



CAPITOL  
ministries®

MAY 11, 2026

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FOCUSED ON THE WORD

# The Faulty Theology Underlying Christian Nationalism



*This white Vermont marble relief of Moses the lawgiver by artist Jean de Marco was hung in the U.S. House Chamber in 1950, two years after the modern state of Israel was founded.*

Secular journalists, liberal theologians, and bloggers have concocted the term “Christian Nationalist.” With a broad brush they are branding many well-meaning Christians serving in public office with this newly coined pejorative in an attempt to marginalize their influence in the public square.

What is a Christian Nationalist? Is every Evangelical in office a Christian Nationalist? What do the name callers

- WHITE HOUSE CABINET  
AMBASSADORS  
AND GOVERNORS
- Alex Acosta* DC
  - Mike Braun* IN
  - Phil Bryant* MS
  - Dr. Ben Carson* DC
  - Mike Dunleavy* AK
  - Greg Gianforte* MT
  - Mark Gordon* WY
  - Pete Hegseth* DC
  - Mike Huckabee* DC
  - Sarah Huckabee Sanders* AR
  - Mike Keboe* MO
  - David Perdue* DC
  - Sonny Perdue* GA
  - Rick Perry* TX
  - Jim Pillen* NE
  - Tate Reeves* MS
  - Kim Reynolds* IA
  - Brooke Rollins* DC
  - Kevin Stitt* OK
  - Scott Turner* DC
  - Russell Vought* DC
  - Scott Walker* WI
  - Glenn Youngkin* VA

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Senate Majority Leader
  - Marsha Blackburn* TN
  - Katie Britt* AL
  - Ted Budd* NC
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  - Steven Daines* MT
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  - Mike Rounds* SD
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  - Ron Estes* KS
  - Glenn Grothman* WI
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  - Kevin Hern* OK
  - Richard Hudson* NC
  - Bill Huizenga* MI
  - Dusty Johnson* SD
  - Jim Jordan* OH
  - Nathaniel Moran* TX
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  - Rob Wittman* VA
  - Steve Womack* AR
  - Rudy Yakym* IN

*The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.*

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

**White House Cabinet and Governors:** Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served

**Senate Members:** Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

**House Members:** Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served



PUBLIC SERVANT INTERVIEW

## Marlin Stutzman

*U.S. Representative, Indiana*



*How has attending the House Members Bible Study impacted your personal faith journey?*

**CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:**

I just really enjoy the Bible study. Each Thursday morning is one of those hours I look forward to—meeting with colleagues in Congress to study God’s Word rather than discuss policy. It’s a chance to dive into what God has for us through His Word each week while we’re in session. It’s a time of refreshment, it’s a reprieve from daily policy discussions, but it’s also a time of fellowship and enjoying the conversations around God’s Word.

*I can imagine that is so important and encouraging during the week as well. How does the Bible study help you apply biblical principles in your role as a public servant?*

*Continued on page 4*

mean when they charge you with this? By painting—increasingly all—public servants who trust in Christ for their salvation as “Christian Nationalists,” they hope to cripple your influence, instill fear in the voting populous, silence Christians, eradicate biblical influence, and intimidate believers from even participating in the political process. This is nothing less than yet another attempt to cancel Christians and abolish their biblical worldview from our nation.

Christian Nationalism is a valid term, but the problem is, it canopies three faulty theological constructs that Christian public servants need to be aware of and know why they are aberrant. Here then is a relatively new term to describe ages-old corrupt theology—theology you don’t want to have anything to do with!

If Christian Nationalism is attractive to you, read this study thoroughly taking time to compare the given Scripture and the concepts of Christian Nationalism. We think you’ll find that its corrupt and unbiblical theological basis should be summarily rejected by true believers.

This Bible study will unpack all of this for you. It is important to know what all this means and why you should steer clear of it. This stuff is all out in left field.

Read on, friend.

### I. INTRODUCTION

In an attempt to best understand what the term “Christian Nationalist” means, the student of the Bible needs to understand three historically aberrant theological constructs. These faulty belief systems are the main ingredients of what is properly termed “Christian Nationalism.” It follows that we need to familiarize ourselves with these concepts to better understand what separates the Evangelical Christian from the radical and unbiblical Christian Nationalist. To begin, what do the following terms mean?

**You could think of each, generally speaking, as a different room in a rotting cabin—one built on a side road away**

### from the main highway of orthodox theology.

For the sake of introductory simplicity, these sound-bite capsules are sufficient for those unfamiliar with them. Keep in mind, they are close cousins and to various degrees, comprise the elements of “Christian Nationalism.”

