



Christian Nationalism

What Your Pastor Wants You to Know
Week 2



Your Pastor Wants You to Know

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



Gospel Peace

Know What Jesus Says



Luke 21:9-18

“...do not be frightened....Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And so you will bear testimony to me....and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish.” Luke 21:9-18



Gospel Wisdom Know What Christian Nationalism Is



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



Your Pastor Wants You to Know

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



Christian* Nationalism: Core Traits

- **Threat response:** Xnity* embodies **national** values/traditions that are under attack
- **Identity:** Xnity* is a marker of 'true' America; it exists to **promote national identity**
- **Primacy:** Xns*/Xn* perspectives **assumed to have primacy of place** in public discourse
- **Nostalgia:** **return to a time** when Xnity* had cultural/political influence



Healthier Christian Alternatives

- **Changing context:** Xnity embodies biblical truths that are in conflict with current cultural values and trajectories
- **History v. identity:** Xnity has flourished in America, and a 'Christian consensus' has been foundational for much of its history; but these are not essential to Christian identity
- **Parity:** Xns/Xn perspectives have a rightful place in public discourse alongside others/their perspectives; patient persuasion is required
- **Mission:** desire to be faithful in our time and place



Gospel Bridges

Know People Who Don't Believe What You Do



What if...?

- You think there are **no transcendent values**?
- You think religious truth claims ought to be **strictly private**?
- The **only framework** you have for living out your Christian faith is being turned **upside-down**?
- You have **no place** to take your fear?



Questions to ask

- It sounds like you're deeply concerned. **What are you afraid of?**
- I'd like to know more, if you don't mind. **Why does that make you afraid?**
- Do you have **a place to take that fear?**



Questions to ask

- Sometime in the **next 3 months**, can I have an awkward conversation about politics with someone that leads to a **deeper conversation about Jesus**?



Gospel Wisdom Know About Some Troubling Trends



Trend #1: Unhealthy Assumptions

- “Everything that is called Christian really is Christian.”
- “Everything that is called Christian nationalism really is Christian nationalism.”

A Quick Survey

Point values:

- 4: Strongly agree
- 3: Agree
- 2: Undecided
- 1: Disagree
- 0: Strongly disagree

A Quick Survey

1. The federal government should declare the United States a Christian nation.
2. The federal government should advocate Christian values.
3. The federal government should enforce strict separation of church and state.

Point values:

- 4: Strongly agree
- 3: Agree
- 2: Undecided
- 1: Disagree
- 0: Strongly disagree

A Quick Survey

4. The federal government should allow the display of religious symbols in public spaces.
5. The success of the United States is part of God's plan.
6. The federal government should allow prayer in public schools.

Point values:

- 4: Strongly agree
- 3: Agree
- 2: Undecided
- 1: Disagree
- 0: Strongly disagree

A Quick Survey

TAKING AMERICA BACK FOR GOD



*CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
IN THE UNITED STATES*

Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry

Top 5 Predictors

1. Identifying with Political Conservatism
2. Identify as 'Bible-Believing'
3. Bible is the literal word of God
4. Bible is perfectly true, though not literally interpreted
5. [NOT identifying as] Religiously Unaffiliated



Trend #2: Overgeneralization

- Defining Christian nationalism so broadly that it includes historic Christian understandings of cultural and political engagement
- “Guilt by association”