

What Would a U.S. Christian Nation Look Like?

By Steve Dustcircle

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The founding document of the United States of America acknowledges the Lordship of Jesus Christ because we are a Christian nation.

- Pat Robertson

There is nothing further from the truth. America is *not* a “Christian nation.” While a majority of Americans profess themselves to be Christians, many have no clue what Christianity actually teaches, let alone live the so-called Christian life.

While there are many aspects of Christian doctrine—and a variety of Christian practices—the house is still divided after 2,000 years of bickering, evolving, changing, growing, diluting, and dying off. The Christian churches cannot agree and settle on any firm theology except for a couple of unimportant doctrines, and probably never will. We see this with the formation of even newer Christian sects and cults: Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, non-denominations, et al.

The diversity of America's Christians are diverse, everything from fundamental theocrats to the nominal deist believer. About the only theology they agree on is something that simply isn't true: *America is NOT a Christian nation.*

Among other countries, America can be considered “blessed” in many areas. However, America also fails miserably in many facets. For example, America usually ranks #1, or very close to it, in poverty, homelessness, murder, rape, child abuse, prison population, obesity, suicide, and military action, just to name several. We do horrible things in this country to one another that would be considered anything but Jesus-like.

But what was Jesus like? The four Gospels that are considered part of the New Testament differ in some ways, as do the extra-biblical Gospels, and many scholars even doubt the authenticity of the stories within any or all of these multiple Gospels. Therefore, it's really hard to tell what Jesus was truly like, if he was an actual person who had lived 2,000 years ago.

Although the four Gospels differ and copy from each other, I assume there would be little argument if I said that Jesus was homeless, mystical, secretive, mysterious, wise, and maybe even peaceful. He told Peter to put away his sword when the guard's ear was cut off. He convinced the raging mob to leave alone the woman they tricked into adultery. He didn't fight back when he was captured and later beat.

We also see another side of Jesus, depending on which Gospel you read, and which story or addition you read. He ridiculed his family by saying his family were only those who did his bidding. He rebuked his mother for asking him to do a miracle at a wedding. He told his disciples that he came to bring a sword and not peace. He said that people who didn't bear fruit out of season deserved to wither. He accused the most religious and ritualistic for being sinful and sneaky. He stirred up trouble, and people killed him for it; whether it all or in part happened or not is still being debated even two millennium later.

But the four Gospels in the Bible are only a part of the

Christian doctrine. There are also letters by supposed apostles of Jesus, some being written before the Gospels were, and some being written up to 200 years after Jesus' crucifixion, long after all eye-witnesses have died.

Modern Christians' letters, tales, copying, and evangelism are about the only part of the nation that is remotely "Christian." We send Bibles overseas. We set up churches every other block in the city. We donate money to religious organizations. Our soup kitchens and out-reaches are almost always religiously-affiliated. Many a daycare is church-affiliated. We flaunt our religious side in this country, and are quickly-offended when our religious belief is challenged. Religion is very dear to a majority of America, be it Christian, Muslim or Other.

But there is a dark side to this religiosity in America. Americans are Islamophobic, mostly stemming from our ignorance of what Muslims believe, their *otherness*, and the tragedy of 9/11. Americans are also Zionists, almost seeing Israel as another territory or state of the U.S.A.

Every President of the United States of America is obliged since the 1940's to be loyal to this country, and we send a substantial amount of tax money to this foreign country that really has nothing to do with the United States besides people in America calling America a “Christian nation,” and Israel being seen as the Jewish people's inheritance, proclaimed by the same Jewish texts: The Old Testament, or the Jewish Bible. Whether you are for or against Israel, you will probably agree that the horrors being done with “Jesus' tax money” against the Palestinians are indescribable and uncalled for. I feel we should fund them the amount we help other countries, or not at all. At the very least, we should not fund their abuses toward other nations. This is joining in their racism, elitism, and nationalism, instead of the Jesus-like behavior of peacekeeping and mediation.

Regarding taxes and financial concerns, we must look at the Gospels to see how Jesus would have felt about capitalism, government, wealth, and politicians. Jesus, according to most or all of the Gospel accounts, had no home. He had one guy in charge of a community purse. He did not work (in a traditional sense of having a career). He was against the

religious organizations at the time. He was not political, and only paid taxes once (when cornered). He continuously spoke in riddles, analogies, and metaphors against nationalism, politics, gender-roles, and racism. Also, remember Jesus supposedly took a few fish and loaves of bread (twice) in the Book of Mark and miraculously and ridiculously multiplied it to feed 1000's and 1000's of people, for free.

