

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_.**