

Christian Nationalism: What Your Pastor Wants You to Know

January 2024

Resource Guide

Helpful, brief overviews of key topics.

- Paul D. Miller. "What is Christian Nationalism?" *Christianity Today*. February 3, 2021. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/february-web-only/what-is-christian-nationalism.html>
- Steven Grosby. *Nationalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cas Mudde and Cristobal Rovira Kaltwasser. *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

A profound Christian critique of various political ideologies, including nationalism:

- David T. Koyzis, *Political Visions and Illusions: A Survey and Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies*. Second edition.

Careful polling and analysis of U.S. attitudes related to Christian Nationalism:

- Gregory A. Smith, Michael Rotolo, and Patricia Tevington. "45% of Americans Say U.S. Should Be a 'Christian Nation.'" Pew Research Center. October 27, 2022. Full report: https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2022/10/PF_2022.10.27_christian-nationalism_REPORT.pdf For a shorter summary article: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/10/27/45-of-americans-say-u-s-should-be-a-christian-nation/>

Less careful analysis alongside much that is helpful:

- Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry. *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*. [Tends to define Christian Nationalism so broadly that it includes some aspects of historic, orthodox views of Christian involvement in politics.]
- Pamela Cooper-White. *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism: Why People Are Drawn In and How to Talk Across the Divide*. Minneapolis: Fortress. [Tends to conflate Christian Nationalism with many other problems and issues so that it becomes less useful as a category and risks becoming an "us vs. them" label.]

Christian critiques of Christian Nationalism:

- "Christian Nationalism: Heresy or Hype?" The Gospel Coalition. Podcast. May 11, 2021. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/gospelbound/christian-nationalism-heresy-or-hype/>
- Michael Horton. "Why America Is Not a Christian Nation." The Gospel Coalition Talks. [Date unknown.] <https://www.gnli.com/videos/Michael-Horton-or-Why-America-Is-Not-a-Christian-Nation-or-TGC-Talks/11741>

A Christian advocating for a "soft" form of nationalism:

- Tom Ascol. *The Perils and Promises of Christian Nationalism*. [Ascol argues against extreme forms of Christian Nationalism ("perils"), while concluding that the American people and government should advocate for Christian values. I am not convinced that the way he expresses this is healthy, as it seems to assume that even people who don't

understand or embrace Christian values should seek to “defend, sustain, and cultivate” them.]

(Slightly) Differing Christian perspectives on nationalism v. healthy patriotism:

- Thomas Kidd. “Christian Nationalism vs. Christian Patriotism.” The Gospel Coalition. December 18, 2020. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christian-nationalism-patriotism/>
- Justin Taylor. “Come, Desire of Nations: Christian Nationalism Between the Two Advents.” The Gospel Coalition. December 22, 2020. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/evangelical-history/come-desire-of-nations-christian-nationalism-between-the-two-advents/> [Taylor re-posts a response to Kidd by Brad Littlejohn.]

Thoughtful reflections on patriotism and Christian engagement with politics:

- Richard J. Mouw. *How to Be A Patriotic Christian: Love Country As Love of Neighbor*.

Articles capturing shifts in/expressing concerns about how language and labels are used

- Ruth Graham and Charles Homans. “Trump Is Connecting With a Different Type of Evangelical Voter.” *New York Times*. January 8, 2024.
- Andrew T. Walker, “Look out—they’re coming!” *World*. January 9, 2024. <https://wng.org/opinions/look-out-theyre-coming-1704802870>

Biblical perspectives on Christian political engagement in a secular cultural context

- Francis Schaeffer. *A Christian Manifesto*. The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer, Volume 5. Crossway. [Note that some people have misused or misinterpreted Schaeffer’s positions, usually lifting a few statements out of their context. The book as a whole takes a clear stance against nationalism, even as it advocates for proper critique of secular humanism and representation of Christian perspectives in political/legal/judicial contexts.]
- Nancy Pearcey. *Total Truth. Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*. Crossway. [See especially chapter 10, “When America Met Christianity—Guess Who Won?,” and Appendix 1, “How American Politics Became Secularized.” The historical and cultural analysis in Chapter 10 helps to explain why many who see themselves as ‘evangelical Christians’ today lean toward populist conceptions of social and political life. Similarly, in chapter 11 she helps us see why ‘religion’ has been relegated to the private world of the individual.]

A practical, non-partisan guide to preparing our hearts and minds for voting:

- David Platt. *Before You Vote: Seven Christians Every Christian Should Ask*. [This is an excellent resource that gives deep attention to spiritual dynamics—where is our ultimate trust? are we concerned for the good of our neighbors as well as our own?—and practical political realities. It acknowledges that while there may be one clear Christian perspective on a moral issue, this does not always equal clarity on the best political strategy relative to that moral issue. It thus argues for unity among Christians who share deep agreements yet vote differently. The book could be improved by the addition of an 8th question: “Who is responsible for what?,” with reflection on the responsibility of God’s people in promoting the good of society vs. the responsibility of the government.]