Beyond the Gospels, in the sequel to the Book of Luke, the Book of Acts mentions something even more astounding: the members of the new Christian collective “church” were instructed to sell *all* that they owned and to bring *all* of the money to the Church. When a couple gave only a small fraction of what they received from their ancient “yard sale,” they were reportedly struck dead. Are we allowed to keep property, savings, cars, IRA's, and other possessions in a Christian nation? Not according to the Christian's New Testament. Even in the Old Testament, people were allowed to keep 90%, save for some additional gifts to “God” and loosening slaves, animals, and servants every few years. But not in the New Testament; “God” and his community is to get *all* of it, and you'll get back an equal portion. Yes, sharing

(*communism?*) is the Jesus' way.

Aside from finances, how Christians live is also quite unlike Jesus. Sure, after 2,000 years, things have changed, but if Christians claim that they want to live out authentic, ancient Christianity, then they should also live as Jesus and his followers supposedly lived. He was without a home, and traveled with a group of like-minded people, and did things for others without being asked.

He was without possessions or a home. Christians should consider this when they wear their gold crosses while driving their Cadillacs and Lincolns. Their bank accounts should not reflect that they dwell on earthly treasures, but instead focus on their riches in Heaven, if there is such a place.

If Heaven and afterlife rewards were truly a conviction, they would give their bank accounts and homes for a lifestyle of community and abandonment. The only disciple of Jesus' that handled money turned out to be a betrayer. Jesus himself said that entering Heaven is impossible for those with wealth. Also, when a rich man who kept all of the Law of Moses

approached Jesus about what more he needed to do to get to Heaven, Jesus said for him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor. The man went away sad, because he knew, as most self-professed Christians know, that their security in worldly things is too great, and most would rather not enter Heaven than give up their finances.

Banks in this country would not exist, if this were a Christian nation. The Bible is very specific about not charging interest when you loan money. That's in the Old Testament, yes, but even the New Testament says not to even loan anything. If someone asks for something, you're to give it to them. Even in a country where people have more than their need, they would not do this unless told to.

Jesus was also kind and the Bible speaks often of showing mercy, kindness, and compassion. He was not a fan of the death penalty. Being supportive of the death penalty, almost everyone (according to Jewish Law) would be killed. There are Old Testament laws and regulations on what hair to grow or show, what hair to shave, when to have sex and with whom, marriage and divorce laws, what to eat and how to

prepare it, when to go into the Temple and who cannot, what to do with rebellious children, and the like.

Much of the laws seem tedious, but it's the Bible, and for Christian literalists, these laws should still stand, as even their Jesus said that none of the Law is to pass away. If a Christian is going to point out a verse about homosexuality, then they have to also look at the verses before and after that particularly cherry-picked verse. There are verses about gossiping, judgmental people, rebellious folks, thieves, and other sorts of small-potatoes ethical crimes. If a Christian wishes to draw judgment onto another for a sexuality preference or slavery ownership, then they need to look at what can be used against them, for the amount of judgment used by them, will be used against them, per Matthew Chapter 7.

Paul and Jesus never married, but this seems to be the goal of every woman, man, boy and girl in this country. Paul instructs that we should be eunuchs; that is, cutting off our male parts. Jesus and his disciples, as far as know about the hear-say testimonies of the Gospels writers. Only if we're

burning with passion and are about to rape someone, we should wed, per the Bible—as ridiculous as the Bible's teachings sound. If we look at the marriages in the Old Testament, we see plural marriage and arranged marriages. If we want to live a biblical life, why don't we try these silly ideas out, instead of condemning others in our or other countries who practice polygamy or child spouses? It's in the Bible!

The majority of self-professed Christians in America need to cease calling themselves Christians if they're going to be non-Christian in their actions, speech and lifestyle. People say they're Christians all the time, yet abuse the always-saved doctrine by acting immorally (*immoral*, according to their doctrines and texts). You can see them at the club or the bar getting blasted. You see them having children out of wedlock. They divorce on a higher percentage scale than the non-religious. They use drugs, and abuse their “temple of the Holy Spirit” with bad diets or smoking. Can one still get into Heaven by living this way? Some will say yes—just ask for forgiveness. Some will say no. But no one calls out these Christian wannabes. If I claim to be a CRIP and dress like

one, and flash gang signs, I will get called out on it, by rival gangs or the CRIPs themselves; because I am claiming something without being a part of it, or living it out. Same with Christians. If one is not Christlike in their manners, then they need to be called out on it.

To the outsider, America is being called a “Christian nation,” because Americans keep calling it that, and people from other countries are believing in what they're hearing. If what Americans do is supposedly Christian, then we as a nation look ridiculous to people of other faiths and philosophies in other countries. It is often said in Christian circles that individuals “might be the only Bible others will read.” This is true. Barely anyone in Christian circles—not to mention outside—has read the complete Bible, so what people know about the Bible in this country and without is what Christians say, do, and help others do.

