

Guest Commentary

“What’s the Plan?”

When the Republicans were turned out of the Senate and House of Representatives two years ago it was a repudiation of a political party and administration that had lost its “principled” way. Political arrogance resulted in the “party of faith” ignoring fiscal conservatism, refusing to protect marriage from judicial activism, not enforcing the border or immigration laws, ignoring the sexual misconduct of party members, and lacking the will to reign in excessive government growth – in effect, they no longer represented the core of their constituency – conservatives (read this – Christians). Two years pass and they suffer more meltdown by not only losing the Presidential race but also more seats in the House and Senate.

The one major party that has historically represented the values and concerns of the Christian community still has no clue why they’re being removed from office. Professional post election analysis will blame the unpopular Bush administration, the sluggish Iraq war, and the incredible economic meltdown, but these miss the obvious: the foundation is rotten. The reason John McCain didn’t lose by a landslide isn’t because of his many big-tent moderate views, or his strong stance on some conservative issues (abortion, judges, Iraq) but that he chose a very conservative running mate that finally energized the base, Sarah Palin. Could a solid conservative have won the White House– it’s hard to say. But in my opinion, the more the Republican Party tries to cater to moderate, middle of the road positions and distance themselves from the faith community and core conservative principles, the longer they’ll be out of power. The fact that abortion, same-sex marriage, judicial nominations, illegal immigration and faith were not front-and-center in the last months of the election showed a distancing from the base that resulted in losses at the polls.

The question to ask now is – what’s the plan? Becoming a centrist party will spell doom for the next generation and allow a further national slide into social, fiscal and moral darkness as the liberal half of the nation stays united. Turning to a third party option will only ensure absolute control by liberal forces until the county is finally brought to its knees. The only option I see is for top Republican leadership to openly admit the error of their recent ways. This would go a long way to restore some of the trust that was broken with party faithfuls. Living up to that admission is then the real challenge. To do this, the loyal opposition party needs to develop better ideas based on a clear understanding of the fundamental principles that made this nation strong. Defending conservative values in a clear, articulate way, by showing how they work while bankrupt liberal, socialist, hedonistic values destroy people’s lives is another good step. When the message is clear and convincing, not murky, hidden, or nuanced then enthusiasm returns, financial support flows, and the grassroots base is re-energized to do what they do well: recruiting others to get involved; getting out

the vote; and supporting conservative candidates for office at all levels of government.

Obviously more than a facelift is needed. The “party of principle” needs to experience a conversion and reform – basically a return to its roots of smaller government, personal responsibility, fiscal and social conservatism, rule of law, strong civil liberties, and a strong border and defense. As this reform develops, the Democrat Party is going to create so much damage over the next four to eight years that there will be ample opportunity to document its failings. Historic, conservative values are always the best road to follow, and real conservative leaders, not political hacks, need to be supported every step of the way. With that focus, may God give us the godly leaders we need, and not the leaders we deserve.

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