when we say they matter, and because our pollster tells us we should put up some religious window dressing on our campaign persona, but don't expect us to explain how."

Of course, running for President or Congress is not like running for bishop -- the latter requires real political acumen! LOL.

But the debate Linker and Silk suggest is a provocative one and should be engaged.

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**Links:**

[1] <http://blog.beliefnet.com/religionandpubliclife/2010/11/linkers-test.html>