

# 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](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>

(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.]

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.]