

“Should Christians unite the kingdom?” – Discussion Questions on Christian Nationalism

Feel free to choose the questions that you feel are most interesting or relevant for your group – there is no need to go through them all! One of the challenges of this topic is that there is no agreed definition of what Christian Nationalism is, and it can mean different things to different people. However, I think it basically has two elements – to some extent a fusing of national identity with Christian identity, and then some sort of structural representation of this in the state – very often with a desire to use the structures of the state to preserve or promote the Christian faith. This then has a relatively benign version (e.g. the Anglican church in the UK) but also a more recent populist version that promotes “white Britishness” at the expense of other religions, especially Islam, and is also staunchly anti-woke and anti-immigration. There may be some diversity of views in your group on these issues, while at the same time there are some things that we all need to agree on – e.g. that racism is always wrong for Christians.

1. In what ways have you encountered Christian Nationalism? What are some of your feelings about it?
2. Why do you think it might be important for us to think about this topic as a church?
3. In what ways should the following Bible passages help to shape our views about Christian Nationalism?
 - a. 1 Peter 2v9
 - b. Philippians 3v4b-11, 17-21
 - c. Romans 13v1-5, 1 Timothy 2v1-4
 - d. John 6v15, 18v36
4. Why is it important for Christians to support freedom of religion? What might be the consequences of not doing this?
5. How do you think Christian Nationalism differs from the right desires that a Christian may have to influence their country for good?
6. How might taking our primary identity from our nation or flag lead to actions or attitudes that are not right for the Christian? How far is it right for a Christian to take their identity from their country?
7. Thinking about the themes of repentance, weakness and diversity in Jesus’ kingdom, how might Jesus’ teaching in these areas challenge both those who identify as Christian Nationalists and those who don’t?
8. What opportunities for the gospel do you think Christian Nationalism might present? How might we pray in the light of this?