#### A. CHRISTIAN DOMINIONISTS

Dominionists believe that followers of Christ need to take dominion over civil government. Such thinking is rooted in a misinterpretation of Genesis 1:28 and the Great Commission passage of Matthew 28:19–20. (These passages will be studied in greater detail.)



## B. CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTIONISTS

Reconstructionists believe that *most all* the Founding Fathers were Christians and that they founded the United States as a “Christian Nation.” They believe that over time, the secularists revised American history and stole away that historical truth. Christian Reconstructionists think it is their obligation to restore that truth. Extreme Christian Reconstructionists believe the American Constitution was inspired by God in a way similar to the Bible. (The beginning premise of the very existence of a “Christian Nation” and constitutional inspiration will be studied in greater detail.)

## C. CHRISTIAN THEONOMISTS

Theonomists believe that after taking dominion and reconstructing America as a Christian nation, all of America’s laws should be based on Old Testament (OT) law. (The basis of this idea too will be studied in greater detail.)

Faulty theology’s terrible trio are well-known among pastors and seminary students. However, being unfamiliar with them, secular writers coined the phrase “Christian Nationalism” without understanding the distinction between a Christian who lives his faith and someone who believes unbiblical theology.

It’s important to note here in the introduction that in our ministering to public servants in the highest levels of governance for more than 25 years, not one Christian public servant CapMin has ever worked with (and there are hundreds) has harbored motives of a theocratic takeover of some sort. In fact, most every one has been *totally unfamiliar* with these three theological concepts which explains why the term “Christian Nationalism” is so confusing to them.

In essence, secular journalists, theological liberals, and left-wing blogger activists are

attempting to strike fear in the hearts of society by falsely postulating that believers in office desire to turn America into a theocracy—a Church-controlled State. Nothing could be further from the truth.

## Exactly Who Is a Christian Nationalist?

A Christian Nationalist desires to create a Christian theocracy, which is a cleric-controlled State. The government could take the form of a Christian dictatorship, republic, or oligarchy. For the new government to qualify as a bona fide theocracy, Christian individuals would have to hold absolute power and control over the State.

Anything less than complete control would not meet the standard of a theocratic form of government by sheer definition of the word.

Therefore, in order for a public servant to be labeled a genuine Christian Nationalist, that person must favor replacing America’s present democratic republic with one in which Christians hold all the power.

It then follows that a Christian who desires NOT to change the existing form of the government, but rather simply to influence the existing form of government with his beliefs is NOT a Christian Nationalist!

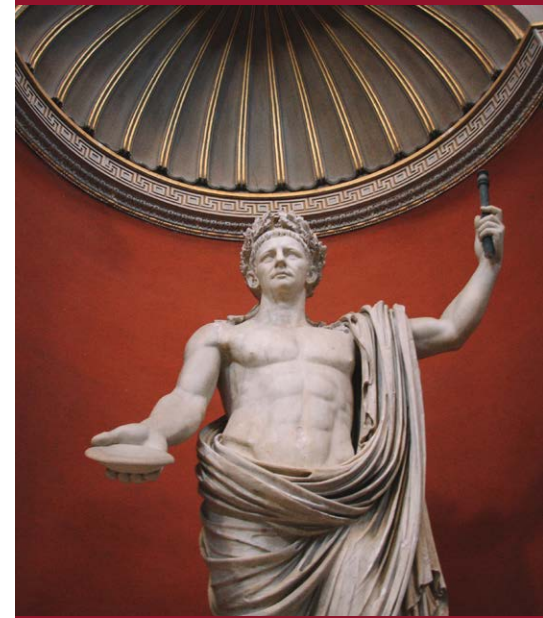
Many are the believers in office who are maturing in Christ so they may better represent Christ and His teachings IN THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. Such men and women are

VERSE OF THE WEEK



## Matthew 22:21

*They said to Him, “Caesar’s.”  
Then He said to them, “Then  
render to Caesar the things  
that are Caesar’s; and to God  
the things that are God’s.”*



Christian Nationalists are coaxing believers to attempt to tie together something that Jesus has unknotted.



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**CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:**

Yeah, I've always tried to apply God's Word to my daily life—whether through sermons, teaching, or personal study. When it comes to policy decisions, I realize humanity tends to make the same mistakes and act selfishly throughout history. God's Word gives us principles to live by, but also lessons and stories about people who faced challenges—some made poor choices, and we can learn from them.

Even beginning with the Ten Commandments—those are laws the world should live by. Things would be much better if we simply followed those. But in complex circumstances, things aren't always black and white. Sometimes there's gray area, and we don't always have the right answer. But focusing on God's principles and lessons in Scripture gives me solid guidance—not just for policy, but also in working with others.