We're collectively the richest country in the world, but we do not care for our poor. Sure, there are some religious organizations out there that have a weekly soup kitchen, or the religiously-connected thrift store that donates a small

percentage of their profits, or the profitable hospital with a cross on the side of the building, but our tax money doesn't really try to alleviate the suffering of the poor. Homelessness is rampant, joblessness is high, children still starve, women are being evicted, and men aren't getting pensions. If this was a Christian nation, this would not be tolerated instead of being defended with condescension, ridicule and blame. Almost every prophetic book in the Bible addresses caring for those who cannot care for themselves, and to show mercy toward them.

The U.S.A. is big on their military spending, more so than the next 9 or 10 countries' military spending combined. 25-50% of our Federal taxes go to this military complex in the name of "Defense," instead of caring for our own people. If America was a Christian nation, we wouldn't need a defense fund. Jesus wasn't for such a thing, and if the Christians' God were so powerful, they shouldn't have anything to worry about. But they do worry, because God just might not come through for them. True Christians would have faith that God looks out for them, instead of setting up bases in almost every other country, or doing Crusades or Inquisitions.

But then again, maybe this is how a Christian would look: militarization. After all, Yahweh sent the Israelites in the Bible many times into foreign lands to destroy them, burning their goods, and take the town, sometimes keeping slaves or girls for themselves or keeping treasures and possessions, depending on what God supposedly told the prophet or king at the time. Jesus himself did indeed say he came to bring a sword. But of course, the Bible isn't clear on this, as it contradicts itself often.

Not only do outsiders resent our invading their countries, they see a “Christian nation” that loves nudity. There's nothing wrong with sexuality and the nude body, as long as no one is being forced or coerced into something they don't like or understand. But when we say we're a Christian nation, they assume—without reading the Bible—that this is what Christianity is about. Or at the very least, they feel that Jesus wouldn't promote pornography and extra-marital sexuality, and see so-called Christians as hypocrites. By looking at our taste for violence, drug abuse, and sexual assaults (and the resulting prison overpopulation problem), they detest this,

just as many Americans detest things other religious countries do. We are anything but “holy” to them.

But when you have Christian leaders that are so outspoken on an international playing field, it yields a theocratic-looking country. John Hagee is very pro-Israel and anti-Islam. Pat Robertson feels that only Christians should be politicians. The late Jerry Falwell was for an American theocracy. The shamed Ted Haggard wanted all Americans to become Evangelical Christians. We also have religious leaders that continue to stifle citizen's rights, forcing them to go along to get along.

No, the United States of America is anything but a Christian nation, because a Christian nation would look nothing like the country we have today, no matter how many citizens claim to be “Christian” when a census is done. Many do not know what being a Christian is, are ignorant of the Bible's text, and cannot give up their comfortable lifestyles. The term needs to be dropped from many people's lips, true Christians need to address these wannabes, or everyone needs to read their so-called holy book from cover to cover to

learn what it actually teaches. At most, most Americans that claim Christianity as their religion are deists at best.

The nation was founded as a blended, multicultural, multi-religious nation, being very careful not to mix outward Patriotism and inward Religiosity. Religion was private, though it was public in a corporate setting within the church's walls. Even Jesus himself said not to pray in public to gain attention “like the hypocrites,” but do into your closet, close the door, and speak to him then. Only then will your prayers be answered.

To those who wish to call America a Christian nation just because of a percentage game, remember that Christians are statistically decreasing. There is a growing Muslim population in America, as well as the non-religious. Additionally, the Mormon and Scientology numbers are growing at a respectable rate. If we want to be futurists and look down the road a little bit—say, a hundred or two-hundred years—the landscape may be completely different. Does a theocracy still sound wonderful to you if the majority of Americans are atheists, or Mormons, or Scientologists?

What if there was a new religion that took off and exceeded the percentages of Protestants or Catholics? What if the doctrines and practices changed in your particular religion, to being what you'd call “heretical?” What if the majority of the U.S. were worshipers of UFOs, another galaxy's sun, artificial intelligence, or something else that we haven't even considered yet? Would you still want that religion to be this country's religion? It can happen, as it did in historic Spain, Israel, America.

If it were true that America was a Christian nation, we would *all* sell all we have, give to the poor, feed all of the hungry, clothe the impoverished, take in the orphans, be kind, show compassion, not be soldiers, not be political, share everything we have, stay single, forgive old debts, not kill others, not judge, and treat our bodies right.

At the moment, America does not do these things.

