

Christian Nationalism: Theology Pub 8/20/19

Christian Nationalism: *the merging Christian and American identities. Christian Nationalists believe Christians have been called by God to create a Christian nation.*

1. Consider this quote: “Christians have a holy responsibility to reclaim the land for Jesus Christ — to have dominion in civil structures ... It is dominion we are after. Not just influence.” -- George Grant

- **Why might this view be appealing to some?**
- **Why might others find this view concerning?**

2. Speaking to outsiders, most Christian nationalists say they're simply responding to anti-Christian persecution. They say that secularism is itself a religion, one unfairly imposed on them. **Thoughts?**

3. According to researchers (Whitehead et. al.) “the single most accurate predictor of whether a person voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election was not religion, wealth, education, or even political party; it was believing the United States is and should be a Christian nation.” **Does this surprise you? Discuss.**

4. How can one explain a thrice-wed, dirty-talking, sex-scandal-plagued businessman winning (as expressed in voter and approval ratings) the support of America’s so-called “values voters”?

- **Are these folks hypocrites?**
- **Were they fooled by a campaign narrative that depicted Trump as privately devoted to Christ?**
- **Consider this view:** “Christian nationalism draws its roots from ‘Old Testament’ parallels between America and Israel, who was commanded to maintain cultural and blood purity, often through war, conquest, and separatism. Thus, the more vicious the leader, the better. The moral restraints of the deeply pious are the last thing you want for the job.”

<https://www.salon.com/2018/04/01/donald-trump-defender-of-christian-america-its-not-as-ludicrous-as-it-sounds/>

5. The power of the presidency isn’t the only way Christian nationalism is advancing its agenda. A coalition of Christian right groups have organized a major legislative initiative called “Project Blitz.” Its goal is to pass a package of Christian-right bills at the state level. These bills range from requiring public schools to display the national motto “In God We Trust”; to legalizing discrimination against LGBTQ people; to religious exemptions regarding women’s reproductive health.

- **What would be the cumulative impact of these bills?**
- **What can be done in response?**

6. In his book [The Founding Myth](#), Andrew Seidel writes that one Christian nationalist myth we have failed to guard against is that America was founded as a Christian nation. He notes this statement from the Treaty of Tripoli which was signed by Pres. John Adams with the unanimous consent of the US Senate in 1797: “the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion. **What are the perils of not knowing history?**

7. Recently a group of Christian organizations came together to take a stand against Christian nationalism. A statement was written which included: “As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.” **Thoughts? Good first step?**

See Christians Against Christian Nationalism and the entire statement here:

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/>