

Culture  **Christianity**



Intown
Community
Church



Christian Nationalism

What Your Pastor Wants You to Know

Week 1



Reflection Questions

- Why...?
- Who...?
- What...?
- Where...?



Your Pastor Wants You to Know

- How to Experience Gospel Peace
- How to Grow in Gospel Wisdom
- How to Build Gospel Bridges



**Tourists visit.
Missionaries invest.**

**Tourists critique.
Missionaries love and serve.**

**Tourists have an itinerary.
Missionaries have a calling.**



Gospel Wisdom Know What Christian Nationalism Is



REPORT | OCTOBER 27, 2022



45% of Americans Say U.S. Should Be a ‘Christian Nation’

But they hold differing opinions about what that phrase means, and two-thirds of U.S. adults say churches should keep out of politics

BY GREGORY A. SMITH, MICHAEL ROTOLO AND PATRICIA TEVINGTON

**REPORT MATERIALS** [Topline Questionnaire](#) [Complete Report PDF](#)

In their own words: How Americans describe ‘Christian nationalism’

TABLE OF CONTENTS**45% of Americans Say U.S. Should Be a ‘Christian Nation’**

Views about how major parties, Biden administration approach religion

Partisanship, religion and views of U.S. as ‘Christian nation’

1. Religion in public life
2. Religion and the Supreme Court
3. Views of the U.S. as a ‘Christian nation’ and opinions about ‘Christian nationalism’

[Acknowledgments](#)[Methodology](#)**RELATED**



Christian Nationalism: U.S.

Fit a “broad definition” of Christian nationalism:

- 45% of Americans
- 65% of Black Protestants
- Over 50% of “non-evangelical” white Protestants
- About 1/3 of Hispanic Catholics

Have heard “nothing at all” about it:

- 50%



Popular Perception

“White dudes who are scared to lose power to women and minorities hiding behind a Bible **they don't even believe in** to retain power.”

- Largest group with favorable view: 10%
- Second largest: 9%

Pew Research Center
Survey Participant



Matthew McCullough

“...an understanding of American identity and significance held **by Christians** wherein the nation is a **central** actor in the world-historical purposes of the Christian God.”

The Cross of War: Christian Nationalism and U.S. Expansion in the Spanish-American War



Pamela Cooper-White

“The **identification** of a country with a historically dominant ethnic, cultural and/or religious group and a **fierce loyalty** to protecting that national identity.”

*The Psychology of Christian Nationalism:
Why People Are Drawn In
and How to Talk Across the Divide*



Steven Grosby

“...belief that the nation is the only goal worthy of pursuit...the nation demands unquestioned and uncompromising loyalty. [This leads to the attempt] to eliminate all differing views and interests for the sake of one vision of what the nation has been and should be.”

Nationalism: A Very Short Introduction



Nationalism: Positive Factors

- understands **positive value** of ‘communal solidarity’ arising from shared citizenship/ethnicity (Koyzis)
- **corrective** to hyper-individualism



Nationalism: Core Traits

- **Nostalgia:** return to a time when group “like us” had cultural/political influence
- **Threat response:** this nation/group embodies values/traditions that are under attack
- **Ultimate evil:** “being ruled by someone unlike oneself” (Koyzis)



Christian Nationalism: Two Forms

- using Christianity as a **marker** of national/ethnic **identity** to distinguish ‘insiders’ from ‘outsiders’
- using **explicit** theological statements as a **justification** for aggression/authoritarianism



Steven Grosby

“...belief that the nation is the instrument of God and the home of his people, so that it becomes the only goal worthy of pursuit.... God’s vision for the nation, as defined by ‘true believers,’ demands unquestioned and uncompromising loyalty. [This leads] to the attempt] to eliminate all differing views and interests for the sake of one vision of what the nation has been and should be.”

Modified to add components specific to Christian Nationalism



Christian Nationalism: Errors

- **Substitution:** State for Church
 - Promises for God's People=for Nation
- **Confusion:**
 - The Nation's Ways=God's Ways
 - The Nation's Heroes=God's Heroes
 - Duty to Nation=Duty to God



Christian Nationalism: Core Error

- “...Christianity exists to build a social order in step with a national or ethnic identity.”

Russell Moore
“Christian Nationalism
Cannot Save the World”



Christian Nationalism: Core Error

“Christian nationalism is a kind of Great Commission in reverse—in which the nations seek to make disciples of themselves, using Jesus’ authority to baptize their national identity....”

Russell Moore

“Christian Nationalism
Cannot Save the World”



Christian Nationalism: Core Error

“...patriotic loyalty must not be identified with Christianity. As Christians we are responsible, under the Lordship of Christ in all of life, to carry the Christian principles into our relationship to the state. But we must not make our country and Christianity to be synonymous.”

Francis Schaeffer

The Church and the End of the Twentieth Century



Your Pastor Wants You to Know

- That Christian Nationalism is not Christian
- Because it makes a god of the nation, or of the group that=the 'true/pure' nation



Your Pastor Wants You to Know

- That Christian Nationalism is not Christian
- Because it leaves no room for “overlapping claims” on our loyalty



Gospel Peace

Know What Jesus Says



He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened....”

Luke 21:8-9



Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.they will seize you and persecute you.... and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me.

Luke 21:10-13



“You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish.”

Luke 21:16-18



Gospel Bridges

Know People Who Don't Believe What You Do