



CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

What is Christian Nationalism?

Christian Nationalism is the conflating of religious authority with political authority. Christian Nationalism uses Christian identity (words, symbols, or rituals) as a means to shore up a national identity. At its heart is the belief that our country is - or should be - defined by Christianity... And that God somehow chooses our one particular country, ordains its leaders, or stands on the side of its laws and military.

Is it wrong to love my country?

Nationalism is different from patriotism. Patriotism is a love of one's country stemming from the ideals and values of that country (for example: how our nation cares for others, particularly those in need). In comparison, nationalism is the belief that one's country and its people are superior to others. Patriotism can be a Christian virtue if our nation's ideals center around the love of neighbor. But nationalism - believing in the inherent superiority of one nation over another - is idolatry. Nationalism ignores the beloved-ness of all peoples, and the equality of all nations before God.

Why is it antisemitic and racist?

The very premise of a "Christian nation" is antisemitic. Defining a nation by a single faith tradition leads to discrimination, and even violence, against religious minorities and the non-religious. The recent rise in Christian Nationalism helped fuel a 36% increase in antisemitic hate crimes in 2022 alone. Additionally, Christian Nationalism is nativist, embracing (White) "native-born citizens" over (Black and Brown) immigrants. The erroneous claim that the United States was founded as a "Christian nation" frequently overlaps with beliefs that the country should be Euro-centric. White supremacist ideologies fit neatly within the Christian Nationalist framework, providing cover for - and even fueling - racism.

How does it corrupt our faith?

Conflating God and country is idolatrous and un-Biblical. Any citizen who places their devotion to Christ on the same level as allegiance to country is guilty of idolatry. God chooses people; not countries, governments, militaries, or political parties. As Christians, we believe we are saved by Christ; not as a result of our national identity or where we live. We are beloved not because of our citizenship, but rather because of who God is. Christian Nationalism feeds the sins of racism and antisemitism, preventing us from truly loving our neighbors. Christian Nationalism is contradictory to Christ's own teachings. Jesus sent his followers on a mission to recruit more disciples, not to promote or expand the borders of any earthly nation. National boundaries disappear when it comes to being part of the people of God (Acts 10:34-35).

Resources:

Christians Against Christian Nationalism: <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/>

