Imagine a Principled Stand

November 1, 2018

Following the recent horrific events, the nation seems more polarized and locked-in than ever. Those who oppose the president blame him — and his bellicose rhetoric — for contributing to the tragedies. And those who support President Donald Trump point to the contentious words of his opponents as part of the problem. While there is no place for false equivalency, how do we get beyond this unproductive and unhealthy state of affairs?

Imagine if the leaders of both political parties invited Trump to a prime-time television joint appearance to announce:

"We stand here today not as Republicans and Democrats but as Americans. Rather than continuing finger-pointing and blame, we are united in the conviction that there is no room in this country for bigotry, racism, anti-Semitism — or any form of hateful and extremist rhetoric. Such rhetoric runs contrary to our standards of decency and threatens our democracy. From this day forward, we pledge to tone down our political discourse, creating an atmosphere of civil deliberation. In addition, tonight we declare forcefully and unequivocally that none of us welcomes — nor will we accept — the support of any extremist group who traffics in hatred against Jews, blacks, Muslims, or any other group of Americans. If you do not believe we have kept this promise, it is your duty to vote for those who will."

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