

Christianity and American Nationalism

(It's Idolatry and It's Dangerous)

The Resources Used In This Presentation Include

- ✚ Michelle Goldberg: "What is Christian Nationalism?"
- ✚ Kyle Roberts: "When Churches Conflate Christianity and Nationalism (10 Consequences)"
- ✚ Benjamin L. Corey: "Why American Christians Get So Angry When You Question Nationalism"
- ✚ Ryan Hamm: "Patriotism and Christianity"
- ✚ Griffin Jackson: "Is an America-First Doctrine Actually Biblical?"
- ✚ Norman Horn: "Christians Cannot Be Nationalists"
- ✚ Kurt Willems: "You Might Be A Nationalist If...."
- ✚ GotQuestions.org: "Should A Christian Be Patriotic?"
- ✚ Got Questions.org: "What Does The Bible Say About Ethnocentrism?"
- ✚ John Pavovitz: "Christian Nationalism and Other Heresies"
- ✚ Bruce Ashford: "Can a Faithful Evangelical Be a Political Nationalist?"
- ✚ John D. Wilsey: American Exceptionalism and Civil Religion.
- ✚ Brene Brown. Braving The Wilderness.

1. What's the Difference Between Patriotism and Nationalism?

The dictionary defines nationalism as "a sense of national consciousness _____ one nation _____ all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as _____ to those of other nations".

Patriotism can be defined simply as _____ of country—

2. What Does The Bible Say About Ethnocentrism?

Ethnocentrism is the belief that a particular race or ethnic group is _____ to all others and all other races and ethnic groups are to be subjectively _____ in relation to that race or ethnic group.

Simply put, ethnocentrism is another name for _____.

3. Is America Exceptional?

4. What's the Problem with Conflating Nationalism With Christianity?

- ✓ **Contributes to _____ assumptions of God's special blessing or privilege**
- ✓ **Confuses the _____ of God with the power of the State**
- ✓ **Confuses the gospel of _____ with the "good news" of material wealth and _____**
- ✓ **Undermines the _____ of church and state**
- ✓ **Undercuts the _____ power that Christianity needs in order to be salt and light**
- ✓ **Makes us forget that nation-states are a _____ development**
- ✓ **Undermines the _____**
- ✓ **Replaces transcendence with _____**
- ✓ **Disrespects those who have been _____ by the configuration of powers in the nation-state**
- ✓ **Suggests that the basis of Christian hope is not the counter-cultural _____, but the "worldly" powers of the _____.**

5. How Did Jesus Handle Patriotism?

He didn't _____ his country or wish _____ upon it—

It's not a nationalistic patriotism—it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it _____ other nations.

Instead, **it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of _____.**

In other words, true, good patriotism lies in the ability to judge one's nation in its _____ and its _____. (Hamm)

6. What Does The Bible Say About Where We "Pledge Allegiance"?

In America, we've often _____ the Kingdom Jesus spoke so often about with our own _____ – thinking that God established _____, instead of remembering that he came to establish a Kingdom that was "_____ of this world", to quote Jesus.

Yes, we can (and should) be _____ for where we live and all that we have.

However, we must not forget that scripture calls us "_____" and "exiles".

Perhaps the most important distinction to be made by Christians is that our _____ love must be the kingdom of God, over and above any love of country, no matter how pure and honorable that love might be.

In *The Four Loves*, C. S. Lewis puts the matter quite succinctly. He notes that **love of country** "becomes a _____ when it becomes a _____."

But Jesus also died for people of _____ nations—putting his own nation's interests below the needs of _____ person.

7. What Conclusions Can We Move Toward Together?

First, we can be _____.

Second, we can be _____-minded.

Third, we can be _____ citizens.

Fourth, we can Love Our Country With A _____ Eye, Not An Automatic _____.

As Lesslie Newbigin wrote, ***"It is good to love and serve the nation in which God has set us; we need _____, not _____ true patriotism.***

But to give _____ commitment to the nation is to go into bondage. Family and kinship are precious gifts to be loved and cherished, but _____ is a corruption of what is good."

Yet, our yes is _____; not only should we love our nation enough to admire and preserve the _____ in it, but also enough to _____ and stand guard against that which is _____, evil, and uncivil.

The primary challenge for our nation is not to make America _____ but to make her _____.