

Scottish Christian Party

A Christian Voice in Holyrood

The Scottish Christian Party believes the country needs a distinctly Christian Voice in the Scottish Parliament and, by God's grace, it is possible to do so.

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We are thankful that there are Christian MSPs in the mainline parties, but they are not always able to articulate Christian principles as such because their party managers don't want them speaking in a "religious manner". Even Tony Blair as Prime Minister was prevented by his advisers from ending his address to the nation, at the start of hostilities in Iraq, with the words: "God bless you." On a later occasion, Alastair Campbell, his director of strategy and communications at the time, interrupted an interview with Tony Blair to say: "We do not do God", in order to prevent the Prime Minister from answering a question about his religious faith. We hope to be a distinctly Christian Voice in the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, Edinburgh.

Is it possible?

Yes, because of the voting system. A "first-past-the-post" voting system for the new Scottish Parliament in 1999 would have resulted in no Conservative MSPs elected to the Parliament. So the voting system for the Scottish Parliament includes a *second* form of voting, based upon a type of proportional representation. So each voter has two ballot papers.

The first ballot paper is for a Constituency MSP, just like the system for the General Election to the Westminster Parliament.

The second ballot paper is to elect a Party. This is the ballot which will help the Scottish Christian Party. It is called a Regional Ballot or List, because each Party makes up a list of Regional MSPs to represent not a constituency but a Region of Scotland. There are eight large Regions in Scotland and one of them is your Region. The Regional MSPs are selected by the *proportion* of the vote *for a Party* across the whole Region. If we get over 15,000 votes in your Region, you will have a Christian MSP. This is why it is important to vote Scottish Christian Party on this ballot.

In order to make the Parliament more representative, the voting system for the Regions helps smaller parties. This makes it possible for the Scottish Christian Party to have MSPs in Holyrood. This is explained on our website at:

www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk/faq#how-does-the-pr-voting-system-work

Small Parties in Holyrood

The result of this system can be illustrated by the Green Party. In the first Scottish election in 1999, the Green Party elected its first MSP, Robin Harper. Four years later in 2003, having made this breakthrough, *seven* Green MSPs were elected. There were also *six* Scottish Socialist MSPs elected. Across the whole of Scotland the Greens got 132,138 votes, and the Scottish Socialists 128,026 votes. Yet there are more Christians in Scotland than these numbers combined. There are 600,000 Church of Scotland members, and there are a large number of other Churches. However we do not have a distinctly Christian voice in Holyrood – not yet. With your help, and by God's grace, you may have it.

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Scottish Christian Party

The balance of power

The smaller parties held the balance of power in the early Parliaments and then the SNP used the system to such good effect that they gained an overwhelming majority in May 2011.

What is the point in having a Christian Voice in Holyrood?

The rise of the Green vote in the Scottish Parliament, from one MSP in 1999 to seven MSPs in 2003 was followed by a collapse to two MSPs in 2007. This is partly because other parties adopted green issues. Similarly, we believe that a rise in the Christian Voice will have an effect on the other parties. Party managers in these other parties, keen to win back 'the Christian vote', will allow Christians in their own parties to speak more openly about Christian values. There is already evidence of this happening.

The Scottish Christian Party will work with Christians in other Parties. We will talk and work with other Parties, but we will oppose them when they oppose Christian values. For example, we support sensible green issues, but we oppose the Green Party for supporting homosexual practices. At the same time, the Scottish Christian Party will oppose discrimination against homosexuals as we are to love our neighbour as ourselves.

All Christians in Scotland will be able to use this Christian Voice in the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Christian Party MSPs will articulate and promote Christian issues.

The Voting System

If you usually give your Constituency vote to a major party, take time to learn how the voting system is stacked against a Regional vote for the same party counting for much. In some Regions it can be a complete waste of a vote. This is explained here

<http://www.scottishchristianparty.org.uk/faq/#what-do-you-mean-by-a-wasted-vote>

We are asking Christians to give their Regional vote to the Scottish Christian Party. This is the best way to get a distinctly Christian Voice into Holyrood.

Our frequently asked questions (FAQ) section of our website explains more fully how it is possible for each Region to have a distinctly Christian Voice in Holyrood. It explains how wasted votes in the second ballot could have been cast for the Christian Party to great effect.

Lost Window of Opportunity

In 2007 and 2011 Christians in Scotland failed to use this opportunity and in 2011 the SNP began the process for re-defining marriage to include homosexual partnerships. There has been no effective opposition raised to this in the Scottish Parliament.

Please give this your prayerful consideration and vote for the Scottish Christian Party.

God bless you.

Dr Donald Boyd
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