



IronWorks: STAND YOUR GROUND

3/12 & 3/17

“God and Country: Christian Nationalism & the Second Commandment”

Worldview: A set of assumptions about our world and how it works.

Commandment #2: You shall not make for yourself a carved image.

The challenge for Christians is to simultaneously honor the virtues of sacrifice, service, and freedom (patriotism) without idolizing nationalism.

The State Church has always led to oppression and nominalism:

- Reformed Geneva
- Puritan Massachusetts
- Roman Catholic Italy, Poland, Spain
- Orthodox Greece, Russia, Serbia
- Lutheran Denmark, Sweden, Norway
- Anglican Britain

State Theology leads to compromise with scripture:

You'll see the day, ten years from now, when Adolf Hitler will occupy precisely the same position in Germany that Jesus has now. Reinhard Heydrich

The National Reich Church:

- Cease publishing and distributing the Bible
- Mein Kampf contains the purest and truest ethics
- All altars, crucifixes and Bibles will be cleared away
- Mein Kampf on the right, a sword on the left
- The cross replaced with the swastika

Understanding “Christian Nationalism”:

- A misleading label: fearmongering & scapegoating
- A genuine concern: the belief that America is a Christian nation, one that should privilege white, native-born politically conservative Christians

- Warning signs:
 - Blind loyalty: American seen as covenant nation
 - Messianic figure: leaders revered as Christlike
 - Forgetful of history:
 - Utopian vision:
 - Conspiracy theories:
 - Weird eschatology:
 - Unholy alliances & behavior:

Standing strong:

- Live Gratefully:
Homeland, fatherland and culture provide safety and belonging.

- Test everything:
I Thessalonians 5:21: “But test everything; hold fast what is good.”

- Exercise dual citizenship:
Matthew 22:21: They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some political stances and/or behaviors done by Christians that lean away from scripture and toward unhealthy nationalism?

2. Where’s the balance between fighting for policy from a biblical worldview and idolizing a political party (and vilifying enemies)?

3. How can I help the Living Church thrive in pagan America?