

Minute on Christian Nationalism

South Mountain Friends Meeting

As Quakers, we believe that everyone possesses the light of the Spirit, which is how we express what Jews and Christians traditionally meant by asserting that everyone is created in God's image. We also believe that everyone possesses some portion of the truth and that no one possesses total understanding. Still, if a widely held opinion that we regard as mostly erroneous threatens grave harm, we feel called upon to address and oppose it. Such is the case of a cluster of opinions that go under the common name Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities. It asserts that the United States was founded as a specifically Christian nation; that it is necessary to be a Christian to be a true American; and that Christianity should be favored and actively supported by the state. A frequent corollary of this ideology is that the United States has been chosen to impose its will on other nations in God's name. Additionally, it often overlaps with, and provides cover for, white supremacy and racial subjugation at home as well as abroad.

We reject all these tenets and implications of Christian nationalism. It distorts both the spirit of our country and of Christianity itself. To be an American does not require adherence to any one religion or to any religion at all. And to adhere to Christianity or any other world religion does not require residence in any one country. People are bound to their countries by their citizenship and to their religions by their faith.

In alignment with our testimony of peace, we focus our actions of dismantling such oppressive, aggressive, and authoritarian systems as Christian nationalism. At the same time, our testimony of equality guides us to not condemn individual Christian nationalists.

We commit to educating members of local faith communities and the public at large about the inherent false narratives and extreme threat to democracy posed by Christian nationalism. We call upon ourselves to provide teach-ins, show relevant films, and hold conversation geared toward raising awareness. We recommend that fellow Quakers educate themselves through books and videos and then alert their communities to the reality that Christian nationalism is a political movement based in power that masquerades as a religion that is known for mercy and compassion.