

## PROPHETIC WARNING!!!

I believe this may be the most difficult article I have ever written! It has been bathed in prayer by many across the country as well as benefited from great feedback by pastors and others. First, I must give a prophetic disclaimer: I am not a Prophet (*nor do I play one on TV!*), which does increase the degree of difficulty in giving a prophetic warning! Plus, most prophets were not liked and I like to be liked (actually hope and pray that the love of God shines through). Second, here is my disclaimer to the disclaimer: I have been told by many that I have the gift of Evangelism as well as Discernment. This comes from the privilege of seeing thousands come to know Jesus personally through events I have led, as well as personal conversations I have had with many who have decided to follow Jesus. So my PROPHETIC WARNING, which relates to evangelism, comes with some credibility because it is substantiated to some degree by my experience and gifting in Evangelism.

As you read this article, PLEASE do NOT think this is an attempt to influence political views. My whole desire is to help us most effectively share God's love and let this hurting world know there is hope in Jesus!

I have been reading some Christian publications that report an increasing concern related to the phenomenon of "Christian Nationalism" and/or "White Christian Nationalism." Not only is there confusion around the meaning of these terms, but sadly, unbelievers are confusing genuine Christianity with them. So the warning relates to the fact that I am seeing more and more people turned off to Christianity because so many religious people in America are now often unknowingly more into political "Christian" Nationalism than true genuine Christianity. Their hope is to take power and bring our country back to God, but unfortunately, the result is just the opposite. We are actually losing our witness in America and will continue to see people turn farther away from God unless we make some changes. I have seen this in some families I know personally, as well as recently from research.

According to Lifeway Research, the most recent annual date showed about **4,500 Protestant churches closed** with only about 3,000 new churches opening. It was **the first time** the number of churches in the US hadn't grown since the evangelical group started studying the topic. **7 out of 10 young adults stopped attending church**, with one of the top reasons being that church members seem to be judgmental or hypocritical. They also disagreed with their church's stance on political and social issues.

It seems more and more people are equating White "Christian" Nationalism with genuine Christianity. Because of this confusion I have attempted to create a chart to show some potential differences. Keep in mind that not all categories will apply to all people, but some general tendencies are concerning.

### **Christian Nationalism**

#### **America 1st**

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all you have need of will be added to you."* Mt.6:33

*"We are citizens of Heaven . . ." Phil. 3:20*

#### **False idol of power**

#### **Change by force/law**

*"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty."* Zech. 4:6

#### **Autocracy**

#### **Violence OK**

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye' . . . But I tell you, do not resist an evil person . . . love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."* Mt. 38-44

#### **Against CRT\* (see \* below)**

*"God does not show favoritism."* Romans 2:11

### **Christianity**

#### **Kingdom of God 1st**

#### **False idol of power**

#### **Change by force/law**

#### **Autocracy**

#### **Violence OK**

#### **Against CRT\* (see \* below)**

#### **Against Racial Prejudice**

#### **Democracy**

#### **Peace**

#### **False idol of power**

#### **Change by force/law**

#### **Against CRT\* (see \* below)**

#### **Against Racial Prejudice**

## Protection by guns\*\*

## Protection by God

*"Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." Psalm 127:1*

*"Whoever lives by the sword, dies by the sword." Mt. 26:52*

**Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36**

\*Critical Race Theory (CRT) is an academic concept that developed more than 40 years ago from legal analysis, which determined that in addition to personal prejudice, there has also been systemic, institutional racism over the years. We have seen it clearly in slavery, Jim Crow Laws, and more recently in Voter Suppression Laws, which make it harder for those of color to vote.

I have God-given righteous anger when people try to deny the Holocaust or slavery in America. Being aware of and learning from the sins of humanity in the past can help prevent them in the future. It is difficult for me to understand why a true Christ-follower would try to deny or cover up horrors of the past like the Holocaust or slavery. I am White but it does not bring me shame or make me feel inferior to acknowledge that some in my race have caused pain, suffering, and death to those Divine image-bearers of other races. The bottom line is that we have all sinned and not always treated others as Jesus would. The only way it would make me feel shame is if I was continuing to be racially prejudiced or wanted to gain some advantage or superiority over those of other races. Even though the Bible confirms we have all sinned, God has still given me compassion to want to help others who have been taken advantage of . . . as well as encourage those of all races to treat others with love and respect. Jesus said it well when He said we should *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"* (Luke 6:31).

\*\*A "Christian" Nationalist Politician stated that if only **Jesus had an AR-15** in the Garden of Gethsemane, He could have avoided being arrested. However, Jesus chose God's wisdom and plan of sacrifice for our salvation (*"slain from the foundation of the world"* Rev. 13:8) rather than human wisdom or logic.

In the opening section on things confiscated by TSA, sadly, 6,542 guns were confiscated by agents from airport checkpoints in 2022. At least 85% were loaded with ammunition. It just further demonstrates the strange American obsession with guns, which is an epidemic taking close to **50,000 lives per year**. These are human beings who bear the image of God, with families who love them and will miss them. More accurately, I believe it is a spiritual addiction (I did NOT say YOU are addicted if you own a gun . . . **but if the shoe fits**, please don't shoot yourself in the foot!). It is a deception to trust in guns over God. *"Some people trust the power of chariots or horses, but we trust you, LORD God"* Psalm 20:7. (Please watch **CAPTIVE**, the powerful movie about **Ashley Smith** as she was held hostage by a gunman.) Also, I like to humorously point out to my students (as I teach the evangelism course I created for San Diego Christian College) that it is extremely difficult to witness effectively to someone when you are punching them in the face or shooting them with a gun!

I heard a former **Republican Political Strategist**, who also happens to be a Christian gun owner, share his concern on television recently. He was distressed that so many are equating gun ownership with being a Christian. He shared that many are turned off by this "Christian" Nationalist agenda to get assault weapons of war into as many people's hands and homes as possible. He said it is a horrible witness and makes it increasingly difficult for those who desire to follow Jesus first above America and above guns to witness and share God's love. He is frustrated by the hypocrisy of pro-life Christians being against safety measures on guns to help save lives. Plus, if you need an AR-15 to shoot a deer, you probably should not be a hunter!

He went on to say, *"The entire message of the gospels was love one another. If Jesus Christ was alive today, He would be called woke, and He would be called a socialist (or communist). Jesus Christ hung around with prostitutes and tax collectors. The message He spoke in the gospels was*

*about treating everybody with dignity. He was nailed to a cross because he spoke on behalf of the most marginalized people in the Middle East."*

We need to be willing to surrender our "rights" for the sake of the gospel (Good News). Is it more important to own a gun and ban a book or to earn the right to share the Good News? Paul said all things are lawful but not all things are beneficial (I Cor. 10:23). I pray we all heed this "prophetic warning" about desiring to reach a lost and hurting world more than we desire our own political agendas and "rights." I wholeheartedly believe, from both a prophetic and evangelistic perspective, we will see more family, friends, and "enemies" follow Jesus when we stop trying to fix them and instead pray for them and love them unconditionally like Jesus did!