Is America A Christian Nation? Religion, Government and Religious Freedom (Americans United) - [Download](#)

The Treaty of Tripoli (1797)

“As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion,—as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility, of Mussulmen [Muslims],—and as the said States never entered into any war or act of hostility against any Mahometan [Mohammedan] nation, it is declared by the parties that no pretext arising from religious opinions shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries.” - [Download](#)

SUGGESTED READING –

Mostly free ebooks on similar topics relating to atheism, religion, nationalism, theocracy, and free thought:

Bertrand Russell – The Conquest of Happiness

Bertrand Russell – Mysticism and Logic

Bertrand Russell – Why I am Not a Christian

Charles Darwin – The Descent of Man

Charles Darwin – On the Origins of Species

David Hume – An Inquiry Concerning Human
Understanding

David Hume – Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion

Epicurus – The Art of Happiness

Friedrich Nietzsche – The Antichrist

Friedrich Nietzsche – Beyond Good and Evil

Friedrich Nietzsche – On the Genealogy of Morals

Friedrich Nietzsche – Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Helen H. Gardener – Men, Women, and Gods

Mark Twain – Christian Science

Mark Twain – Letters from the Earth

Mark Twain – What is Man? and Other Essays

Robert G. Ingersoll – About the Bible

Robert G. Ingersoll – The Christian Religion

Robert G. Ingersoll – The Gods, and Other Lectures

Robert G. Ingersoll – Hell

Robert G. Ingersoll – Heretics and Heresies

Robert G. Ingersoll – Some Mistakes of Moses

Robert G. Ingersoll – Why I Am Agnostic

Robert G. Ingersoll – The Works of Robert G. Ingersoll

Samuel Mosheim – History of All Religions

Thomas Paine – The Age of Reason

Thomas Paine – The Rights of Man

Tim Covell – Born Atheist

Voltaire – Candide

Voltaire – Philosophical Dictionary

William Alexander – The God Question: Does God Exist?

William Alexander – Illusions of Faith (Volume One and Two)

William Alexander – The Ten Commandments Exposed

William James – Varieties of Religious Experience

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Alan Hart – [Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews, Vol. 1: The False Messiah](#)

Alan Hart – [Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews, Vol. 2: David Becomes Goliath](#)

Alan Hart – [Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews, Vol. 3: Conflict without End?](#)

Alan Race – [Religions in Dialogue: From Theocracy to Democracy](#)

Albert B. Cleage Jr. – [Black Christian Nationalism: New Directions for the Black Church](#)

Albert Einstein – [Einstein on Politics](#)

Alex Grobman – [Nations United](#)

Algernon Austin – [Achieving Blackness: Race, Black Nationalism, and Afrocentrism in the Twentieth Century](#)

Anatol Lieven – [America Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism](#)

André Lecours – [Nationalism and Democracy: Dichotomies, Complementarities, Oppositions \(Routledge](#)

Studies in Nationalism and Ethnicity)

Andrew J. Hurley – One Nation Under Israel

Andrew Preston – Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy

Anna Schultz – Singing a Hindu Nation: Marathi Devotional Performance and Nationalism

Arnold Petersen – Theocracy or Democracy?

Anthony Dawahare – Nationalism, Marxism, and African American Literature Between the Wars: A New Pandora's Box

Astrid S. Tuminez – Russian Nationalism since 1856: Ideology and the Making of Foreign Policy

Aviel Roshwald – The Endurance of Nationalism: Ancient Roots and Modern Dilemmas

Caitlin Carenen – The Fervent Embrace: Liberal Protestants, Evangelicals, and Israel

Carole Monica Burnett – Zionism through Christian Lenses: Ecumenical Perspectives on the Promised Land

Charles King – Extreme Politics: Nationalism, Violence, and the End of Eastern Europe

Cheryl Rubenberg – Israel and the American National Interest: A CRITICAL EXAMINATION

Chris Hedges – American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America

Chris Hedges – The World As It Is: Dispatches on the

Myth of Human Progress

Clayton E. Swisher – The Truth About Camp David: The Untold Story About the Collapse of the Middle East Peace Process (Nation Books)

Craig Calhoun – Nationalism (Concepts Social Thought)

Dana Allin – The Sixth Crisis: Iran, Israel, America, and the Rumors of War (International Institute for Strategic Studies)

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About Steve Dustcircle

Born in Chicago, relocated a lot, and finally landed in Columbus, OH. I have my hand in many forms of activism, mainly focusing on human rights and free thought. Music also has been a huge part of my life. On a small scale, there's not much I haven't done. There is little that I haven't read about. I love good coffee, cold lager, and stimulating conversation.

He is also author of the book, [*Before Your First Gig*](#), a book for newer, intermediate musicians just starting out performing live. It is available on Amazon for \$.99