*That's rich, absolutely. What sets this Bible study apart from others you've participated in?*

**CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:**

A couple of things. The timing works really well—Thursday morning, near the end of the week, it's a great time to pause, take a breath, and enjoy good fellowship and study. I always appreciate Ralph and Danielle

*Continued on next page*

not theocratic-craving Christian Nationalists! Rather, these Americans wish to influence the existing form of government in keeping with their convictions—in the exact same way as do liberal lawmakers pushing agendas; environmentalists, LGBTQ+ advocates, pro-abortion activists, and other lobbyists; or corporations such as FedEx, Danaher Corp., 7-Eleven, Paramount, and Southern Co.<sup>1</sup> Does everyone have the right to influence government except for Christians?

This distinction is of critical importance during this time when secular journalists are accusing committed Christians who wish to study the Bible, grow in their faith, and influence society from their Christian worldview of attempting to establish a Christian Church-controlled government. Such desires, if they were true, amount to nothing less than an overthrow of our existing democratic republic. Such attempts are treason by definition, which is punishable by death. Such labeling efforts are false, deceitful, absurd, and defamatory, and serve to reveal an ignorance of historical theological understanding.

In her book *Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism*, Michelle Goldberg popularized the term “Christian Nationalism.” In a blog that was published by the Huffington Post, she writes:

“I've just published a book called *Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism*, and since it appeared, I've been asked several times what Christian nationalism is, and how it differs from Christian

fundamentalism. It's an important concept to understand, because the threat to a pluralistic society does not come from those who simply believe in a very conservative interpretation of Christianity. It comes from those who adhere to a political ideology that posits a Christian right to rule. Christian nationalists believe in a revisionist history, which holds that the founders were devout Christians who never intended to create a secular republic; separation of Church and State, according to this history, is a fraud perpetrated by God-hating subversives. ... The goal of Christian nationalist politics is the restoration of the imagined Christian nation.”<sup>2</sup>

Goldberg names David Barton, founder of the WallBuilders organization, as a “foremost Christian revisionist historian.” To illustrate Dominionism, Goldberg quotes George Grant, former executive director of D. James Kennedy's Coral Ridge Ministries who authored the book *The Changing of the Guard*. Grant writes “Christians have a holy responsibility to reclaim the land for Jesus Christ—to have dominion in civil structures. ... It is dominion we are after. Not just influence.”<sup>3</sup>

In these quotations, Goldberg has accurately identified the components of Christian Nationalism as being those of Dominionists and Christian Reconstructionists, respectively. *And she has eliminated the Fundamental or Evangelical Christian from the list of Christian Nationalists.*

But the very fact that Goldberg felt it necessary to promote the term, “Christian Nationalism,” gives evidence that she is not familiar with the established terms: Dominionists, Reconstructionists, and Theonomists—accepted, sufficient and satisfactory labels long ago established by theologians. Her seeming need to re-label



all these historical, theological classifications casts doubt on her knowledge, understanding, authority, and credibility to write on such issues. Further evidencing this, she fails to quote the leading Theonomists in her overview: Rousas Rushdoo-ny and Greg Bahnsen.

One who agrees with Goldberg’s definition of Christian Nationalism is Brock Bahler, a senior lecturer in religious studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Bahler stresses that “saying your faith shapes your values and your political decision making is not the same thing as Christian Nationalism.” And in fact, Christian Nationalism “is more tied to political ideologies and myths” than it is to the text of the Bible itself.<sup>4</sup>

Bahler goes on to explain that Christian Nationalists believe America was intended to be a Christian nation; that it’s the Promised Land and holds a special role in God’s plan; and that the founding U.S. documents like the Constitution are divinely inspired.<sup>5</sup>

Bahler does not agree with these claims,<sup>6</sup> and neither do Bible-believing Christians who understand that only the Bible is God inspired (*theopneustos*). The Bible in no way supports that America is the Promised Land; that point of view is an example of extreme eisegesis (interpreting text by reading into it one’s own ideas). Yes, the godly men who founded our nation were informed by scriptural principles, but that is a far from saying that what they wrote was *theopneustos*.

