

## The Thick Red Line

Now that the Republican race for president has chased all the ideological rats out of the GOP sewer and into the open, it's no longer possible to pretend there are any socially redeeming qualities to its agenda. It's a power grab by the rich and super-rich to keep the money funnel in both the private and public sectors flowing their way while shutting off the spigot to everyone else. It's class warfare, all right, but not of the kind the brainless twits at Fox jibber about: it's the ruling class stomping out any threat to their hegemony, now or in the future.

You can forget the idea that any ideologue in the Republican ranks is going to create so much as a single job. They're all rich already, and what good jobs have they created, ever? Anyone notice in Romney's tax returns where he directly invests in creating quality jobs in sustainable American industries? No, he created interest on his money, which at best created a job or two at Goldman Sachs or Credit Suisse. Romney hasn't created a single middle-class job with his wealth, and it probably never occurred to him to try.

Forget this idea that if the rich pay less tax (which they already do, BTW), they'll suddenly fire up the economy. Corporate profits are already at record highs and the rich have been getting richer all along, so where are the jobs these great Job Creators are making? In India and China, that's where. All four Republican candidates' policies would, in fact, increase the very deficits they ring their hands over, while slashing benefits for the working class and poor, just so the rich could have still deeper tax cuts than the ones they already enjoy, thanks to the insanity of the last decade. The only Job Creator in the Republican race was the fast-food restaurateur Herman Cain, who, according to the accounts of women who were the subjects of his predatory advances, was at least a blowjob creator.

Since their fiscal policy is to favor exactly those in the economy who don't need any more favors, their social policy is to restrict freedom of choice in one's personal life and eliminate all subsidies to the poor and middle class, their health policy is to not have one, their development policy is to restrict access to education and their plan for governing is to try their hardest not to, what, exactly, is the attraction of this party? All I can see in the residue is religion, some faith-driven assumption that

these guys will govern according to the dictates of their denomination. I could point out that, of the three faiths still in play – Catholic, Baptist and Mormon – each believes the others are either hell-bound or destined for some sort of second-citizen afterlife. (This, “we’re in-and-they’re-out” tenet is a big selling point among religions.) But our brief time together is better spent pondering a different issue: if faith-based governance is the key redeeming virtue of the Republican platform, just what faith are we talking about?

The Republican Religious Faith (RRF) has an odd mix of beliefs:

- Hatred of unions. A curious attitude when one considers the role of unions in bettering the lives of millions of Americans, which you’d think Jesus would be all for. It seems in the RRF, the poor are leeches when they don’t work and assholes when they do.
- Suppression of women’s rights. Why is it ok for AIG or Goldman Sachs or the Koch brothers’ mining companies to do anything they want, but a woman can’t make a free choice about her body? What kind of values are these? Was there a beatitude about worshipping money and lobbyists that I missed in the Good Book?
- Fear of gays. Why on earth does RRF insist it’s some kind of choice? (“Oh, I’d love to endure a persecuted lifestyle with half the rights of my fellow citizens!”) Is this because *they* struggle with it as a choice, because I’m pretty sure that’s not how it works for people who grow up knowing they’re gay? RRF acts like gays are on a perpetual recruitment drive – talk about the pot calling the kettle black! – when the last time I checked, every single gay is the result of a heterosexual union and upbringing. So what causes what?
- Ready to bomb anyone we can’t bother to figure out. I’m sure that’s exactly what Jesus would do, while never raising taxes on the super-rich to help pay for any of the wars the poor go to die in. The same Jesus who’d cut benefits for the veterans who fought the wars.

I think you get my drift. There is no sign of Christ anywhere in the RRF, just revolting fear mongering and demonizing. What ought to be the true values of the “Christian” Right are violated every day by the scoundrels who lead them, yet no religious leaders stand up and cry, “Foul!” Could it be because the GOP’s alliance with right-wing religion is mutually beneficial? A cowed and stupid electorate makes for a cowed and stupid congregation. Just as Jesus would have wanted it.

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