TWO KINGDOMS ONE CALLING

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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

WEEK 5 · CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, PART 2

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 threaten the church and our neighbors—and what does Jesus reveal about God's reign?

LAST WEEK: THE CONFUSION

Christian nationalism confuses the two hands: the nation claims _____,

while the church reaches for _____.

We belong to Christ by _____, not by _____.

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. _____

BIBLICAL STUDY

Luke 4:18–21

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [Isaiah 61:2 goes on: "and the day of vengeance of our God." Jesus stops before these words.] And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

CONTEXT

_____

WHAT THIS TELLS US

_____

Luke 4:25–27

"But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

CONTEXT

_____

WHAT THIS TELLS US

_____

Luke 4:28–30

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

CONTEXT

_____

WHAT THIS TELLS US

_____



GOD'S TWO HANDS — ONE CALLING

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

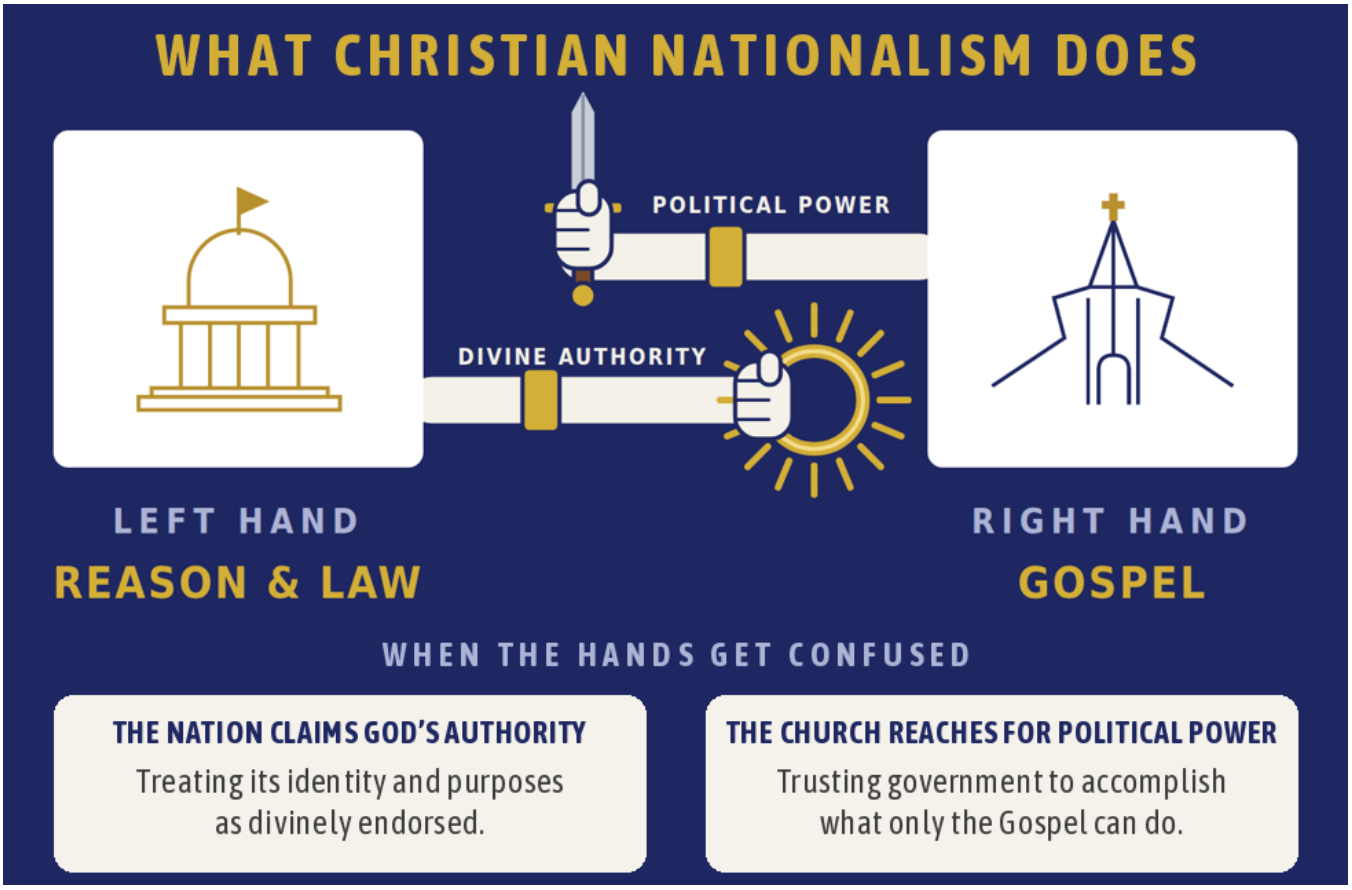
WHY CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM THREATENS THE NATION AND THE CHURCH

A threat to the nation

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A greater threat to the church and the Gospel

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



WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

WHAT YOU MIGHT HEAR	THE CONFUSION	QUESTION TO ASK
IN THE WORLD **"America is God's chosen nation."**		
IN THE WORLD **"God chose this leader. Opposing him/her means opposing God."**		
IN THE WORLD **"Those people are destroying our Christian nation."**		
IN CHURCH **"We need to take back the country for Christ."**		
IN CHURCH **"No real Christian could vote that way."**		
IN CHURCH **"The church needs political power to save Christianity."**		

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. 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?
2. If the church or Christianity itself could be "lost" in an election, what did we think the church was? Where does our hope really rest?
3. How might the grace we receive in Christ shape the way we exercise our responsibilities as citizens?

TAKEAWAY Christian nationalism gives the nation a claim to divine authority and tempts the church to seek political power. Jesus announces and embodies another way: God's grace reaches outsiders, and Christ sends us to serve our neighbors with welcome, justice, and mercy