

IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?

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Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

People will tell you: America is not a Christian nation, look how sinful it is. They will say The founding fathers weren't Christian, most of them were deist. There is a huge movement to degrade, slander, and misrepresent our founding fathers and the history of the united states. Paint them as racists and pagans.

There are pastors who'd say Christians should stay out of politics.

Politics - "polis" city. Politics ...the affairs of the city. Should the church be involved in the affairs of the city?

Absolutely.

In fact, America wouldn't exist if Christians had stayed out of politics.

30TH PRESIDENT Calvin Coolidge July 5, 1926 *"The principles...which went into the Declaration of Independence...are found in the sermons...of the early colonial clergy...In order that they might have freedom to express these thoughts and opportunity to put them into action, whole congregations with their pastors migrated to the colonies."*

Every Charter of American colonies was founded with different Christian denomination.



Virginia was anglican, Mass was Puritan, RI was baptist, New York was Dutch reformed, DE & NJ were Swedish Lutheran, Connecticut and NH were congregationalism, PA was Quaker - worked together against King of England.. Sometimes Christians who don't agree with each other totally have to work together against totalitarian dictators or we'll lose it all.

Henry 8th Catholic, King of England - 6 wives: divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. Because the Catholic Church wouldn't grant him a divorce he said, "ok, I'll start my own church." The Church of England was born

- Advisors told him: if you want to break away from Rome, you need an English bible.
- A few years earlier, he had William Tyndall burnt at stake for translating into English.
- "The Great Bible."
- First time people get to read Bible in own language, ppl actually read it, compare what's in bible to king killing his wives.

The Puritans wanted to purify church - Separatists wanted to separate - "we call them pilgrims."

- King persecuted them- only allowed Book of Common Prayers. No preaching w/out royal approval, gathering bible studies, arrested.
- Pilgrims flee to Holland and then America. 1620
- Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock, had a problem -"We have no leader appointed by court of the King"
- Give themselves authority to start a government.
- Mayflower compact -"We in ye presence of God, covenant ourselves together into a civil body politic ...to enact just and equal laws that shall be thought most meet..unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."
- Instead of top down from a King, established a government with bottom up rulership with power coming from the people.
- 1630 King didn't like : started to persecute the puritans, 20k Christians fled inland into New England



- Great Puritan Migration - puritans became powerful, only wanted puritans to be able to vote, But pastors like Rev Thomas Hooker said “any good Christian should be able to vote.”
- Different pastors started to flee to start towns throughout the northeast

Imagine if I get up at church on Sunday, and say “alright folks, show up with your wagons packed, we’re heading out to start a town where we can worship the way we want.”

- PIC: (Statue Thomas Hooker in Hartford holding a bible. Hartford, Connecticut)
- PIC: Plaque in England at St. Mary’s Church: Thomas Hooker : “Founder of the state of Connecticut 1636 “Father of American Democracy.”

How did he get this title?

- “Pastor, can you teach us how to set up a government?”
- "The foundation of authority is laid firstly in the free consent of the people " - Reverend Thomas Hooker 1638
- Instead of power coming top down from a King, the pastors were preaching power should flow from the people up through representative leaders.
- The state uses pastor Hooker’s sermon as the constitution for the government - 1639-1813

And you see the influence of Christianity in the very first moments of American government.

- “The people conjoin ourselves to be as one Public State or Commonwealth...to preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess.”
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut 1639
- People will try to argue that America isn’t a Christian nation, but it wouldn’t even exist without Christianity, def wouldn’t be great.



- Plaque in Hartford “ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF THOMAS HOOKER’S CONGREGATION ARRIVED SAFELY IN THIS VICINITY...TO BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY. HERE THEY ESTABLISHED THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT UPON WHICH THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES IS MODELED.
- Their church government became their community government.
- Instead of the separation of church and state, it was the church who created the state.
- AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE WE WERE FOUNDED ON THE VALUES OF OUR GREAT GOD
- The pastors who influenced the founding principles of our nation: preached equality because they believed in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Whereas king didn’t believe in equality.
- “We hold these truths to be self-evident. (Polite Jeffersonian way of saying “Any idiot ought to be able to understand this...”) “that all men are created equal, and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights... life, liberty, pursuit of happiness (notice life is listed first = liberty is of no value if you’re dead - Any politician that will take innocent life, will not hesitate to take your liberty.)

Throughout history, kings have tried to force religious belief from the top down. If you didn’t believe what they did, you were burned at the stake, beheaded, fed to wild animals.

- Colonial Pastors realized the Kingdom of God could never be forced from the top down, BUT if majority of people held godly values, and elected Representatives with godly values, then laws would be passed reflecting those values and the values of the Kingdom would come voluntarily percolating from the bottom up, not forced from the top down.



Today: Pastors / Christians will say “We can’t force our faith on people. You can’t legislate morality.”

True: You can’t force saving faith on people. Evangelism would be easier if we could force people to convert or die, but then we’d be Muslim, turns out we’re Christian.

They say that “We can force the conditions that are favorable to people finding saving faith in Jesus. We can choose not being lied to in public school and not being shamed for believing the Bible.”

“You can’t legislate morality”: FALSE. Absolutely not true. (Murder, stealing)

- Kings were burning people for being part of the wrong denomination. Founders knew The kingdom of God could not be forced from the government top down, Jesus never forced anyone to follow him. He actually said difficult things on purpose to force people to stop following him for the wrong reasons.
- We see the hand of God throughout the founding of America: Constitutional convention, the delegates were fighting and gettin nowhere, “We need to break for 3 days, time of prayer.”

