

# ***Civility in Campaigning***

*By D. A. Sharpe*

*When the Party Primary Elections season begins, it's a good time to pause and consider how candidates should conduct their campaigns.*

*The lead phrase for what I want to say is, "Anyone who slings mud, loses ground!" That characterizes the spirit expected to be displayed between candidates. The candidates are exhorted to express their campaigns in terms of the positive characteristics or issues each planned to bring to their office.*

*The caution given the candidate is to avoid taking occasion to focus on perceived negative attitudes or facts about his or her competing candidate. To build a campaign on criticizing the opposition degrades the election process. It also degrades you as a candidate, as voters should not be courted for votes by drawing their attention to you as a naysayer! It reflects a type of insecurity in a candidate who seems to rest on slinging mud.*

*Proverbs 21:23 says, "Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from trouble."*

*Avoid displaying being offended or prompted into anger. Learn how to allow insults or criticisms slide off you, without your resorting to a display of anger. Particularly in the Party Primary elections, your opposition is someone whom you hope will support you in the November General Election, if you win and he or she loses.*

*Conduct a campaign for which your Mother would be pleased and proud!*



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