

# Religious LEFT, Religious RIGHT & CHRISTIAN POLITICAL WITNESS

with **MARK TOOLEY**

*President, Institute on Religion and Democracy*

The old Religious Left, rooted in groups like the National Council of Churches, has imploded. And much of the old Religious Right leadership has left the scene. Meanwhile, many evangelical elites are shifting left. Conservative evangelicals increasingly align with conservative Catholics. Some are calling for Christians to step back from political engagement. What is the future for the political witness of America's churches and Christians? To what extent should churches address political specifics? How or to what extent can individual Christians apply their faith politically?



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Mark Tooley is president of the Institute on Religion & Democracy, an ecumenical Christian thinktank in Washington, DC founded in 1981 to reform the political witness of America's churches. He previously worked for the CIA. Tooley has written for the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Weekly Standard, American Spectator, First Things

and other publications on the churches' political witness on national security, Islam, the federal budget, environmentalism, religious liberty, marriage, and abortion, among other issues. He is the author of *Methodism & Politics in the 20th Century* (2012) and *Taking Back the United Methodist Church* (2008). He is currently writing a book on religion in Washington, DC on the advent of the Civil War.

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