**The distinction that both Goldberg and Bahler make refutes the claims of secular journalists who accuse the maturing Christian of being a Christian Nationalist when his or her only**

**objective is to better represent Christ and His teachings in the existing government structure.**

We’ve established that Christian Nationalists are actually the Dominionists, Reconstructionists, and Theonomists of old. Their beliefs are also reflective of modern-day Postmillennialists. Built on faulty eschatology, Postmillennialism is the Christian view that Christ will return at the end of the millennial period that is described in the book of Revelation (cf. Rev. 20)—in this case, after which time believers would have Christianized the world and prepared the way for Him. But Postmillennialism (eisegetic in its interpretation of prophetic passages to begin with) was thoroughly discounted and by and large abandoned by Fundamentalist and Evangelicals after the two world wars. Christian Nationalists today are then, in essence, regurgitating debunked Postmillennial idealism; a viewpoint which is not scriptural in the least.

## Better Understanding the Three Facets of Christian Nationalism

### **DOMINIONISM:**

Pertains to Christian Rulership

### **RECONSTRUCTIONISM:**

Pertains to Christian History

### **THEONOMY:**

Pertains to Christian OT Civil Law

*Continued from previous page*

and their ministry—they’re warm, friendly, and lead great discussions.

But also, the depth and preparation they put into these studies they give to us are so valuable. We receive the studies in conference on Tuesdays, so I know the topic by Thursday and can reflect on it throughout the week. It ties into my personal devotions and other conversations, making the Bible study relevant all week long.

*Yes, that’s terrific. Why do you believe this ministry is especially needed today in the halls of government?*

**CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:** One of the things Ralph brings is depth. It’s not a surface-level study—it doesn’t just touch the high points. It dives deep into doctrine and theology, which are critical for decision-making in Congress.

It’s easy to have feel-good conversations, but digging deep into Scripture helps us grow strong roots in understanding what God has for us. Those doctrines are timeless—they applied in the days of Abraham and Moses, and they still apply today.

*Absolutely. Congressman what would you say to a colleague who might be hesitant about joining the study?*

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**CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:**

I'd say there's nothing to be afraid of—but be a little brave. The conversations can stretch us, and that's good. It's like physical exercise.

It's not a marathon, but a strong sprint—good, healthy, spiritual exercise each week. I find it invigorating and energizing, helping me tackle the rest of the day or week. Sometimes we're dealing with personal challenges—a family loss, a struggle with a child—and it's encouraging to know we're not alone. We have the Lord with us, but also colleagues who've faced similar challenges and can offer wisdom and support.

*Yes, that's so important—to share burdens with fellow believers. If you could sum up the House Members Bible Study in one, two, or maybe three sentences, what would it be?*

**CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:**

I'd say the Bible study is warm and inviting; there are always smiling faces, a friendly greeting, and a great conversation. But once the study starts, be ready to dive deep into God's Word, be challenged, and participate. Share what God is teaching you, and listen to what He's teaching others. Each week leaves me encouraged and refreshed.

Continued on next page

All of these are close cousins, descriptors in part of a theocratic form of civil governance. It follows that the mention of any of these words and their meaning should and does strike fear in a historically composite society steeped in a First Amendment tradition and understanding of the same: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

## II. THE MISCONSTRUED PREMISES OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

There are at least three areas of biblical misunderstanding that, to this day, create the false basis of Christian Nationalism. They are as follows.

### A. DOMINIONISM: A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE CREATION MANDATE, GENESIS 1:28 AND THE GREAT COMMISSION, MATTHEW 28:19-20

#### 1. Genesis 1:28

In this familiar passage of the OT, God gives those whom He has created in His image the right to rule—or as some English translations state, "have dominion over"—the remainder and totality of God's created order. Genesis 1:28 states:

*God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Worthy of note is the main emphasis of the surrounding passages: Only man was created *in His image, Imago Dei* (cf. Genesis 1:27), and it is this contrast to the remainder of the created order that is the emphasis of the passage.

**Man is to have dominion over the remainder of**

**creation because he is made in the image of God. The passage is not speaking to Christians having dominion over civil government.**

God has not even created civil government at this point in the Bible! So how can Genesis 1:28 be used as a cogent basis for the propagation of Dominionist Theology? Civil government is nowhere in sight here! It is, therefore, an exegetical leap to cite this passage as a proof-text for such; in fact, no biblical texts exist anywhere in Scripture commanding Christians to take dominion over civil governments! Dominionist theologians in fact rip this passage from its context and use it incorrectly to support their pretext.

