

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

The Lie of Christian Nationalism

Mark 12:13-17

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May 3rd, 2026



The Gospel RESOLVES the tension of RIGHT vs. LEFT

- The truly gospel-centered Christian is not compelled to be either left or right.
- The truly gospel-centered Christian also doesn't view the enemy either on the left or the right.
- The truly gospel-centered Christian is not politically complacent but sees the limitations of political power to bring change.

1) **Jesus INSTALLS a Kingdom IDENTITY not a political IDEOLOGY** – Jesus' politics weren't partisan.

- The problem with IDEOLOGY apart from IDENTITY is that it will lead to SELF-PROTECTION. When we're PROTECTIVE, we become DEFENSIVE and we lose the ability to DISCERN.

2) **Jesus INSTILLS Kingdom PRIORITIES not a POLITICAL Agenda** – A non-political identity does not mean political complacency.

- A Christian worldview demands that we rise above positions and SEE WHY people hold the positions that they hold. There is truth on the right and on the left. There are lies on the right and the left. PARTICIPATE in the system but not give ALLEGIANCE to it.

So, Jesus is neither RIGHT or LEFT. He is a THREAT to both.

- He confronts **right-side moral superiority**
- He confronts **left-side moral certainty**
- He confronts **everyone's self-justification**

3) **Jesus INITIATES the Kingdom through POWERLESSNESS not POWER-ATTAINMENT** – In His death He became powerless, impoverished, suffered and was shamed. In His resurrection He demonstrated victory and justice.

“You don't need the world to be fixed for your heart to be secure.”

ASSESS/APPLY:

- **SURRENDER control** - Where are rising costs, financial pressure, or economic uncertainty tempting you to grasp for control? What would it look like to entrust your provision and security to Christ instead of the outcomes of policy or markets this week?
- **TEST allegiance** - When your loyalty to Jesus comes into tension with your political, cultural, or personal preferences, which one tends to win, and how can you tell?
- **TRUST Christ as King** - What political or cultural issue is shaping your emotions right now, and how would your posture change if you truly trusted that Jesus is reigning over it, even now?

The Kingdom that Christ has invited us to be a part of is better.

- It's COSMIC - The forces of evil that gain strongholds in the political realm of empires and republics, will ultimately be OVERWHELMED & OVERCOME
- It's ETERNAL - It will not face an election every four or five years. It will never be overthrown by a foreign power. It doesn't die with the death of the King.
- It's INCLUSIVE - It is open to all who have sinned. Then it is for everyone.

Date: May 3rd, 2026

Series: Follow

Title: The Lie of Christian Nationalism

Primary Passage: Mark 12:13-17

Big Question: How do we respond when faithfulness to God seems entangled with political expectations?

Big Idea: Jesus rejects the political values of power, success, comfort, and recognition.

Keywords: Christian Nationalism, Politics, Ideology, Dominance, Tribe, Kingdom, Powerlessness, Allegiance.

GOING DEEPER – Life Application Questions

When did you experience the love of God this week? When did you doubt the love of God this week?

What emotions or instincts rise in you when you think about politics right now? Why do you think that is? Where do you feel most pulled to “pick a side”? When have you felt tension between your faith and your political views?

In Mark 12:13–17, what is the trap being set for Jesus, and how does His response reframe the issue? Why is this question politically and religiously explosive? What does “*render to Caesar... and to God...*” reveal about allegiance? What is Jesus exposing in His challengers?

How does Jesus challenge both “sides” and redirect the conversation to something deeper? Why does Jesus refuse to align with either group? What does this teach us about the relationship between God’s Kingdom and earthly power? In what ways is Jesus still a threat to every form of self-justification today?

Where are you most tempted to root your identity or security in something other than Christ? When do your beliefs become defensive or self-protective? What issue or conversation triggers the strongest reaction in you right now? Why? What might that reveal about your allegiance?

What would it look like this week to participate in the world without giving your allegiance to it? Where do you need to surrender control (finances, outcomes, cultural direction)? How can you engage someone you disagree with in a way that seeks understanding rather than winning? What is one practical step you need to make to trust Jesus (not politics) King right now?

Pray for surrendered control where you feel anxious or reactive. Confess misplaced allegiances or identity rooted in ideology. Ask for discernment, humility, and love in cultural engagement. Thank Jesus that His Kingdom is cosmic, eternal, and unshakable.