“I will suggest, Mr. President... a chaplain to this Convention, whose duty it shall be uniformly to assemble with us, and introduce the business of each day by and address to the Creator of the universe, and the Governor of all nations, beseeching Him to preside in our council, enlighten our minds with a portion of heavenly wisdom, influence our hearts with a love of truth and justice, and crown our labors with complete and abundant success!...And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?”

- Benjamin Franklin, Constitutional Convention, 1787

- Did the founders get their ideas about God? Did God play a big role in the founding of the nation.?
- England Magna Carter, Roman Republic, but also The Bible.



- Hebrew was taught at Harvard and Yale, most esteemed universities were started as seminaries to train pastors.
- When Constitution was written, Needed to be ratified by 9 states go into effect. 8 states voted yes. NH was about to vote “no”

“The republic of the Israelites an Example to the American States...Instead of the 12 tribes of Israel, we may substitute the 13 states of the American Union and see this application plainly.”

- Samuel Langdon, Harvard Pres, to New Hampshire Constitutional Ratifying Convention 1788,

- After this address, NH ratifies...we get US constitution.
- Our US Constitution went into effect after a sermon. “The Republic of the Israelites an Example to the American States.”

- Samuel Langdon ends his address:

“The Israelites may be considered as a pattern to the world in all ages..of government..on republican principles. From abject slavery...a mere mob... to a well regulated nation, under... laws far superior to what any other nation could boast.”

- Israel were slaves, couldn’t read, got downloaded this form of government from GOD in the Bible.
- The Republic of the Israelites was the period of time covering the First 400 yrs before king Saul. First period in human history, millions of people, no king. - everyone equal.
- Worshiped the one true God - but No one forced to worship God.
- Private land ownership. Every family owned land. If you own land, your family can accumulate stuff “blessed.”
- If you own stuff, you can choose to give away some, “the Bible calls that “charity”



- Karl Marx 1848 - “communism can be summed up in one sentence: abolition of private property.”
- In ancient Israel, they taught the children the law. That’s the battleground still today. Deut 6:6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...”
- So, They didn’t need police. Everyone taught the law, everyone enforced the law.
- There was no standing army. Every man was in the militia, armed with a sword on his thigh, ready to protect wife, family, community.
- Israel had no prisons. In Israel, when someone committed a crime brought them to city gates, got the elders had a trial right there. Either innocent or guilty, kid guilty, pay a fine or get the death penalty.
- Israel had a Bureaucracy-free welfare system:
- In Egypt, famine: the government gave food in exchange for land/control over you.
- In Israel, left your corners/gleaners for the poor people to pick through... poor taken care of in a decentralized manner, instead of a politician collecting it all and handing it out for votes.
- Honest business: Proverbs 20:23 The Lord hates dishonest weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.
- Chose their own leaders of different villages and towns: Moses
- Deut 1:13 “Choose some well-respected men from each tribe who are known for their wisdom and understanding, and I will appoint them as your leaders.”
- They had a Republic and prospered with God as their king for generations, then they messed it up. They said, “We want a king.” God said, “Why do you want a King? A king will oppress you.” They said, “We want to be like the other nations.”
- Today, you’ve got a HUGE chunk of Americans don’t want to be a Christian nation. They want to be like the other nations.
- If you become godless like other nations, you get the problems of other nations.



- UK, Australia as have turned backs on God, lost freedoms and economic power.
- France is being overrun by Islam
- Godless cities like SF once prosperous, now crumbling and abandoned and crime riddled.

- Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.
- Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States (1892) Justice David J. Brewer declared that the United States is a “Christian nation.”
- What does God command us to do in order to be righteous? It starts with us! The Church. We can’t sit around complaining about how bad other people are until we clean up our lives/ families/ live righteously as a church body
- God gives commands to five groups: individuals, family, business, church, government.
- Individual - love your neighbor as yourself
- Family: Husbands love your lives, wives submit to your husbands, children, obey your parents.
- Business: do an honest days work, don’t hold back wages from workers
- Church commanded to preach the gospel, equip the saints, take care of poor: (hospital, orphans, widows)
- Government: shortest: protect innocent, punish guilty (no command about take care of poor, healthcare, education) Government usurped the church’s role.

PROSPERITY IS BIRTHED IN THE MORALITY THAT COMES FROM GOD KEYS

- Israel knew: there’s a God. He wants us to be just/ fair, if not, we’ll have to answer to him and he’ll punish. Otherwise you get

Everything that makes America great today is us living in the blessing of prosperity that was birthed in morality that comes from God.

- The value that we’re equal = comes from God.
- The value of protecting the innocent = comes from God



- The idea that if you work hard and do a good job, you can get ahead and improve your life = comes from God

- The idea that we should punish evildoers = comes from God.

- The idea that other people shouldn't be able to steal your stuff or your life = comes from God.

- The idea that people with means should help people who are poor voluntarily = not forced by a government = comes from God.

— All these ideas, people who aren't even Christians LOVE. They love these values. "Yah, that's the way things SHOULD BE." They benefit from the prosperity that was birthed in godly morality of our great great great grandparents, but they don't recognize the God who is responsible for blessing us.

— When you turn your back on God, abandon his ways, you abandon the peace, joy, hope that come from being under His covering of blessing and protection.

Ultimately, you turn your back on Jesus Christ, you walk away from the only door to heaven. Today what you have is people who reject Jesus/the word of God, but they want all the blessings that only come from obeying God.

At least half our population and about half our political leaders think they can create a more perfect Union while increasingly they rebel against the Creator of the Universe!

- Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...

- You can't get the blessing of God without God.

- You look at America, feel defeated, has God forsaken us...were asking the same question in Romans 11... "Has God rejected his people? By no means!"

Romans 11: 5 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.



— WHERE YOU HAVE A REMNANT, YOU HAVE POTENTIAL FOR REVIVAL —

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Pray for our kids, families, church. Pray for our nation. Leaders. Opportunities to preach the gospel.