#### 2. Matthew 28:19-20

Dominionism is also fueled by a misinterpretation of the Great Commission—the final command of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels and the beginning of the Book of Acts. Matthew 28:19-20 states:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Herein Jesus commands His followers to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." The Greek word for disciple is *mathetes*. It is the base for the English word mathematician. In context, Jesus is commanding His followers to, after His ascension, go into all the world and make "spiritual calculators": men and women who calculate the world for what it is the way Jesus would calculate it. In other words, as the Great Commission goes on to say, "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you." Jesus is charging His followers to create other followers of Christ by teaching them all that He said—



that which would soon be recorded in the New Testament (NT). Further, the word “nations” is the Greek word *ethnos* and can be also translated as “people groups” rather than geographically bound nations in the sense of civil governments. *Ethnos*, used here and elsewhere in the NT, refers to “people of a similar language.”

**All combined, Jesus is not commanding His followers to make disciples of geographical nations, He is commanding His followers to make disciples of similar language individuals in those nations.**

Further to the point, “*baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*” relates to individuals, not nations. All that to underscore that the Great Commission passages of the NT in no way serve as a command to create theocracies as is postured by Dominionist theologians.

As stated previously, nowhere in the Bible is the follower of Christ commanded to take dominion over civil government, nor as seen herein under point 2 is there ever a biblical objective to create a “Christian Nation.” In fact, the word “disciple” as used in the NT always relates to an individual, as does the word “Christian.” The concept of a “Christian Nation” is in fact biblically unfounded; it is exegetically impossible to substantiate. The term is a misnomer and should never be used by anyone except to say such does not exist in the Bible.

**In the NT, Jesus and His apostles are always about building God’s kingdom in a future, eternal sense; never are they about creating Christian nations in the here and now.**

The Dominionists, Christian Reconstructionists, and Theonomists misinterpret Genesis 1:28 and Matthew 28:19–20, using them eisegetically—interpreting the text by reading their own ideas into it to underscore their faulty presuppositions.

The aforementioned is further buoyed by what follows in this study: the additional, clear understanding of the NT teaching pertaining to the *institutional* separation of the Church and State during the Church Age of Scripture.

## **B. RECONSTRUCTIONISM: A MISUNDERSTANDING OF INSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION**

Christian Nationalists miss the fact that God has bifurcated the institution of the State from the institution of the Church during the time in which we live—and that He desires to keep it that way! America is a great example of that—a composite nation. But keep in mind, *institutional* separation does not imply *influential* separation! The following three NT passages serve to underscore the fact that God has separated the institutions of the Church and the State in the New Covenant.

### **1. Matthew 22:1-21**

At the conclusion of this passage, Jesus speaks these profound words:

*And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”*

When Jesus said these words, Israel was occupied by Rome—a formidable position for the Jewish people of the day. After all, they understood themselves to be “*a holy people to the Lord ... chosen ... to be a people for His own possession*” (Deuteronomy 7:6). In this Matthew passage

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*Excellent, thank you. One of the efforts under Capitol Ministries is to develop leaders at the local level—people who may have a heart to reach out to a mayor, city council member, or school board member to bring a Bible study to them. Having benefited from the studies in Congress, what might you say to someone considering becoming a leader at the local level?*

#### **CONGRESSMAN STUTZMAN:**

I think we’re talking more about faith—especially faith in Christ—in today’s political world than we have in a long time. So, it’s much easier to talk about it—even with friends of the Jewish faith, and I’ve reached out to people of the Muslim faith as well. It’s very challenging, but when we’re equipped and armed with God’s Word, it’s good for everyone. It builds bridges. I believe it helps people come together and understand how to work together.

One of my favorite football coaches, Lou Holtz, said something today that I thought was very accurate: “*God doesn’t eliminate problems from your life, but He gives you the courage to handle them in a positive manner.*” I think that’s really good—often we can let our challenges change our demeanor or how we treat others. But when we face problems with a positive outlook, people are inspired by that. That’s what makes great leaders.



## MINISTRY UPDATE

### Do You Ever Wonder How CapMin Launches Ministries to Political Leaders?



Twice each month, Capitol Ministries leaders from around the world connect for a one-hour global call—a time marked by sharing, updates from the field, mutual encouragement, prayer, and the study of God’s Word.

During a recent Zoom call, Brian Hanson, CapMin’s Global Director, delivered a focused and practical exhortation to ministry leaders, outlining key principles for faithfully advancing Bible studies among political leaders.

First, Brian emphasized the necessity of fervent prayer, urging leaders to depend fully on the Lord for open doors:

“Pray fervently that God would give you opportunities—providing the networks and people needed to start a ministry.”

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Jesus does not give theocratic Israel an excuse for evading Rome’s taxes—He is acknowledging the authority of a secular civil government! In ushering in the New Covenant, God is separating His representational people, the forthcoming Church, from holding the authority of civil government, in the context of the exchange Matthew records, the occupying Romans. Under this new arrangement, the civil State will hold the civil power that God’s people will need to submit to. This institutional bifurcation obviously caught the Pharisees off guard. They were accustomed to holding *all* the power in a theocratic form of civil government. Matthew 22 then is the beginning of the forthcoming biblically based composite society: the institutional separation of the Church from the State!

