



Christian Nationalism

January 2023

Description: Is the United States a Christian nation? How do you feel about Christian Nationalism?

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

(1) Getting acquainted and comfortable

5 - 10 min.

Welcome

- Thank you for coming...
- We are a part of The Great Reset, which was born out of a shift we're seeing in our country. We have been in a place where we don't tend to speak 'beyond our bubbles' and across perspectives. The Great Reset has been opening up a grey space for such conversations since 2018. You are now part of keeping the conversation going and we thank you.

The Pillars of The Great Reset

- To share our own thoughts and perspectives with humility
- To learn from others and listen with respect

Ground Rules

- Every comment is valid and deserving of respect
- We show respect by speaking one at a time, putting our phones on silent and staying engaged, even when we are not speaking
- In the interest of time, I may cut in to ask you to 'top-line' something if we need to move on. This means simply offer up a synopsis of your thoughts and speak in bullets, not paragraphs

Confidentiality

I would like a verbal from everyone that you are here of your own volition and out of respect for one another I would ask you to keep what others say in this room unless they give you permission otherwise. (go around and get verbal agreement). Further, you agree to adhere to the principles outlined already: to deliver your perspectives bound to the principles of respect, to **listen with humility and offer grace to others who are sharing this space.**

Personal Introductions

Please share your name, where you live, what religion are you and how often do you attend religious services.

*****Remind everyone we're recording but we won't use any clips without their approval*****



(2) The United States as a Christian nation

25 – 35 min.

- Is the US a Christian nation, and why or why not?
- Was the US founded as a Christian nation, and why or why not?
- When someone says the US is or should be a Christian nation, how does that make you feel ... optimistic and hopeful, or pessimistic and worried, or is it unimportant?
- How does declaring the US to be a Christian nation align or conflict with the First Amendment and freedom of religion, especially the Establishment Clause (Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion)?
- If Christianity is made the official religion of the US, what does that mean for Americans of other faiths (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist) or who are agnostic or atheist? Should non-Christians in the US be worried about this, and why or why not?

(3) What is Christian Nationalism

25 - 35 min.

- How would you define or describe Christian Nationalism?
- Is Christian Nationalism becoming more or less popular in the US, and why do you feel that way? Probe for opinions about Christians being persecuted in the US.
- How do you feel about Christian Nationalism becoming more popular in the US? Does it make you feel optimistic and hopeful, or pessimistic and worried? What makes you feel hopeful or worried?
- Pew Research reports that the percent of affiliated Christians in the US declined from 90% in 1972 to 64% in 2020, and further projected to decline to perhaps less than 50% by 2070. There is a corresponding increase in agnostic or atheist from just 5% in 1970 to 30% in 2020 to a projected 50% by 2070.
To what degree is the rising interest in Christian Nationalism connected to this decline in Christianity affiliation and a corresponding increase in agnostics and atheists?
- To what degree is the rising interest in Christian Nationalism connected to a return of American Puritanism and a backlash against changes in more acceptable or permissive sexual behavior?

(4) Closing comments

5 - 10 min.

- Any additional comments about Christian Nationalism or the US as a Christian nation?