

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 37: God, country, and Christian nationalism

Topic introduction

Christian nationalism and the ideas surrounding it seem to bubble up often in news and editorial articles. But what exactly does it mean? And what does godly perspective and action look like surrounding these ideas?

Key terms: nationalism, Christian nationalism, secular, secularism, secularization, progressivism, patriotism, white supremacy, theonomy, theocracy

Discussion questions

Where have you seen themes of Christian nationalism around you in culture, in the news, in the church? What fringe ideas cause confusion about this term? What is a helpful working **definition** for this term for you in your conversations with your kids or students?

Where have you seen national symbols featured alongside of those of Christianity? How do these themes or symbols affect you emotionally? Where have you taken them for granted?

What **circumstances** do you bring into this conversation? What has formed your thinking?

What impact have these themes had on your relationships (where do emotions run high in your community)? What have you experienced of other people in your community regarding this idea of Christian nationalism?

How might others respond to the symbols of our nation conflated with those of Christianity? Consider the impact of Christian witness locally, nationally, globally.

What makes Christian nationalism attractive in the current season of our cultural life as Americans? What legitimate grievances can you name that may stir an individual or a group to buy into Christian nationalism?

Comparison/contrast: How does the idea of Christian nationalism align with the reality of our republic? Of the Christian church? Why is the idea of Christian nationalism neither a good fit for our nation nor really even a Christian idea at all?

Relationship: What do we learn (from what scripture within what historical context) about how Christians are to live within an earthly kingdom/nation? What other examples from history *have* influenced our idea of Christian nationalism? What is scripture's correction to these expressions?

Authority: What should our thinking be about how culture is shaped by Christianity? Does it need to be from a position of authority?

Analyze and respond to the idea of the “Christian Prince” from Stephen Wolfe’s work *The Case for Christian Nationalism*. What is attractive about the idea? Where is this idea misplaced (according to a biblical understanding of authority and the church’s calling and expression in the world)? What has the Lord called us to in this time of the “already but not yet”?

Ask yourself: “What does servant-leadership look like for me as a parent, teacher, or mentor of children?”

Questions to ask your kids and students

What might it look like to engage in a Christ-like way in the world? Where do we see His example in scripture? What do we notice about it? What does strength look like in Christ? Where can we seek to engage in such servant-leadership in our community? Nation? The world?

Scriptural anchors/provision

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” — John 18:36

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. — from Hebrews 11

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” — from Revelation 21

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