### 2. Romans 13:1-8

The Apostle Paul continues with this same theme as Jesus has stated in Matthew 22:21—note especially Romans 13:1-4, which serves to indicate this institutional separation:

*Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.*

**The State, too, is ordained by God, but it is a separate institution to which believers must yield.**

### 3. 1 Peter 2:13-14

The Apostle Peter continues the theme Jesus sets forth in Matthew 22. Again, the State is established by God, but it is a separate institution that believers are under the authority of:

*Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.*

These passages could not be clearer. In harmony they govern the interpretation of what the Great Commission says: in that the State is a distinctly separate institution ordained by God in the Church Age, we cannot interpret the command to “*make disciples of all the nations*” to mean that believers are to make people groups into “Christian nations” or theocracies. Such an interpretation of the Great Commission does not harmonize with these passages pertaining to ongoing institutional separation during the Church Age in which we now live. In addition, these separation passages negate the Dominionists’ and the Reconstructionists’ understanding of Genesis 1:28: it is incongruous to think that believers are to take dominion over, reconstruct, and create “Christian Nations” if indeed God has explicitly stated that He has now separated them! Such an interpretation of Genesis 1:28 creates a theological conundrum—dueling objectives, if you will—between man and God:

**The Dominionist and Reconstructionist are coaxing believers to tie together something that God has just unknotted!**

Dominionists, Reconstructionists, and Theonomists overlook these institutional separation passages perhaps because they



tear at the very fabric of their faulty theological construct.

### C. THEONOMY: A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE APPLICABILITY OF OT LAW

Most everyone who has read even a small portion of the Bible understands that we live in the times of the New Testament, not the Old Testament. This is a simple, basic, necessary beginning point when unpacking the fallacy of all the components of Christian Nationalism. Why? What follows is the easiest way to make sense of the seeming complexity of the application of the OT law in NT times:

**Only the specific aspects of the OT law that Jesus and NT writers bring forward are applicable for today; what they do not mention is not, and should not be, a basis for current civil lawmaking.**

Theonomists believe that today's civil laws in and for civil society should be enacted based on all biblical laws—NT as well as all of the OT.

Upon a cursory read of the NT, it becomes immediately evident that the theocracy aspects of OT law—those that relate to theocratic Israel—are noted by neither Jesus nor the apostles in the NT, and therefore, are not applicable in the composite Church Age of today wherein there is an institutional separation of God's set apart people (the Church) and His institution of the State.

Having established these basic means of discerning applicability, let us go a step further to aid in a clearer working understanding of this issue which is so pertinent to this study. The student of

Scripture divides the OT law into three separate, distinctive categories. Those are as follows.

#### 1. The Moral Law

Think in terms of the Ten Commandments as recorded by Moses in Exodus 20 (found in the Torah, the first five books of the OT, prior to Israel's becoming a bona fide theocratic nation; contr. the book of Judges, 1 Kings, 2 Kings). Jesus and the apostles repeat nearly all of the moral law of Exodus 20 in the NT. Examples of such are the sin of murder, the sin of stealing, the sin of adultery. The essence of the Ten Commandments has been the basis of American law ever since the foundation of our great and prosperous nation—and has served the nation well.

We can see the positive effects of the OT moral law on America by recounting the effects of America's ignoring one aspect of it. When California enacted no-fault divorce laws in 1969, the sin of adultery (among other sins) essentially became a non-punishable offense; no-fault divorce laws usurped the laws concerning marriage and divorce which had previously greatly curtailed the number of divorces by enforcing penalties upon the spouse who was found to be at fault (of adultery or other grievances). California's previous OT-based moral law, as it discouraged divorce, created greater civil stability. In fact, divorce leads to one-parent families, which often leads to poverty. Prior law also had placed the responsibility to care for the wife and dependent children on the husband who had traditionally been the breadwinner. When the no-fault law came into effect, those family protections eroded. Women were no longer automatically granted alimony, men were freer to hoard their resources for themselves being less accountable for broken commitments, and such brokenness resulted in abandoned families fending for themselves. It would not take long to come up with other examples of the price a nation

pays for suspending or failing to enact the moral law of the OT.

Summarily, the moral law of the OT is fast-forwarded into the NT era by Jesus and the apostles and is the basis of societal structure and overall civility today.

