

September 2015

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Say What You Mean—Mean What You Say

Conservative women are urging Republicans to “man-up!”

Leadership isn't defined by polls or head counts. It is defined by principles and courage. —Star Parker

We value not only our many opportunities to comment on local, national, and international developments, but also the feedback we receive from our supporters. On this occasion, a reader has taken exception with our recent underlying suggestion that presidential candidate Donald Trump's self-described “religious bona fides” are a bit concerning. Respectfully disagreeing with our premise, here is what our respondent encourages us to consider:

“After reading the article *Reaching Beyond National Leaders* in the August 15 issue of the newsletter, I would like to give you my opinion. Electing a President is not the same as electing a Pastor. A pastor may be good at preaching but may not be good at governing a national congregation. We should choose a presidential candidate who is trustworthy and competent. They should have a great governing ability, place national interests above their own, and be able to courageously lead the country in order to get things done.”

Our longtime friend (we'll call *Mary*), says she, her family, and her many friends are sick and tired of political correctness, particularly Republicans who are saying that while they haven't supported same-sex marriage in the past, it's now the law of the land. *Mary* likes the fact that Donald Trump doesn't equivocate. He says flat out, “I support traditional marriage and am against illegal aliens.”

Mary says “We should not use a magnifying glass to scrutinize Donald Trump about his faith but should be judging his capacity to govern the country.” She concludes her well-argued two-page letter, saying, “Thank you for listening to what I have to say. I pray for you and may God bless you!”

Mary is evidently not alone. Pollsters are finding that women, the single largest bloc of registered voters, are trending towards candidates, right or left, who do not wet their trousers when asked socially controversial questions. The ladies are preferring men that act like men (or even Carly Fiorina)! No more show votes—no more kicking the can down the road for another day.

Syndicated columnist Star Parker, like *Mary*, is also tired of Republican leaders who are wimps. When she met Christ, she left behind a life of drugs, abortion, and welfare. Parker writes:

“House Speaker John Boehner, who will step down at the end of October, said on *Face the Nation* Sunday, ‘We have got groups here in town, members of the House and Senate here in town, who whip people into a frenzy believing they can accomplish things that they know are never going to happen.’”

“The speaker was referring to the latest threat by conservative Republicans to hold up spending authorization for the government if it includes \$500 million in taxpayer funds going to Planned Parenthood.”

(Parker continues) “According to the speaker’s ‘wisdom,’ and that from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other Republican establishment figures, a spending bill defunding Planned Parenthood will certainly be vetoed by the president, without sufficient votes in the Senate to override that veto. Republicans will then allegedly bear the brunt of public resentment for a government shutdown.

But Speaker Boehner’s characterization of the situation captures why conservatives are frustrated with him and the rest of the Republican establishment.

Leadership isn’t defined by polls or head counts. It is defined by principles and courage. If polls that reflect what happened yesterday are left to determine what happens tomorrow, why do we need leaders? If politics is the art of the possible, it is leadership that takes what seems impossible and brings it into the realm of the possible.

Facts appear to bear out that it is not conservatives but the absence of principled leadership that has hurt the Republican Party.

Supposedly, Republicans received a black eye in the court of public opinion when government was shut down in 2013 as Republicans, led by Sen. Ted Cruz, tried to defund Obamacare. But the congressional elections in 2014, the first elections following the 2013 shutdown, produced massive Republican victories. Republicans picked up more seats in the House, giving them an even stronger majority, and Republicans won back control of the Senate.

Pro-life forces have been trying to cut off taxpayer funds to Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, for years... Unfortunately, abortion-on-demand remains legal in our country. So stopping taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood doesn’t change anything they do. It just sends them to the private marketplace, like other nonprofits, to find their funding.

How can a nation that still calls itself a nation “under God” force taxpayers to take money out of their paychecks and send it to an organization that performs some 350,000 abortions a year, and then sells body parts of these destroyed children?

If Planned Parenthood had its way, partial-birth abortion would still be legal in America. They challenged the law, signed by President Bush in 2003, making this procedure illegal. Justice Kennedy, who wrote the opinion in 2007, upholding the constitutionality of that law, included a nurse’s testimony describing the procedure:

‘The baby’s little fingers were clasping and un-clasping, and his little feet were kicking. Then the doctor struck the scissors in the back of his head, and the baby’s arms jerked out, like a startled reaction, like a flinch, like a baby does when he thinks he is going to fall.

The doctor opened up the scissors, stuck a high-powered suction tube into the opening, and sucked the baby’s brains out.’

“Fortunately, this is no longer legal. But similar brutalities continue. And now we learn that there is commerce in the body parts of these infants. Courageous Republican leadership should be focused more on getting these truths in front of the American people and less on doing vote counts.”¹

May we add that no one doubts that President Obama would shut down the government to abort one baby. So Mr. Candidate, *Mary* would like to know... how far are you prepared to go to spare that child?

Rick Forcier

¹ www.wnd.com/2015/09/a-leadership-lesson-for-speaker-boehner/#rBuewGIOPYIhdcd99