TWO KINGDOMS ONE CALLING

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

OCTOBER 4, 11, 18 • NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15 • 10:15 AM

WEEK 4 · CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

A WORD AT THE START *This study is not intended to elevate one party or political system above another, or to endorse or encourage any particular policy or candidate for office. Its purpose is to help us navigate our calling to be both Christians and citizens in a divided world.*

BIG QUESTION

How does Christian nationalism confuse God's two hands, and why does that confusion threaten our faith and our neighbors?

LAST WEEK: TWO CONFUSIONS

The church reaches for _____ to accomplish God's work.

The nation reaches for _____ to legitimize its power.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM?

Christian nationalism confuses Christian _____ with national _____

and political _____.

It asks government to defend _____

as central to who we are as a nation and who belongs in it. It says a "real" American must be that kind of Christian.

What it is NOT: _____

▶ **VIDEO**

"What is Christian nationalism?" · Amanda Tyler, Baptist Joint Committee · about 3 minutes

As you watch: *What distinction stands out?*

WHEN THE TWO HANDS GET CONFUSED

	CHRISTIANITY / FAITHFUL CIVIC LIFE	CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
Where does our identity come from?		
What authority does the nation claim?		
What is government's power used for?		
What do our symbols communicate?		
Who belongs?		
What happens to those who disagree?		

BIBLICAL STUDY

Exodus 20:2–3

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me."

CONTEXT

_____

WHAT THIS TELLS US

_____

Galatians 3:26–28

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

CONTEXT

_____

WHAT THIS TELLS US

_____

Matthew 5:43–46

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. . .; for (your Father) makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?

CONTEXT

_____

WHAT THIS TELLS US

_____

WAS AMERICA FOUNDED AS A CHRISTIAN NATION?

Christianity has influenced American history, but the United States was not constitutionally established as a Christian nation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Government exercises earthly authority; it does not receive a divine mandate from the Constitution. Calling the nation or its founding divinely inspired gives earthly authority a sacred status it does not claim.

WHY IS CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM A THREAT?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



The concern reaches beyond a state church. It affects how neighbors are treated and how the Gospel is heard. In two-hands terms, civil authority exists to protect neighbors, not to rank them by faith or race. The church proclaims Christ; it does not use coercion to decide who belongs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, what did you hear about America and God, at home, in school, or in church? How has it stayed with you, or changed?
2. Have you ever felt like an outsider because of your faith, background, or opinions, or noticed someone else being treated that way? What did it feel like?
3. When have you personally felt a conflict between God's right-hand rule (grace and the Gospel) and left-hand rule (law, order, and duty) in your own life?

TAKEAWAY

Christian nationalism confuses the two hands of God's reign: it makes the nation a church and a god. We belong to Christ by faith, not by citizenship. God alone is Lord of both church and nation.