

1 Christian Nation?

2 Recent Survey

- When asked the year the United States declare it independence, only 58% of Americans knew the right answer.
- Only 31% of the age group 18 to 29 knew the right answer.
- Only 42% of those contacted on a Cell Phones new the answer.
- Men 65%, Women 52%.
- College 73%. Non-college 50%.

3 Heated Debate

- Recently a national Radio Talk Show Host and a call-in listener were talking about Christianity in America.
- As the conversation continued, the host, who is an avowed agnostic, said,
 - “Why do Christians think they have had anything special to do with the founding of this country.”
 - “Anybody who reads history books knows that Christianity was no more involved in America’s founding than any other religion.”

4 Christian Nation

5 Historic Fact

- The truth of the matter is we are a nation that has been shaped by the Judeo-Christian ethic found throughout the Bible.
- But are we a Christian nation?
 - To answer that question we must define the meaning of the question itself.
 - If being a “Christian nation” means that everyone is a Christian, then we are not a Christian nation.
 - Especially, if we define a Christian as someone who is “born of the Spirit” and follows the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture.

6 Definition

- However, if we define a “Christian Nation” as a people where the majority seek to follow and honor the ethics and moral codes that come from the Bible as their social code, then America might have a strong argument in its favor—especially if we look at our beginning and the worldview of our Founding Fathers.

7 American Patriot’s Bible

8 Christian Nation

- Certainly those throughout America’s history were not timid about this fact.
 - The Legislature of New York declared in 1838: “This is a Christian nation. Ninety-nine hundredths [99%], if not a larger proportion, of our whole population, believe in the general doctrines of the Christian religion.”

- It was the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in the year 1892 that declared in the court's opinion the United States was a "Christian nation."
- Our nation's twenty-eighth president, Woodrow Wilson in his famous address, "The Bible and Progress," stated the following, "America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture."

9 America's Beginnings

- Today let's look at America in the context of Christianity's influence upon it.
 - Christopher Columbus in 1504 wrote his reason for setting forth to discover a new land to be: "I was led of the Holy Spirit to carry the message of the Gospel to undiscovered lands."
 - The purpose of the Pilgrims in coming to America was to establish a political commonwealth governed by biblical standards. The "Mayflower Compact" stated that they had come for "the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith."

10 America's Beginnings

- The Puritans, realizing the backslidden state of the Church of England set forth to America for the stated purpose of showing how a nation could prosper its citizens [living] under the laws of God.
- Plymouth Charter says the Colony was established: "To advance the enlargement of the Christian religion to the glory of God Almighty."
- Delaware Charter defines the purpose of their Colony, "To further propagate the Holy Gospel."
- Virginia Charter assures the right for people to live in "Christian peace" and instructs the people to: "Propagate the Christian religion to such people who yet live in ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God."

11 America's Beginnings

- The Rhode Island Compact: "We submit our persons, lives, and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."
- On July 4, 1776 Continental Congress signed the "Declaration of Independence" which states their belief in Creator God.
 - Before signing they called the signers to prayer and fasting to the God of the Bible.

12 Role of Clergy

- Now think of the role the Christian Church and its pastors played in America's early days.
 - A Preacher named Frances Bellemey wrote our "Pledge of Allegiance."
 - Another Preacher, Samuel Smith wrote the Hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

- John Leland another Preacher wrote the introduction of the first Amendment to the Constitution.

13 Purpose of Universities

- Prior to the Civil War, 90% of all of America's College Presidents were Preachers of the Gospel.
 - Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Dartmouth, William and Mary and Columbia were founded by Christian preachers and church affiliations with the expressed intent to educate the youth for Christ.

14 Harvard University

- John Harvard a Pastor in Charlestown, Massachusetts and the man for whom Harvard University was named stated that the purpose of the University was,
 - “That every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main ends of his life and studies: to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the foundation of all knowledge and learning, and see that the Lord only giveth wisdom. To let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek Christ Jesus as Lord and Master.
 - Even Harvard's original seal, which can be seen on the campus today, states these words, “Truth for Christ and the Church.”

15 Christian influence

- Columbia University wrote that it was founded for: “the chief things that are aimed in this college are to teach and gauge the children to know God and Jesus Christ and to love and serve Him in all sobriety.”
- American's first schoolbook was the “New England Primer.” It has the Lord's Prayer on its cover. It taught the alphabet in theological verse.
 - “A” – In Adam's fall we sinned all.
 - “B” – It's Heaven to find, the Bible's mind.
 - “C” – Christ crucified for sinners died.

16 Christian Influence

- Hold in your hand a one dollar bill. On the back is the Great Seal of our nation. On the seal is an unfinished pyramid. Above it is the eye of God. It is surrounded by the words in Latin, “God has smiled upon our beginnings.”
- And since 1865 purposefully printed in the center of our currency are the words, “In God We Trust.”

17 Christian Influence

- The influence of God and the Bible upon the founding of our great nation is so evident that no one should reasonably deny it.
- However, can the same thing be said today?

- Is the United States of America still a Christian Nation and how will the following Scriptures will be fulfilled?
 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. (Psa 33:12 NIV)
 - Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. (Prov 14:34 NIV)

18 What Has Happened?

- Why does it appear that America is no longer a Christian Nation?
- Because through the growth of Darwinism (evolution) and Pluralism (many other truth claims), has put in people’s minds doubt concerning the accuracy of the Bible and its claims and authority.
- So our schools, universities, and courts have become ever increasingly and openly secular—all in the name of being progressive, open-minded, and fair.
- This has caused many to not only disregard the Bible, but to be ever increasingly hostile to Christianity and the biblical values once held by our founding fathers.

19 Recent Headlines

20 Our Response

- Remind ourselves that when God is talking about us being as “salt of the earth” and “a city on a hill,” he is referring to being “born again” disciples of Christ.
- We can still seek to influence our society and elect godly people into office, but our true home country is not here—it is in heaven.
- In fact, the Bible refers to us as . . .
 - ambassadors of Christ (Eph. 6:20)
 - strangers in the world (1 Pet 1:1 NIV)
 - aliens and strangers in the world (1 Pet 2:11 NIV)
 - people who are looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Heb 11:10 NIV)

21 Our Calling

- Admit we are Aliens and Strangers.
 - All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. (Heb 11:13 NIV)
- Act as Citizens of Heaven
 - Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Pet 2:11–12 NIV)

22 Our Calling

- Don’t Act as Citizens of the World

- You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. (James 4:4 NIV)
- Do not be Yoked together with Unbelievers
 - For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Cor 6:14-18 NIV)

23 Characteristics of a Foreigner

- A foreigner is someone that usually stands out. Why?
 - They dress differently.
 - Their speech is different.
 - Different customs and ways of living.
 - Different history and values.
 - Often misunderstood and made fun of—or even persecuted.
 - They long for their home country.
 - Get excited when they meet a fellow countryman.
- So, are we as Christians blending in with our ever increasing secular society or like a foreigner are we standing out and testifying to the power and faithfulness of God.

24 Our Country's future

- Unless God intervenes in a great and awesome way, I find it difficult to believe that our society will once again adopt a biblical worldview.
- Nevertheless, I do believe we very well could be entering a phase of church history where God's presence in the church is going to be poured out in abundance.
- While our society might soon start reaping what it has sown, we who believe might see with our own eyes the return of the Days of Elijah—when we can speak prophetically to the Ahab's and Jezebel's of our time.
- So then, are we going to be friends with the world and live out their customs and practices, or are we going to be a friend of God and live out our lives in accordance to his will.

25 Dismissal