**The moral law of God will always be the basis of a properly functioning civic government.**

#### 2. The Judicial or Civil Law

This aspect of the OT law was given to set apart theocratic Israel, God's chosen people, as a unique nation compared with every other nation of the time. As seen previously in Deuteronomy 7:6, Israel was Jehovah's nation; Old Covenant theocratic Israel was God's form of representation at that time in biblical history. It follows that the judicial or civil laws of ancient Israel as recorded in the OT regarding their agricultural practices, diet, disputes, cleanliness, and dress made Israel distinct. It also follows that when Israel was chastised and rejected by God as His surrogates (due to her prolonged obstinacy and sin), this aspect of the OT law was suspended as well.

The NT is explicit about this: the OT law passed away when Israel rejected her Messiah. God's abrogation of Israel's judicial or civil laws are evidenced in many passages (see Acts 10:1–16; Colossians 2:16–17, and 1 Peter 2:9). In fact, John 19:15 serves to indicate the manifest reality of this in the hearts of the Jewish leaders themselves, as is evidenced at the time of Jesus' crucifixion:

*So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."*



*Continued from page 8*

Second, he stressed the importance of intentional action. While trusting God is foundational, Brian reminded leaders that faith must be accompanied by effort:

“Don’t just wait for it. Let’s put our boots on the ground and go out there and try to make some of those connections.” Brian encouraged, adding with a smile, “God doesn’t steer a parked car.”

Third, Brian pointed to the strategic role of relationships in advancing the ministry:

“God often places connections closer than we realize. Look within your sphere of influence—others often have connections. It’s remarkable how close we are to someone who knows people in the political arena.”

Together, these principles—prayerful dependence, faithful initiative, and relational stewardship—form a clear pathway for ministry growth. As Brian encouraged, when these are pursued diligently, God consistently provides opportunities for His Word to reach those in positions of influence.

*Capitol Ministries is seeking men to teach weekly discipleship Bible studies to political leaders. If you sense a call from God to evangelize, disciple, and teach the Word of God to public servants in your local area, please visit [capmin.org](http://capmin.org).*

The Bible states that God, at this time, the time of the Church Age, has rejected Israel as a nation. Matthew 21:43 states this in unmistakable terms:

*“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.”*

The *people* referred to, who will *produce the fruit* God desires, are the Gentiles in and of the forthcoming Church Age. But this rejection of God’s chosen people, Israel, is only for a time because theocratic Israel will be restored, once again becoming central in God’s plan, when Christ sets up His Millennial Kingdom in the future (at the conclusion of the Church Age we presently live in). Such is spoken of clearly and in detail in Romans 11:25. Conclusively on this point of the judicial and civil law of the OT,

**Theocratic Israel does not exist in the age we live. Therefore, the OT judicial and civil law no longer exists either.**

The Theonomist, in his clumsy hermeneutic, fails to make this distinction and imports not only the moral law, but also the civil and judicial law (again which pertains only to Israel) into the NT era— as if it is pertinent in contemporary civil law construction! This is a huge theological error in his thinking and should be roundly rejected by Christian public servants and citizens alike! Such thinking has no theological merit, let alone practical application in a composite society bound by the First Amendment.

The Christian public servant can confidently reason that those aspects of the OT law are applicable only to theocratic ancient Israel and not repeated nor mentioned in the NT by Jesus or His apostles.

In fact, as we have discovered, Jesus Himself states that they have been done away with! (Cf. Matthew 21:43)

Today, the Church is God’s chosen representative body on the earth, not Israel. First Peter 2:9–10 makes this abundantly clear, wherein the same language used to describe Israel in the OT, Deuteronomy 7:6, is quoted by the Apostle Peter and prescribed to the Church.

*But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.* (Note that in the New American Standard Bible, as used above, every time the writer quotes verbatim an OT passages, the translators use capitalized English letters.)

Going a step further, it is important to distinguish (even though the descriptive language above is quite the same) that the Church today is not the same entity as Israel was yesterday; the Church is not Israel of old. To hold such a belief introduces all kinds of difficulties that the aforementioned clarifications eliminated.

An example of what I mean is this: when asked the question “Do you believe America should stone homosexuals?” given the prior argument, the clear, simple answer is “No, America should not stone homosexuals, because America is not the theocratic Israel of the OT! Those laws were given specifically to OT theocratic Israel! And when Jesus stated that Israel was no longer His spokesperson, He did away with those nation-distinguishing laws.” That is a clear, clean answer based on what we have learned about the non-transferability of certain aspects of the OT law. But to say that the Church today is the same entity as OT Israel of yesterday is to muddy



the water; such a viewpoint summarily mutes the previously referenced passages.

### 3. The Ceremonial Law

Israel's ceremonial law was meant to govern theocratic Israel's aspects of worship. Temporal, temple sacrifices for the remediation of sin were at the heart of Israel's form of worship. In the same way the passing of Israel caused the judicial or civil law to be done away with at this time, this portion of the OT law, too, has been done away with. Specifically, the temple worship of Israel was done away with when Jesus died on the cross for our sins: simultaneously, the veil was torn in the temple, signifying the end of ceremonial law. We now have direct access to God through the propitiatory work of Christ on our behalf! Matthew 27:51 states in this regard:

*And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.*

Hebrews 10:19–22 further explains this:

*Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

**In that America is not a theocracy, it is inconceivable that any lawmaker would today think of implementing ceremonial law into our American civil law code.**

## But Didn't Jesus Say He Did Not Come to Abolish the Law?

When Jesus came, Scripture states that He did not come to abolish the OT law. Note Matthew 5:17 in this regard: "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill." How is a Christian lawmaker to understand this passage? Does this not undergird the Theonomist? Does this passage mean that all the OT law is applicable for today—none to be abolished?

This passage in the Sermon on the Mount, spoken by Christ, is in the context of the preeminence of Christ over all the Law, in the clear contextual sense that any and all aspects of the OT law were never intended to save. Galatians 3:24, dealing with the same contextual idea as is being addressed here in the Sermon on the Mount, gives much light to this meaning:

*Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8–9).*

The contextual understanding of the OT law in this passage is soteriological (Gr.: *soterios*: to save) in nature. What Jesus is stating here is how we obtain a relationship with God, how people are saved. Christ

fulfills all the Law for the saved individual who is trusting in Christ by faith for his salvation; Christ is the propitiation for each person's sin, paying the price for failing to fulfill the requirements of the OT law. In this sense it is Christ who fulfills the Law, making perfect the sinner in the eyes of God, the Lawgiver.

This passage, therefore, is not an informant for civil lawmakers today. Matthew 5:17 should not otherwise confuse your perspicuous understanding of this matter.

The ceremonial law, likened to the judicial law, applied only to ancient Israel and is not repeated in the NT; in fact, again, the NT states both of these aspects of ancient Israel's law have been done away with for the time being. The Theonomist draws unbiblical conclusions as he seeks to import all three aspects of the OT law, instructing fellow believers that all should be applicable by lawmakers today in their civil law construction. Such thinking must be soundly rejected by the Christian public servant.

The judicial or civil OT law and the ceremonial OT law are not applicable for public servant lawmakers today in the Church Age because they are specific to theocratic Israel of the OT and they have been done away with by Christ Himself. On the other hand, the moral law of the OT is applicable for today as a reliable informant for civil government leaders in their lawmaking. In fact, the moral law is and should remain the basis of civil government lawmaking today because it matches perfectly the conscience "chip" that God has installed in everyone He has created: the moral law of God, revealed in the OT and NT is written on our hearts! (See Romans 1:18–20.)



Whereas Christian Nationalists postulate total national adherence to total OT law, based on the aforementioned arguments, believers must categorically reject this understanding and viewpoint.

The Theonomist is wrong and clumsy.

**Believers who serve in civil government should seek to import only one of the three distinctly different aspects of the OT law. They should seek to import for today the moral law of God as revealed in the OT Torah!**

### III. SUMMARY

If there are any Christian Dominionists, Reconstructionists, or Theonomist, who hold office they are very rare. But increasingly, *all believers* are today being labeled “Christian Nationalist.” However, if you are *not* a Dominionist, Reconstructionist or Theonomist then you are *not* a Christian Nationalist. Stand up for your faith and for clarity on this issue. Courageously reject such labeling by naïve journalists and theological liberals. Not only do you need to straighten them out about this, but even more importantly, they need you to share the Gospel with them.



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1. These corporations were the top lobbyists on the Hill in 2025. “The Hill’s Top Lobbyists 2025,” by The-Hill.com, Dec. 11, 2025; <https://thehill.com/homenews/5632709-top-lobbyists-2025/> (accessed April 27, 2026)
2. Michelle Goldberg, “What is Christian Nationalism?” Huffington Post, May 14, 2006, updated May 25, 2011; [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-is-christian-nationa\\_b\\_20989](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-is-christian-nationa_b_20989)
3. Ibid.
4. Chris Potter, “The role of Christian nationalism in the race for Pennsylvania governor,” August 23, 2022, <https://why.org/articles/mastriano-christian-nationalism-pa-governors-race-2022-election/>
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